

Ref.: TC

24 April 2020

South Walks House
South Walks Road
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1UZ

By e-mail: planningteamd@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Applications: WD/D/20/000598 & WD/D/20/000599

Site: 35 SOUTH STREET, BRIDPORT, DT6 3NY

Proposal: External repairs and alterations including lantern lights; and
External and internal repairs and alterations including lantern lights, replacement of roof
materials and reconfiguring of rooms.

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 for planning permission and listed building consent has come to the attention of the Trust as it relates to development at the Electric Palace.

Electric Palace is a statutory Grade II listed heritage and cultural asset for Bridport, with a mixed programme of cinema, comedy, live music, talks, theatre and other events. It is a facility valued by local people and helps contribute to the success and vitality of the town centre, as well as being a key contributor to the character of the Bridport Conservation Area. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for such venues.

This proposal is seeking repairs and alterations which form part of a wider restoration project. Specifically, these works are to the first floor and roof along the front South Street elevation. We are supportive of efforts by owners and operators to invest in and maintain their buildings, particularly where they are heritage assets. The internal alterations relate to the building's former public meeting space which has been used as residential accommodation for a number of decades. By bringing these units up to more modern standards it will improve the living

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591 **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, Ann Skippers, Truda Spruyt, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

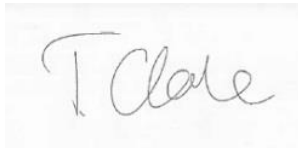
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conditions of future residents and help increase income for the venue which will help support the wider restoration project. We are therefore supportive of this aspect of the application.

With regards to the external works primarily these are focused on repairs and maintenance, such as the replacement of unsalvageable slates with new natural slates, rebuilding the parapet walling which has become unstable and reinstating metal framed lantern lights. We consider these works generally necessary to help protect the building and do not consider there would be any negative impact to its character and significance.

Therefore in conclusion we support the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss these comments in greater detail, and please consult the Trust on any further applications at the Electric Palace in line with our statutory remit.



Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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