

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2840

22 June 2020

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**Application:** 20/0461/FFU

**Site:** The Camberley Theatre Knoll Road Camberley Surrey GU15 3SY

**Proposal:** Removal of existing canopy and replace with aluminium canopy and external fenestration alterations.

## **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 has come to the attention of the Trust because it involves development at Camberley Theatre. We were not directly consulted despite this proposal falling within our statutory remit as described above.

Camberley Theatre opened as Civic Hall in 1966. It contains a main auditorium with 400 seats along with a rehearsal studio, function room and conference room. It is an important cultural and social asset for Camberley and surrounding areas; paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

This proposal seeks to undertake external alterations to the theatre, specifically the removal and replacement of the building's steel and glass canopy to its principal south-west elevation. Alongside this existing tiling will be removed to be replaced by render and wooden vertical cladding.

## **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**T** 020 7836 8591 **E** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **W** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk)

**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Simon Ricketts, Truda Spruyt

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## Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Information submitted with the application states the purpose of these alterations is to help bring the appearance of the theatre up to date in order to contribute to Camberley's town centre regeneration plan. We would concur that the proposal, along with new signage indicated within accompanying visualisations, gives the theatre a bolder and more contemporary appearance. It also suggests the role and presence of the theatre's café/bar will be enhanced which will help draw more people into the building and support the theatre's overall viability and role as a cultural asset.

Therefore in conclusion we support these alterations and recommend the granting of planning permission.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Trust should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

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