

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/3680

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**Applications:** CA//19/02102

**Site:** The Marlowe Theatre, The Friars, Canterbury, CT1 2AS

**Proposals:** Proposed masonry enclosure to the existing loading bay dock.

## **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 at The Marlowe Theatre. We were not directly notified despite this application falling within our statutory remit as described above. Please ensure we are consulted on any future application which includes theatres within the Canterbury area.

We are supportive of this application. The applicant has set out strong justification for these works because at present the theatre lacks the storage needed to handle necessary equipment and large sets associated with modern touring shows. Therefore this proposal would afford the theatre better operational flexibility and improve its viability by enabling it to handle a broader range of shows. In turn this would have a positive impact on Canterbury's cultural offer.

In addition, it would also help reduce conflict with surrounding uses (particularly residential) as it would provide a more soundproof enclosure around the loading dock and reduce the need for equipment to be moved and stored outside. Due to the nature of theatres and touring shows

## **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

some of this activity is carried out late at night and early in the morning by necessity.

We do not consider that this proposal would have a negative impact on the setting of the theatre's surrounding heritage assets.

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

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser