

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/1839

15 May 2018

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

Application: 18/0263 & 18/0264

Site: 33 - 41 CHURCH STREET, BLACKPOOL, FY1 1HT

Proposal: Alterations to shop fronts, including canopy and external seating enclosure, and use as altered as a bar and bistro ancillary to the Grand Theatre.

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.

The Trust welcomes this proposal which will help support the ongoing viability and attractiveness of the Grand Theatre as a cultural asset for Blackpool, to the benefit of local people and as an attraction to draw people to the town from a wider area. We also consider it to be of benefit to the health and vitality of the wider town centre, according with both local and national policy objectives.

The creation of a bar and bistro operating ancillary to the theatre will help strengthen the role of Blackpool town centre and contribute to meeting various objectives as outlined within the Blackpool Town Centre Strategy. Specifically, it will help achieve the vision and Objectives 1, 2 and 5 by providing a venue conducive to creating a "vibrant outdoor café culture" which encourages residents and visitors to spend time in the town centre "throughout the day and into the evening". The Strategy also seeks to reduce vacancy levels and short-term leases; we note from the most recent Annual Monitoring Report that the town centre vacancy rate in Blackpool is

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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

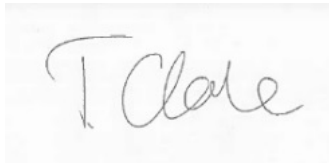
20.1% (August 2017). Therefore the amalgamation of three such units into one in active permanent use which broadens Blackpool's leisure offer and appeal and supports the function, vitality and viability of the town centre in line with Core Strategy Policy CS4 is to be welcomed.

We note from the accompanying documentation that the existing units have poor quality shopfronts and signage which are unsympathetic to the architectural quality, heritage and significance of the host building, whereas this proposal corresponds with the existing theatre frontage and canopy and reflects the building's historic appearance and character in line with parts 1 and 2 of Policy CS8.

We would just note that the plans show some level changes between the main entrance and the disabled toilet, but this can be mitigated through a suitable management plan.

Therefore we **recommend the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'T Clarke', on a light-colored rectangular background.

Tom Clarke
National Planning Adviser