

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/1813

14 November 2018

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Application: 2018/1344

Site: The Miller Centre, 30 Godstone Road, Caterham, CR3 6RA

Proposal: Erection of two storey extension including changes to the front elevation and roof

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 with Theatres Trust regarding the above proposal.

The Miller Centre is a community theatre which also serves as a day centre offering a meeting place with various activities. The Centre also provides opportunities for volunteering to help run the theatre. It is therefore a valued community facility which helps people to remain active, reduce isolation and provide opportunities for participation in culture and the arts. As such, the Trust is supportive of efforts to enhance and improve the Miller Centre's facilities and accessibility.

Information submitted as part of this application clearly articulates the need for this development. This includes alleviating poor flow and congestion for audiences, improving the bar area and providing seating, increasing the theatre's visibility and prominence and improving disabled access. Plans show these objectives will be met, and we have no objections to the proposed external appearance of the extension which we consider to be of appropriate design

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

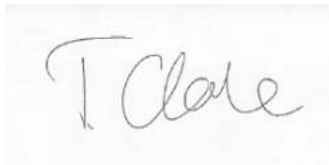
and scale in line with Policy DP2.A of the Tandridge Local Plan part 2 – Detailed Policies (2014).

Fundamentally, this proposal will help the Miller Centre become compliant with Part M of the Building Regulations and DDA, increase the theatre's viability and help it become more sustainable thus preserving it as a community and cultural asset into the future. If it can draw people further towards the site this will also have the benefit of increasing footfall in turn helping support surrounding businesses and the overall vitality of the designated Caterham Valley town centre.

One of the three pillars of sustainable development outlined in the NPPF (2018) includes a social objective achieved through supporting the social and cultural well-being of communities. Paragraph 92 also seeks planning decisions to plan positively for community facilities which explicitly includes meeting places and cultural venues. Policy DP18 of the Tandridge Local Plan part 2 – Detailed Policies (2014) is also supportive of community facilities.

Therefore in conclusion we consider this proposal to be policy compliant, it will bring positive benefits to local people and **we recommend the granting of planning permission.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T Clarke', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser