

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/3631

25 June 2021

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**Application:** 21/AP/1745

**Site:** Blue Elephant Theatre 59A Bethwin Road London Southwark SE5 0XT

**Proposal:** Replacement of windows with louvres to front and side elevation to accommodate installation of ventilation system.

## **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 development at the Blue Elephant Theatre.

The Blue Elephant is a small and well regarded fringe theatre with an audience capacity of fifty people. It has a varied programme with a focus on new and emerging artists and less-known works. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for cultural facilities such as this.

This application proposes some minor external alterations to facilitate a new ventilation system. This project has been supported by a grant from Theatres Trust which helps theatres with Covid-secure re-opening.

The elevation drawings marked Bethwin Road front elevation are actually for Thompson Avenue, which show replacement louvres for those already existing. To the rear elevation the window above the emergency exit door is to be replaced with a new louvre. We have no objections to

### **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**T** 020 7836 8591 **E** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **W** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://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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either of these alterations, and the ultimate outcome of improving ventilation into the building is to be welcomed.

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". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

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