

# Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/9006193

29 August 2018

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By e-mail: [planningcomments@midkent.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@midkent.gov.uk)

**Application:** 18/504036/FULL

**Site:** Sheppey Little Theatre 32 - 36 Meyrick Road Sheerness Kent ME12 2NX

**Proposal:** Erection of a first floor rear extension.

## **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:**

The Trust **supports** this proposal which would result in the construction of a first floor rear extension at Sheppey Little Theatre to facilitate a new store room for scenery and props.

The theatre is community-orientated and run by volunteers, operating from a constrained site surrounded by residential properties. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2018) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for community buildings and local services which includes cultural buildings such as theatres, and to support delivery of improved cultural well-being. The proposed extension is to the rear and does not detract from the appearance of the building as an undesignated heritage asset when viewed from the street. The extension is modest in scale with no additional windows thus avoiding any potential amenity issues associated with the overlooking of surrounding properties.

Therefore we **recommend the granting of planning permission**, as it will further support the work of the theatre as a valued facility which helps support the social and cultural well-being of local people.

## **Theatres Trust**

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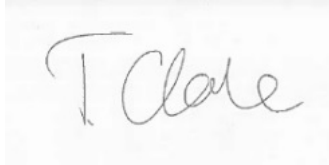
**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

**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

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or if you would like to discuss these comments further.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" and "C".

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser