

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/1024

19 August 2021

Mr C Green  
Planning Services Department  
Town Hall  
Great Yarmouth  
Norfolk

By e-mail: [plan@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:plan@great-yarmouth.gov.uk)

**Application:** 06/21/0537/LB & 06/21/0590/F

**Site:** St Georges Theatre King Street GREAT YARMOUTH Norfolk NR30 2PG

**Proposal:** Proposed replacement and new exterior lighting: 1. Replacement of existing signage column in front of theatre with a new 5 metre column; 2. Installation of 8no. linear LED fittings within window reveals on King Street elevation; 3. Replacement of 4no. surface mounted LED projectors on the Bell Tower

## **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 planning permission and listed building consent has come to the attention of the Trust. We have not been notified despite this falling within our statutory remit outlined above. It seeks to install and replace internal and external lighting at St George's Theatre.

St George's Theatre is a valued community and cultural asset for Great Yarmouth and its surrounding catchment, with a mixed programme of local and touring productions. It is within a deconsecrated chapel modelled on Sir Christopher Wren's St. Clement Danes having been commissioned in 1714. It is Grade I listed and is recognised as one of the finest examples of Baroque Church architecture outside of London. It faced demolition in the 1950s but was saved and converted into a theatre and performing arts centre in 1972. It had a period of closure from 2006 when structural defects were identified, ending up on both Historic England's Heritage at Risk list and the Trust's Theatres at Risk register. With funding secured, it was sympathetically restored and transformed into a modern theatre which reopened in February 2013. A separate

## **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

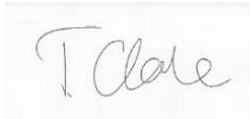
single storey pavilion to the south of the chapel provides front of house facilities, including an all-day bar/cafe.

We understand this proposal forms part of a wider masterplan and strategy to provide or improve lighting at key sites around the borough. Gorleston Pavilion is also within this scheme for which we have already provided comments in support. It aims to better reveal and highlight the significance of the theatre and its architecture during darkness. This is something we support, particularly because with St George's not being a purpose-built theatre it has had challenges in the past with visibility and appearing inactive. It was for that reason we supported a new signage scheme in early 2018.

The approach to installation avoids or minimises any harm to historic fabric. The scheme provides public benefits through increasing the theatre's prominence and creating interest throughout the town. It does not impact on the theatre's operation and function.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.

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



Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

**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