

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/3852

06 March 2019

Mr James Sheldrake
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Kings Court
Chapel Street
King's Lynn
PE30 1EX

By e-mail: borough.planning@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Application: 19/00227/F

Site: Westacre Theatre River Road West Acre Norfolk PE32 1UA

Proposal: 2no. temporary low profile wooden storage sheds

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:

Please note the Trust was not directly consulted on this proposal despite it falling under our statutory remit as described above. Please ensure the Trust is contacted regarding at further applications at the Westacre or any other theatre within the borough.

The Trust **supports** this proposal which would result in the placing of two storage sheds within the theatre's car park to facilitate storage that has been lost due to the redevelopment of the existing facility on an adjacent site. The Westacre is a small community-orientated theatre which hosts both professional and amateur productions as well as cinema, classes and other events. It is an important facility for local people within a rural environment, bringing them together and providing opportunities for participation in the arts.

Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) 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. Paragraph 83.d supports the retention and development of local services within rural communities.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591

F 020 7836 3302

E info@theatrestrust.org.uk

W theatrestrust.org.uk

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

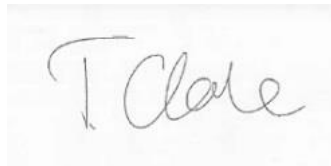
The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

The proposed storage sheds are relatively modest in scale but would provide the theatre with essential capacity for the storage of equipment, scenery, costumes and props. Efforts have been made to make these units as sympathetic to their surroundings as possible, and the proposal must be considered in the context of the sheds representing an interim solution pending longer-term expansion of the theatre such as that previously permitted in 2015.

In conclusion we **recommend the granting of planning permission**, as it will support the work of the theatre as a valued facility which helps support the social and cultural well-being of local people.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T Clarke', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser