

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/196

15 May 2018

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By e-mail: [developmentteam@lincoln.gov.uk](mailto:developmentteam@lincoln.gov.uk)

**Applications:** 2018/0631/ADV, 2018/0742/LBC and 2018/0751/LBC

**Site:** New Theatre Royal And 13-15 Clasketgate Lincoln Lincolnshire LN2 1JJ

**Proposals:** Display of 1no. externally illuminated hanging sign, 2no. externally illuminated fascia signs, 1no. externally applied window graphics and 3no. sets of non-illuminated acrylic lettering. Installation of external illumination to existing fascia sign; &

New illumination to fascia signage for New Theatre Royal and fascias at 13 and 15 Clasketgate; &

Alteration to ticket office area including internal remodelling and connection to adjoining building.

## **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 Theatres Trust on the above applications, which propose an extension to the theatre by incorporating the neighbouring unit (formerly an estate agency) as a cafe/bar, with ancillary office space to the first floor and other internal alterations. Externally, there will be new custom-made fascia and hanging signage with illuminated borders.

In terms of application reference 2018/0751/LBC, the Trust actively encourages theatre owners and operators to invest in their buildings so welcome this proposal. The provision of a new externally-accessible cafe/bar will help activate Clasketgate and allow the theatre to become

## **Theatres Trust**

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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

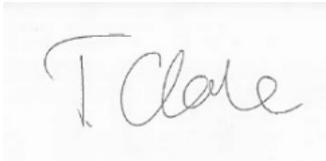
The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

more of a destination outside of performance times. This will help support the ongoing sustainability, viability and attractiveness of the New Theatre Royal as a cultural asset for Lincoln and an attraction which helps draw people to the town centre from a wider area. Thus we also consider it to benefit to the health and vitality of the wider town centre, meeting local and national policy objectives such as Policy LP7 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. Other alterations proposed within this application, in particular the improvement of the foyer/box office will help enhance the audience experience at the theatre. We **support** this proposal, and **recommend the granting of listed building consent**.

The concept of flashing/intermittent theatre lighting within applications 2018/0631/ADV and 2018/0742/LBC is relatively uncommon in the UK, although examples on statutory listed theatres do exist such as at the Garrick, Lyric and Apollo Victoria Theatres in London. The proposal will have some impact on the appearance of the building, although the indicative photos and plans suggest the chosen colours and scale of the lighting and new signage is such that it corresponds well with the building's fabric. We suggest that it will draw attention to the theatre thus achieving the objective set out in the impact assessment, which will in itself help to safeguard the use of the building for its intended purpose and draw more people towards appreciating its function and significance as a cultural and heritage asset for Lincoln. We would also note that the lighting element of this proposal is reversible. Therefore on balance we **support** these applications and also **recommend the granting of advertisement and listed building consent**.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a clear 'C'.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser