

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/987

05 December 2018

Mr Gary Christie
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Guildhall Square,
Portsmouth,
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By e-mail: planningreps@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Applications: 18/01897/LBC

Site: Kings Theatre Albert Road Southsea PO5 2QJ

Proposal: Alterations to layout of Upper Dress Circle including removal of two rows of seats and installation of handrails

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 actively encourages owners and operators to invest in their buildings to ensure they meet the latest standards and the needs of their audiences, performers and staff. The theatre engaged with the Trust prior to submission of this application and a site visit has been undertaken. We are supportive of this proposal.

The seating within the Upper Circle is very compact and does not provide great levels of comfort for the audience meaning it can be more challenging to sell seats at that level. This proposal, which would remove two rows of seating and reposition some of the remaining rows, would improve levels of comfort and improve access for ambulant disabled audience members. This should in turn help to improve the viability of the theatre as an important community and cultural asset for Southsea and the wider area.

Although the seating dates back to the 1920s, it is not original. Furthermore, the proposal is reversible. We do not consider the alteration of seating on the Upper Circle to have an unduly negative impact upon the character and significance of the building.

Theatres Trust

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

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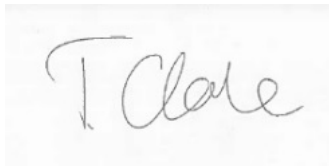
The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

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

Please contact us should you wish to discuss this representation further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser