

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2083

10 August 2020

Michelle Kwok  
Mid Kent Planning Support  
Maidstone House  
King Street  
Maidstone  
ME15 6JQ

By e-mail: [planningcomments@midkent.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@midkent.gov.uk)

**Application:** 20/502711/LBC

**Site:** Hazlitt Theatre Kiosk Earl Street Maidstone ME14 1PL

**Proposal:** Listed Building Consent for removal of existing timber servery opening to shop front and replacement with new glass doors (works partially completed).

## **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 proposes works to Hazlitt Theatre. It is largely retrospective with the works having been largely already completed.

Hazlitt Theatre is a valued cultural facility serving Maidstone and its surrounding communities. It forms part of the Grade II listed market buildings and Corn Exchange complex. It provides a varied programme of theatre and other live performance, and supports opportunities for participation and development for example through its youth theatre and choir. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

Specifically this application seeks to regularise the removal of the theatre's timber servery opening to its front elevation and replace it with laminated glass doors. The servery was utilised for the sale of confectionary and other drinks and snacks.

Whilst we have no objection in principle to the removal of the servery and the opening of that

### **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, 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

## Protecting theatres for **everyone**



space, the new door and opening does not correspond with the appearance of finish of adjacent openings. As such we would concur with the view of the Council's Conservation Officer that revision to match or reflect the main entrance doors would produce a better outcome so as not to detract from the theatre's appearance and its impact on the wider setting.

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

### **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, 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