

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/589

01 August 2018

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Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
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Redhill, RH1 9FL

By e-mail: centralplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Application: 18/05606/LBC

Site: Queens Theatre Ltd, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1D 6BA

Proposal: Refurbishment works within the ceiling void above the auditorium.

Refurbishment works within the auditorium ceiling void, including installation of latch failsafes, relocation of existing plant and services, upgrading of existing void lighting, refurbishment works to suspended fibrous plaster ceiling, removal of existing auditorium ceiling void crawl boards and installation of ceiling walkway, like for like redecoration of ceilings and general plasterwork repairs to boxes and proscenium arches as necessary.

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, which is similar in nature to recent applications at the Noel Coward, Gielgud and Wyndham's Theatres that the Trust has supported.

Similarly, we support this proposal. The Trust actively encourages theatre owners and operators to invest and upgrade their buildings to ensure they meet current building and safety standards. These works will better and more safely facilitate regular inspections of the ceiling in accordance with the Association of British Theatre Technicians *Guidance Note 20 Advice to theatre owners and managers regarding suspended fibrous plaster ceilings; surveys, certification record keeping etc.*, which establishes best practice for the maintenance and

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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

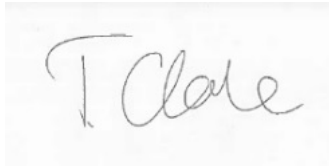
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inspection of suspended fibrous plaster ceilings.

This proposal will also allow for general repairs and redecoration of the ceiling and plasterwork, and the installation of replacement lighting. Again, we consider this beneficial to the theatre both in terms of maintaining the appearance of the theatre's historic features and improving safety and efficiency.

We therefore **recommend the granting of listed building consent.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T Clarke', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser