

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/3824

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Mr Simon Turner
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By e-mail: planningreps@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Applications: 19/00702/FUL

Site: Land At Rear Of The Groundlings Theatre (off Curzon Howe Road) 42 Kent Street Portsmouth PO1 3BS

Proposals: Construction of timber shed for community activity purposes.

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 proposal seeks to utilise land to the rear of the Groundling's Theatre for the construction of a 'Men's Shed'.

'Men's Sheds' are found across the UK and were created to help bring (predominantly) older men together to provide them with space to meet new people, undertake practical activities and learn new skills. This helps to reduce isolation and improve well-being amongst a group that typically find it more difficult to build social connections. We note from the supporting information that the existing premises for this group will become unavailable in the near future.

Aside from the direct social benefits of this proposed shed we consider that it will optimise the use of land with potential benefits to the theatre itself. The shed will utilise facilities within the theatre which will bring people into the building and help promote the work of Groundlings Theatre to a new audience. The theatre is itself an important cultural, community and social

Theatres Trust

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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

asset for Portsmouth and its surrounding area. We do not consider that the nature of the shed or its siting to the rear of the theatre will detract from the unique character and significance of the building as a Grade II* listed heritage asset. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2018) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for community facilities and TO improve the social and cultural wellbeing of the community.

We are therefore supportive of this proposal, which we consider to be beneficial to the theatre and will ensure continuity of this important social asset for its users. **We recommend the granting of planning permission.**

Please contact us should you wish to discuss this representation further.

Yours sincerely,

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser