

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/162

29 July 2019

Carol Grant
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Hinckley Hub
Rugby Road
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 0FR

By e-mail:

Application: 19/00746/OUT

Site: The Regent Lancaster Road Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 0AW

Proposal: Conversion and extension of existing building to shops and flats (Outline – appearance, layout and scale).

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:

Thank you for consulting the Theatres Trust on the above outline application which seeks to convert and extend the former Regent site for retail and residential uses.

Regent Theatre was a significant theatre and cinema for Hinckley and its surrounding area with a capacity of 1,750. It became a dedicated cinema although this ceased in 1968 when it became used as a bingo hall which continued to 2013. The auditorium was demolished the following year with just the frontage and foyer being retained.

Although it is regretful that the main auditorium has been lost, we welcome that the façade and foyer area was retained as this provides a visual reminder of the cultural history and significance of the site and is a positive contributor to the local streetscape. It is disappointing therefore that it appears these plans will result in the loss of much of that character and distinctiveness.

The other primary matters for consideration contained within this application - the layout and

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

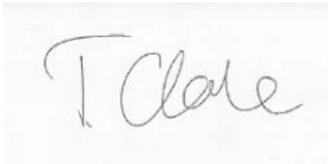
The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

scale of development - are matters outside of our remit and therefore we wish to provide no comment.

In conclusion with much of the theatre having already been demolished we raise no objection to the principle of this development but would urge that final designs more closely reflect and respect the existing cinema/theatre character.

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 "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'T' and a clear 'Clarke'.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser