

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2781

08 January 2021

Mrs Claire Wilson
Three Rivers District Council
Three Rivers House
Northway
Rickmansworth
Herts
WD3 1RL

By e-mail: enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk

Application: 20/2236/FUL

Site: Watersmeet High Street Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 1EH

Proposal: Installation of two new staircases, including all associated platforms, handrails, alighting points, access point in to and on to the theatre and associated fencing.

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 refers to development at Watersmeet. We have not been formally contacted despite this proposal falling within our statutory remit described above.

Watersmeet is a theatre and performance venue with a varied arts programme. It is an important social and cultural facility serving Rickmansworth and its surrounding communities; paragraph 92 of the NPPF seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

This proposal seeks to install additional means of escape from the venue, which will necessitate the addition an external staircase to each of the east and west elevations. In turn this will result in new openings.

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

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We do not consider these additions to cause harm to the character and setting of the surrounding conservation area, and they will enhance the safety of the venue's audiences, performers and staff. Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss these comments in greater detail.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke".

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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