

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2133

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By e-mail: planningcomments@oxford.gov.uk

Applications: 18/02795/LBC

Site: 11 - 12 Beaumont Street Oxford Oxfordshire OX1 2LW

Proposals: Replacement of 3no. rear external bay pedestrian fire doors and replacement of rear high level stage access door and internal solid core fire door at Oxford Playhouse.

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:

Theatres are important cultural assets which support the cultural and social well-being of local people, attract and retain talent and businesses to the local area and support the function, vibrancy and vitality of town centres. It is important that they are not undermined by inappropriate surrounding development, a principle recognised through the inclusion of the 'agent of change' principle within paragraph 182 of the NPPF (2018) and emerging Policy RE7 of the Oxford Local Plan 2036.

Pubs are also important community assets, supported by emerging Policy V6. In that respect we have no objection in principle to efforts by pub owners and operators to enhance the viability and sustainability of their businesses unless it would detrimentally harm the ability of theatres to operate.

On that basis we support this proposal as a positive and pragmatic intervention which will provide acoustic protection to the theatre from disturbance generated by the neighbouring beergarden. In line with the 'agent of change' principle, costs would be met by the White Rabbit pub.

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

We do not consider this proposal to harm the character of the theatre and moreover will help enhance its sustainability. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF requires decisions to plan positively for social and cultural facilities, therefore we **recommend the granting of listed building consent**.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments further.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser