

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2260

11 December 2020

Samantha Gallagher
Richmondshire District Council
Mercury House
Station Road
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 4JX

By e-mail: Planning.Enquiries@richmondshire.gov.uk

Application: 20/00850/LBC

Site: The Georgian Theatre Royal Victoria Road Richmond North Yorkshire DL10 4DW

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for Repairs to Existing Timber Beam in the Ground Floor Entrance Foyer and Addition of a Timber Post to Support Deflecting Beam Above

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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust regarding this application for listed building consent at Georgian Theatre Royal.

The theatre is a Grade I listed heritage asset, one of the oldest theatres in the UK dating from the late eighteenth century and one of very few designated at the respective highest levels of statutory listing. It is one of the best preserved Georgian theatres. Along with the theatre it contains a museum. It is therefore an important cultural asset for the town and its surrounding communities, as well providing economic benefits by drawing visitors into the area.

A number of projects to support the theatre's conservation and ongoing sustainability as a cultural facility have been set out within the Conservation Plan, of which this proposal is one element. It is seeking to install a timber post within the historic part of the theatre's foyer area and to repair the existing timber beam that spans across that part of the building. The document sets out that the plaster finish to the ceiling in this area is cracking and deteriorating likely due to

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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deflection of the beam for which strengthening is required. The beam also supports partition of the boxes and gallery above.

Although not explicitly stated, it is to be assumed the inserted timber post will reflect the appearance of the existing beam. The need for the beam is understood; its addition would not appear to compromise the character and significance of this part of the building. Therefore on that basis we are supportive of the granting of listing building consent.

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

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