

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

16 April 2019

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By e-mail: planning@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Applications: DC/19/01540 & DC/19/01541

Site: The Quay Theatre Quay Lane Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2AN

Proposal: Planning Application. Erection of entrance porch and associated alterations; & Application for Listed Building Consent. Erection of porch and associates alterations.

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 regarding this application despite it falling within our remit as described above. Please ensure the Council's systems are updated to ensure we are consulted on any future applications concerning theatres within the Babergh and Mid Suffolk areas.

This proposal is seeking planning permission and listed building consent for a new entrance lobby, with the objective of enhancing working conditions for staff and volunteers and improving the theatre's efficiency through reducing heat loss and draughts.

The Quay is a community theatre and arts centre which is reliant on volunteers. It provides vital access to arts and culture for local people across south Suffolk and north Essex, and helps bring members of the community together which enhances social and cultural well-being and reduces isolation. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for community facilities which includes cultural buildings such as this.

Theatres Trust

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

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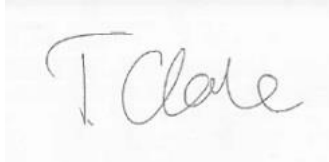
The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

We support the need for the new entry lobby proposed, justification for which is set out in the Design & Access Statement. It has been designed to extend beyond the current building line so as to minimise the loss of floor space from the theatre's foyer, which is important because the compromise of space for audiences and flow should be minimised as far as possible. The current glazed screen is not an original feature having been inserted in 1981 and we believe the glass materials of the proposed replacement and extension will enhance and better reveal the building's appearance and meets the tests set out in Policy CN06 of the Babergh Local Plan (2006).

Therefore in conclusion we **recommend the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.**

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 and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser