

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/1908

22 July 2020

Chris Gent
Guildford Borough Council
Millmead House
Millmead
Guildford
Surrey
GU2 4BB

By e-mail: planningenquiries@guildford.gov.uk

Application: 20/P/00535

Site: Rodboro Buildings, Bridge Street, Guildford, GU1 4RY

Proposal: External changes to area between the Rodboro Armour and Electric Theatre buildings to include a defined loading bay and bin store.

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 the attention of the Trust because it relates to development immediately adjacent to the Electric Theatre, specifically works to the public realm outside the theatre and the Rodboro Armour building opposite. Presently the area subject to this application consists of paving and planting, car parking, seating associated with the Rodboro Armour building and the pub and bar operating within it and a bin store.

It is proposed that the road width will be reduced along with replacement paving, which in principle we support as it should result in an improved environment for users of the theatre and other pedestrians moving through the area. There are currently two disabled parking bays outside the theatre which will be reduced to one; we note from supporting information that consultation has been carried out on this with Guildford Access Group. We note part of the rationale for these works is to help improve safety (and the perception of safety) and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour. This is something we would support as it would provide benefit to users and staff of the theatre particularly at night.

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, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Simon Ricketts, Truda Spruyt

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with the Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

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In conclusion these works appear not to compromise the operation of the Electric Theatre and overall will help enhance the environment around the theatre which in turn will benefit users of the theatre. Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission.

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

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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