

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2192

14 May 2019

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By e-mail: [planning@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:planning@norwich.gov.uk)

**Applications:** 19/00539/F

**Site:** Theatre Royal Theatre Street Norwich NR2 1RL

**Proposals:** Installation of ventilation and extraction plant and equipment including associated safety 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:**

This application has come to the attention of the Trust as it involves development as described above. We were not formally consulted by the Council despite the application falling within our remit as a statutory consultee.

Norwich Theatre Royal is a significant cultural asset serving not just Norwich but also its wider catchment across Norfolk and East Anglia. The installation of new plant and equipment is necessary to meet current standards; existing equipment was badly damaged following a fire within the theatre's restaurant.

We are supportive of these proposals, which we do not consider to harm the setting or significance of the theatre and its neighbours which includes Grade I and II listed heritage assets. On the basis of the conclusions of the accompanying acoustic report, neither do we consider it to

**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, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

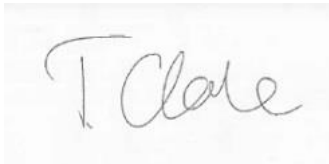
The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with the Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

cause harm to the amenity of neighbouring residential units.

Fundamentally these works will help support the theatre's restaurant which has been refurbished following the fire. Ancillary features such as bars, cafes and restaurants bring people into the theatre in particular outside of performances. This makes more effective use of theatre buildings as cultural and community assets, introduces more people to the arts and enhances the sustainability and viability of the theatre. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks decisions to plan positively for community facilities which includes cultural buildings.

Therefore in conclusion we **recommend the granting of planning permission.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'T' and 'C'.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser