

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

25 November 2020

Tom Fearn
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
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Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL5 4UB

By e-mail: tom.fearn@stroud.gov.uk

Application: S.20/2523/FUL

Site: Cotswold Playhouse Parliament Street Stroud Gloucestershire GL5 1LW

Proposal: Proposed rooftop heating unit

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 involves development at Cotswold Playhouse. We have not been directly consulted despite this falling within our statutory remit outlined above.

The Cotswold Playhouse is a valued community and cultural facility, owned by the Cotswold Players amateur dramatics group. Theatres of this nature are particularly important for the social and cultural wellbeing of local people, providing opportunities for participation and engagement in the arts and for people to come together and volunteer. They help develop skills and reduce isolation. Along with their own productions the theatre also hosts some touring productions. The NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

This proposal seeks to install a new air cooled heating unit enclosed by timber security fence which will sit above the theatre's flat roof area to the rear. This will necessitate a slight raising of the height of this area.

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, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Simon Ricketts, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

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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There does not appear to be any acoustic or technical information available with the application documents, but given its location to the north-east corner of the building and the apparent distance between the unit and the nearest residential property there would not appear to be any obvious issues with regards to amenity. It is also to be assumed the new unit will provide greater efficiency which is to be welcomed.

On the basis of the above assumptions being correct, we support the granting of planning permission.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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