

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2325

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Nia Thomas  
Planning Services  
Development Management  
Wakefield Council  
Wakefield One  
PO Box 700  
Wakefield  
WF1 2EB

By e-mail: [devcontrol@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:devcontrol@wakefield.gov.uk)

**Application:** 22/00334/FUL & 20/01009/LBC

**Site:** Theatre Royal Drury Lane Wakefield WF1 2TE

**Proposal:** Installation of temporary artworks

## 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 the installation of vinyl artworks to the windows around the south-west entrance of Theatre Royal Wakefield for a temporary period. This is part of a High Street Heritage Action Zone project for the town funded by Historic England and the Council.

Theatre Royal is a Grade II\* listed heritage asset, and is the smallest of the surviving theatres designed by Frank Matcham. After a period in cinema and then bingo use it was restored and reopened as a theatre in the early 1980s. It is an important historic, cultural and social asset for Wakefield, with a mixture of its own and touring productions as well as youth and community outreach and opportunities for volunteering.

The artwork subject to these applications is envisaged to be in place for a twelve month period. It will consist of illustrated depictions of local and theatrical characters, similar to examples

## 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** Dave Moutrey **Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Paul Cartwright, James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Lucy Osborne, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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placed elsewhere across the wider area such as the former New Pavilion in Morley and on retail units in Leeds.

The project comes with a wider public benefit of activating and drawing attention to heritage in the town. In terms of harm to the theatre this is minimal, as the application of the artwork is fully reversible and no different in principle to the show advertisements which are already applied to other windows at this location.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission and listed building consent for a temporary period.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Trust should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

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