

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2330

07 April 2022

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By e-mail: [dcplanning@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:dcplanning@chichester.gov.uk)

**Application:** 22/00308/FUL

**Site:** Chichester Festival Theatre Broyle Road Chichester PO19 6AP

**Proposal:** Bandstand for use between April and September to provide a multi-use space.

## 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 has come to the attention of the Trust because it is seeking planning permission for the installation of a 'bandstand' structure over summer months in front of Chichester Festival Theatre. The theatre benefitted from a previous permission for a period of five years which lapsed at the end of 2021.

Chichester Festival Theatre is one of the most important post war theatres in the United Kingdom in terms of its design and influence on the construction of later theatres, including the National Theatre in London, and this is reflected in its Grade II\* statutory heritage listing. It is a valued cultural asset for Chichester and its residents offering community, educational and youth outreach programmes and also plays a key economic role bringing in visitors from a wider catchment which in turn supports local jobs and businesses. It is a producing theatre which has exported several works both nationally and across the world. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

The theatre is now seeking to install the bandstand seasonally on an ongoing basis beyond the limitations of a temporary permission. As set out within their supporting information the structure

## Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL  
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**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

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with the Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

## Protecting theatres for **everyone**



is utilised for a variety of events and workshops for local people in particular students and families. This helps expand the theatre's cultural and social role and encourages greater engagement and participation in the arts. This can be considered a substantial public benefit which mitigates the impact of the structure of the theatre's setting. It must also be considered that the structure is fully removable and reversible, and limitations on the duration of its placement can be managed by condition.

Therefore we are supportive of this proposal and would recommend the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss these comments in greater detail.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

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