

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/3723

17 December 2020

Adam Afford
Exeter City Council
Civic Centre
Paris Street
Exeter
United Kingdom
EX1 1JN

By e-mail: planning@exeter.gov.uk

Application: 20/1680/ECC

Site: Exeter Corn Exchange Market Street Exeter Devon EX1 1BW

Proposal: Installation of parapet handrail with access lighting, as part of reroofing works, to facilitate safe access for maintenance works.

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 at Exeter Corn Exchange, specifically the installation of a handrail to the top of the building's parapet wall and access lighting in association with reroofing works.

The Corn Exchange is a valued cultural facility for the city and its wider catchment, providing a mixed arts programme including theatre, comedy, live music and talks along with conferencing and other events. Venues such as this are important for the social and cultural well-being of local people and are vital in contribute to the vibrancy of town and city centres, bringing people in to the benefit of other businesses. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for cultural facilities such as this.

The proposed handrail provides for safer working conditions when accessing the roof for maintenance and other activities, and handrails already exist above the parapet on other parts of the building. They are not of a scale or appearance which would give rise to issues of harm 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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visual amenity. Therefore we are supportive of these works and would recommend 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 on a light-colored background. The signature reads "T Clarke" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

Theatres Trust

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