

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Our Ref.:2330

22 November 2017

Ms M Tomlinson
Planning Service
Chichester District Council

Dear Ms Tomlinson,

Chichester Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, Chichester

Application Ref: 17/03163/LBC

I write in support of the above listed building consent application for conservation concrete repairs to external concrete structure of the Chichester Festival Theatre. Please see our advice below.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

Advice: The Chichester Festival Theatre is one of the most important post war theatres in the United Kingdom in terms of its design and influence on the construction of later theatres, including the National Theatre in London, and this is reflected in its Grade II* statutory heritage listing. Unfortunately part of the concrete structure is deteriorating, and previous works to refurbish the building were not successfully and further repairs to the main beam are now required.

We note that extensive trials and tests have been carried out to determine the most effective and appropriate methods of repair to conserve and stabilise the structure of the theatre without affecting its heritage significance, and the preferred method of conservation of the main beam has been developed in collaboration with Historic England. Given the importance of this beam to the integrity of the overall building structure and to the ongoing conservation and operation of the theatre, we support granting listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Anthony
Planning Consultant

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The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697