

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/150

25 October 2021

Stephen Cadman
South Kesteven District Council
St Peters Hill
Grantham
Lincolnshire
NG31 6PZ

By e-mail: representations@southkesteven.gov.uk

Application: s21/1986

Site: Guildhall Arts Centre St Peter's Hill Grantham NG31 6PY

Proposal: Refurbishment of existing theatre toilets.

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 listed building consent has come to the attention of the Trust through media reports because it is seeking works at the Guildhall Arts Centre. Specifically, the arts centre's WCs would be refurbished.

Guildhall Arts Centre is a Grade II listed heritage asset. It was commissioned in 1866 to replace a previous guildhall and jail. It was completed in 1869. It had a hall and ballroom with a separate prison attached which was subsequently used for manufacturing and then educational use for the local Technical Institute. It became the chamber of the local Council until a merger created the current South Kesteven District in 1976 which sat elsewhere. After a period of vacancy it was converted into the current Arts Centre in 1991. The venue offers a mixed arts programme including theatre, live music and comedy. It is an important and well regarded venue for the area.

These proposals are relatively minor and will not impact on the historic significance of the Guildhall. They will result in the cubicles within the male WC area being set back utilising unnecessary corridor within the female WCs. This will create additional space within the male WC block which will improve the area's function as it currently has potential to become

Theatres Trust

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Interim Chair Paddy Dillon Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, Paul Cartwright, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres
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congested. Alongside this will be general refurbishments, repairs and replacements across both the male and female WCs.

We are supportive of these works as they will help enhance the experience of audiences and other users of the arts centre. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

Therefore we recommend the granting of listed building consent.

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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