Ref.: TC

05 March 2020

Jon Hill
Development Management
City Hall
Bristol City Council
PO Box 3176
Bristol
BS3 9FS

By e-mail: development.management@bristol.gov.uk

Applications: 20/00720/F

Site: Redgrave Theatre Percival Road Bristol BS8 3LE

Proposal: The proposal is externally to provide a new ramp for disability access, to relocate the existing bike racks, and altering two existing external doors.

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 our attention because it involves alterations at Redgrave Theatre. We were not directly consulted despite this proposal falling within our remit as a statutory consultee.

The Redgrave Theatre plays an important role in Bristol’s theatre and cultural offer, providing a space for amateur and semi-professional groups as well as professional touring shows. It was the first purpose-built school theatre in the country. It is a popular theatre which is valued by its users and the wider community.

This proposal seeks to relocate existing bike racks outside the theatre slightly to the south-west of their current location in order to facilitate the installation of a ramp. This will provide step-free access to the theatre’s main front entrance.
We are supportive of this proposal as it will improve accessibility to the theatre. It will not result in a material alteration to the building’s appearance. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for cultural buildings. Therefore we recommend the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser