

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/3294

25 June 2021

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Warwick District Council
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Leamington Spa
CV32 5HZ

By e-mail: planningenquiries@warwickdc.gov.uk

Application: W/21/0727

Site: Priory Theatre, 5 Rosemary Hill, Kenilworth, CV8 1BN

Proposal: Replace 2no. existing windows on front elevation with 1no. single enlarged, aluminium framed window with glass Juliet balcony

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 is seeking alterations to the Priory Theatre. We have not been formally notified despite this application falling within our remit as outlined above.

The Priory is a valued community theatre serving Kenilworth and its surrounding catchment. It is member-owned and run by volunteers. It produces a number of shows each year and has youth provision which helps develop skills in theatre and the arts. Venues such as this are particularly important in supporting the social and cultural well-being of local people, bringing people together and reducing isolation. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this and Policy PC0.h of the Local Plan supports the important role that culture and leisure plays in the district's communities.

It is proposed that there will be alteration of the theatre's primary façade, removing the two existing windows and replacing them with a single large glazed window with sliding opening with external Juliette balcony. The cellar door below will be redecorated to match the new window

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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above. Although the building originally dates from the early nineteenth century it has been substantially altered over the years especially following a major fire in the 1970s. The foyer area, subject to this application, dates from works carried out in the 1990s. The theatre is within the Kenilworth Conservation Area but the modern nature and design of its frontage means it does not make a particular contribution to the area's character and interest.

Overall we consider this proposal an improvement to the theatre's appearance. It should also allow much greater natural light into the foyer which will enhance the experience of audiences, staff and other users.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss these comments further.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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