

Ref.: TC/2061

20 August 2021

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By e-mail: planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Application: AWDM/1447/21 & AWDM/1448/21

Site: Dome Cinema 22 Marine Parade Worthing West Sussex BN11 3PT

Proposal: Replacement of existing non approved fire exit doors; &
Application for Listed Building Consent for replacement of existing non approved fire exit doors.

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:

These applications for planning permission and listed building consent have come to the attention of the Trust because they are seeking alteration at the Worthing Dome to replace fire doors within its arcade.

The Dome is a Grade II* listed heritage asset described in the Trust's database as, "the most complete example of a building of its type, and said to be amongst one of the ten finest buildings on the South Coast". It opened in 1911 with an upstairs cinema called the Electric Theatre and a main multi-purpose entertainment hall called the Kursaal. The Kursall was converted into the Dome Cinema ten years later with the Electric Theatre becoming a restaurant. There was extensive theatre use in the building's early years. The auditorium has the character of a music hall, having narrow balconies on each side and has opulent plasterwork and ceiling domes. The Dome also has a stage house. By 1999 the building was in need of extensive repair and after being taken on by a trust and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund it re-opened as a cinema in

Theatres Trust

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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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2007, also hosting some live events, along with tea rooms and function space. It is a valued social, community and cultural asset.

This proposal will see the replacement of insensitive fire doors with timber glazed doors which better reflect the building's character and significance, painted and detailed to match the existing arcade. We welcome this approach and the enhancement of the building, and therefore support the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.

Please contact the Trust if you wish to discuss this representation in furtherer detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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