

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/912

19 July 2021

James Emery
Planning Service
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Sardis House
Sardis Road
Pontypridd
CF37 1DU

By e-mail: PlanningServices@rctcbc.gov.uk

Application: 21/0799/10

Site: THE COLISEUM THEATRE, MOUNT PLEASANT STREET, TRECYNON, ABERDARE,
CF44 8NG

Proposal: Refurbishment and single storey extension to the existing WC facility.

Remit:

Theatres Trust is the National Advisory Body for Theatres and was established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres'. The Trust is a statutory consultee in the planning system and local planning authorities in Wales are required to consult the Trust on planning applications for '*development involving any land on which there is a theatre*', '*residential development within 50 metres of a theatre*' as well as for proposed theatres. The definition of theatres within the Act defines a theatre as 'any building or part of a building constructed wholly or mainly for the public performance of plays', and therefore applies to theatres, playhouses, arts centres, ciné-varieties or buildings converted for theatre use, old and new, in other uses or disused.

Comment:

This application for planning permission has come to the attention of the Trust. We do not appear to have been notified despite it falling within our statutory remit described above. It is proposed that the theatre's WCs undergo refurbishment and extension.

The Coliseum was built in 1938 as a public hall and was converted to a dedicated theatre and performance venue in 1992. An extension to provide front of house facilities was completed three years later. The auditorium and foyer contain plastercasts of brass wall plates previously displayed in the town's Rex Cinema. The Coliseum is a valued cultural facility serving Aberdare and its wider catchment. It has a mixed programme of theatre, cinema, comedy, live music and other events.

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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Provision of adequate WCs is a challenge for many theatres. Therefore we welcome these proposals which will provide an additional cubicle within the male WCs. This will be facilitated through a modest extension with new rendering to match the existing. Increased WC provision will reduce queueing and congestion at peak periods, improving the audience experience.

Therefore we support the granting of planning permission.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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