

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/1849

1 May 2018

Mr M Shaw
Development Management Section
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Blackpool
FY1 1LZ

By e-mail: planning@blackpool.gov.uk

Application: 18/0175

Site: WINTER GARDENS, CHURCH STREET, BLACKPOOL, FY1 1HW

Proposal: Erection of 3 storey extension with part basement to existing Winter Gardens complex to form conference and exhibition centre (Class D1) fronting Leopold Grove, erection of link extension to Empress Ballroom with associated demolition works, escape staircase, public realm, landscaping, servicing area/ access arrangements and rooftop plant..

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 in England 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'.

Comment:

Thank you for consulting the Theatres Trust on the above application.

Although some of the documents provided are not clear, in principle the Trust does not object to the proposals. This is on the basis of the applicant being satisfied that the new steelwork would not place additional loading on the Opera House, and that the rigid steel connections between the two buildings would not result in additional and inappropriate structure-borne vibrations between the two buildings which would impact on the operation of the Opera House. This concern equally applies to the demolition of the single-skin wall.

The Trust has previously commented on the roofing repair works and we have no additional comments.

Regarding the erection of temporary netting to cover brickwork so it can be safely worked on, it

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

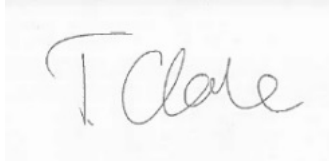
Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

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

is not clear whether masonry repairs will be undertaken at the time of the rest of the works or at a point in the future. We would object to the netting remaining in place for a prolonged period and necessary repairs not being addressed.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Tom Clarke
National Planning Adviser