

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2305

27 May 2021

Kirsty Hope
West Lothian Council
Civic Centre
Howden South Road
Livingston
EH54 6FF

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

Application: 0503/LBC/21

Site: Regal Community Theatre 24-34 North Bridge Street Bathgate West Lothian EH48 4PS

Proposal: Listed building consent for repainting and lighting to south elevation.

Remit:

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1978 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in Scotland through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulation 2013, 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 because it is seeking to alter the external paint scheme and lighting at the Regal Community Theatre.

The Regal was constructed in the late 1930s as a cine-variety theatre and is Category B listed on account of being a good example of provincial cinema which has retained its Art Deco interior and exterior. Of particular significance is its decorative plasterwork by John Alexander and rare modelled plaster panels, being one of just three remaining examples of Alexander's work. After closing in 1993 and being threatened with demolition it was saved and reopened in 1995 as a community theatre. It briefly closed again in late 2017 when its operating company went into liquidation but opened under new community management. It is a valued cultural and social venue for Bathgate and its surrounding catchment.

The Regal is currently painted white with a blue canopy. The proposal is to paint the principle front façade in grey marble with doors, the canopy, surrounds and parapet painted in a darker shade. The marble either side of the main entrance will be retained. We are supportive of this change which will help strengthen the character of the Regal as a heritage asset and key

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, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, 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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contributor to local townscape and update and improve its appearance. The lighting scheme will help enhance the building's prominence.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or 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

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