

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

11 February 2020

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Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils  
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By e-mail: [planningyellow@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:planningyellow@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

**Application:** 20/00115/LI

**Site:** Unit 6 Hall Farm Church Road Redgrave Suffolk IP22 1RJ

**Proposal:** Planning Application - Change of use of land and creation of an earth bund for use as an open air theatre for holding up to 18 events per annum, erection of wooden platform, creation of new vehicular access track and erection of close boarded fence (retention of).

## **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 Trust regarding this application which seeks to provide an open air theatre with associated structures at the Star Wing Brewery and Tap Room.

The Tap Room opened in 2019 and is effectively a pub which provides a space for the local community to come together. During its first year it held a range of events including some outdoor performances of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, thus also helping to draw people into the area and improve access to culture for local people. This proposal seeks to regularise the use of land for the purpose of providing theatre and other such performances and events.

Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for community buildings which specifically includes public houses, as well as for culture. Objective SO14 of the Mid Suffolk District Core Strategy (2008) seeks to provide accessible and varied opportunities for leisure and cultural activities in order to promote healthy lifestyles. Saved Policy RT16 of the Local Plan (1998) supports visitor attractions, and we do not consider the nature or scale of this

### **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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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, Truda Spruyt, Anna Stapleton

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proposal to contravene the policy requirement that such proposals do not detract from the character or appearance of their surroundings and in particular being in a rural location the landscape setting.

We consider this proposal will help support the function and attractiveness of the Brewery and Tap Room as a community facility and visitor attraction, and that it is in conformity with local and national policy. We also welcome that access to theatre and other live performance will be enhanced within this rural part of Suffolk.

Therefore we support this application and **recommend the granting of planning permission.**

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

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