

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

18 June 2021

Sarah Arbon
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall, Bank Road
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3NN

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

Application: 21/00631/FUL

Site: Tinderbox Ltd The Red House Old Road Darley Dale Derbyshire DE4 2ER

Proposal: Proposed extension to performing arts centre

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 for an extension to the Tinderbox Performing Arts Centre has come to the attention of the Trust because it will result in the building being used for public performances.

Tinderbox has been open since 2017 and is currently used for rehearsals, workshops and education. It has become a valued cultural facility for local people around Darley Dale and its surrounding catchment. Facilities such as this which facilitate local and amateur groups, enable people to come together and provide access to culture and the arts are particularly important in supporting well-being and reducing isolation. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for these facilities, with paragraph 83.d supporting the development of local services and facilities serving more rural areas. Policy HC15 of the Adopted Derbyshire Dales Local Plan (2017) seeks to improve provision of local facilities and services and supports proposals which will enhance existing facilities. This development will enable small community productions to be held so contribute towards those objectives.

The proposed extension is relatively modest in scale and will result in enlargement of an existing teaching room. This will enable it to be used for public performances. Adjacent to that the

Theatres Trust

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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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reception/foyer will also be expanded. The size of the performance space and lack of supporting facilities, in particular WCs, means without further expansion or alterations and public performance use could only realistically be very small/local in scale and ancillary to the primary existing function of the Tinderbox. Nonetheless additional local provision is to be welcomed and will add to the diversity of available spaces across the wider area; there are currently few theatres within the district. Although outside of a town centre it is well connected, being walkable for a number of people, accessible by public transport and just off the A6 for access by car from across the district.

In conclusion we are supportive of the granting of planning permission.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light grey rectangular box.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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