

# Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/1654

23 October 2018

Mrs Fiona Bage  
Economic Growth and Development Services  
Municipal Buildings,  
Church Road,  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 1LD

By e-mail: [planningdevelopmentservices@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:planningdevelopmentservices@stockton.gov.uk)

**Applications:** 18/0574/REV & 18/0575/LBC

**Site:** 153 - 157 High Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1PL

**Proposals:** Restoration and refurbishment of The Globe with new back-of-house facilities to create a performance and multi-purpose venue and change of use of No. 153 High Street to bar/bistro plus toilets and administrative offices to support The Globe and to function as an occasional stand-alone unit; and

Listed building consent for the restoration and refurbishment of The Globe with new back-of-house facilities to create a performance and multi-purpose venue. Change of use of No. 153 High Street from vacant retail unit with residential accommodation above to a bar/bistro with additional toilets and administration offices to support The Globe and to function as an occasional stand-alone unit.

## **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 again consulting Theatres Trust on the above applications following the submission of further amendments to proposed plans.

In our previous response of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 we provided a number of comments related to design and layouts which we felt would improve the future operation and ongoing sustainability of the Globe. We are delighted that most of these, including the points we considered to be of the highest priority, have been taken on board and reflected within these revised plans.

## **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**T** 020 7836 8591

**F** 020 7836 3302

**E** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk)

**W** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk)

**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

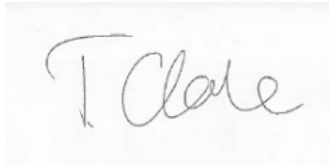
The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

We welcome for example the better and safer arrangement of toilets, the resolution of potential acoustic disruption arising from the toilets and rear bar, the provision of a fully accessible dressing room with shower and WC and improved lift access. Externally, the re-design and re-location of plant equipment removes the need for an unsympathetic external truss. We support the other external design improvements cited in the applicant's covering letter.

Our only major reservation would be that the proposed wheelchair accessible office to the entrance level is effectively a store cupboard with minimal space and detached from other staff, therefore we consider it to be an inadequate solution. We would strongly encourage this aspect of the proposal to be reconsidered and for the main office accommodation to be made accessible. We would also advise that the separation doors in the main auditorium/stalls bar will need careful fixing so as to avoid unnecessary harm to the building's historic fabric, and for the junctions to be appropriately detailed.

Once again we support and welcome this exciting proposal for Stockton and look forward to the Globe being restored and brought back to use. We continue to **recommend the granting of planning permission and listed building consent**.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or if you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser