

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/377

17 December 2018

Duncan Rudge

Malvern Hills District Council,
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By e-mail: duncan.rudge@malvern hills.gov.uk

Application: 18/01512/FUL

Site: The Malvern Theatres Grange Road Malvern WR14 3HB

Proposal: Redevelopment of Malvern Theatres entrance to include extension at first floor, to incorporate accessible dance/ rehearsal studio and associated offices and facilities.

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 Theatres Trust on the above application.

The Trust actively encourages theatre owners and operators to invest in their buildings to ensure they meet the expectations of modern audiences, staff, and performers. We also support the diversification and more effective use of theatres to improve their sustainability and viability and increase their social and cultural value for local communities. Therefore we welcome this proposal.

The scale of the extension would seem to be appropriate for the size of the theatre. We support its design, considering it to be a modern but sympathetic addition to the building as an undesignated heritage asset within the Great Malvern Conservation Area. We concur with the applicant that it will positively contribute to its setting.

Primarily, the extension will create the addition of a studio for rehearsals and education. This will help the theatre expand its role as a social and cultural asset for Malvern and the

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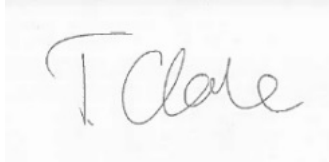
The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

surrounding area. It will also provide a new meeting space which will create a further potential source of income for the theatre and a new Changing Places facility. The remodelled entrance and foyer will improve flow. We assume this will be further enhanced by external works and landscaping at a later date as indicated by 'Phase 2 Area' on the plans and in the Design & Access Statement, and we would welcome further engagement when this comes to fruition.

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. This proposal is well-designed and sympathetic to the historic character and significance of the building and its wider setting, therefore **we recommend the granting of planning permission.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a clear "Clarke".

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser