

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

29 July 2020

Sumaya Nakamya
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridge
CB23 6EA

By e-mail: sumaya.nakamya@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Application: 20/03017/LBC

Site: Peterhouse Trumpington Street Cambridge CB2 1RD

Proposal: Renovate the Entrance to the Theatre/Library to improve access for all. i.e. DDA standards

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 listed building consent has come to the attention of the Trust as it involves development at Peterhouse Theatre, specifically works to its entrance to improve accessibility.

Peterhouse Theatre is a former lecture hall within the old University Museum of Classical Archaeology. It has seating for 180 people and hosts concerts alongside talks and lectures. It is statutorily Grade II listed.

Presently the building is accessed through a slightly ramped doorway with inner glass lobby. This leads into the main entrance lobby. These plans propose a new grooved slope paved to match what is surrounding with the existing double doors retained and made automatic opening with a low-level swipe system alongside it to gain entry. The inner lobby is to be replaced and expanded which will facilitate a 1500mm turning circle.

We welcome efforts to improve accessibility and are supportive of these proposals. The inner lobby was a more recent addition in the 1980s and the existing doors and fanlight are being

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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

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retained so there is little impact on historic fabric and character. Matching the material of the external ramp with surrounding paving will improve appearance. In terms of operations we note the double doors can be held open which will assist when hosting larger events in the theatre.

With these alterations being sensitive to existing character and improving accessibility we are supportive of this proposal and the granting of listed building consent.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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