

# Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/512

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Newark & Sherwood District Council  
Kelham Hall  
Newark  
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NG23 5QX

31 October 2018

By e-mail: [planning@nsdc.info](mailto:planning@nsdc.info)

**Application:** 18/01869/FUL

**Site:** Robin Hood Theatre Company Ltd Church Lane Averham Newark On Trent  
Nottinghamshire NG23 5RB

**Proposal:**

Infilling of existing courtyard minor fenestration alterations, energy conservation works, thermal alterations and cosmetic improvements

**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 seeks some external alterations at Robin Hood Theatre as part of a wider programme of works to repair and improve the building and to bring all parts of the building safely and effectively into use.

The Trust **supports** this proposal. The Robin Hood Theatre is a valued cultural facility within the local area and also plays an important community role, facilitating local groups, events and meetings. Any effort to improve the facility and to help safeguard it is welcomed, and supported by the NPPF (2018). Paragraph 83 supports the retention and development of community facilities such as meeting places and cultural buildings within rural areas, and paragraph 92 seeks planning decisions to plan positively for the provision of community facilities, to support the social and cultural well-being of the community and to guard against unnecessary loss of facilities. Furthermore, emerging Strategic Priority 9 of the Council's Amended Core Strategy

**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

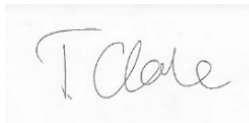
(2017) seeks to retain and improve accessibility to community, leisure and cultural activity through the retention and upgrading of existing facilities with Spatial Policy 8 encouraging the enhancement of community facilities.

Having reviewed the plans and documents associated with this application, the proposal appears to offer an improved internal layout and makes the theatre more accessible. For example there will be provision of an accessible dressing room and WC and new ramps into backstage areas will improve access for performers and staff with disabilities. There appears to be a better use of space within the foyer, with provision for a fixed box office. Overall these interventions should make the theatre more welcoming and improve the experience of visitors and performers, in turn aiding the theatre's viability and sustainability.

Externally the proposed alterations and additions are of modest scale and we would concur with the applicant's assessment that they will not be detrimental to the character of the surrounding conservation area.

In conclusion, this proposal will help safeguard and improve the Robin Hood Theatre as a cultural and community asset. We consider it to be policy-compliant, and we recommend the granting of planning permission.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T Clarke", on a light-colored rectangular background.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser