

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2101

07 April 2022

Ranald Dods  
Scottish Borders Council  
Council Headquarters  
Newtown St Boswells  
Melrose  
TD6 0SA

By e-mail: [dcconsultees@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:dcconsultees@scotborders.gov.uk)

**Application:** 22/00172/LBC & 22/00171/ADV

**Site:** Eastgate Theatre And Art Centre Eastgate Peebles Scottish Borders EH45 8AD

**Proposal:** Installation of non-illuminated signage

**Remit:** The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1978 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in Scotland through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulation 2013, 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 listed building consent and advertisement consent have come to the attention of the Trust because they are seeking the installation of signage at Eastgate Theatre and Arts Centre.

The Eastgate is a valued arts and cultural venue serving Peebles and its surrounding communities. It opened in 2004 following acquisition of the Eastgate Hall in the mid-1990s, a mid-Victorian gothic church, and subsequent fundraising which enabled conversion of the building. It has a mixed programme of theatre, live music, cinema and comedy along with classes and community outreach. It offers an all-day café which brings people into the building and encourages engagement. Such venues are important for social and cultural well-being and are to be supported.

This proposal will see the addition of non-illuminated lettering above the theatre's main entrance. This will help improve the prominence and awareness of the theatre. We do not consider it will detract from the special character of the building as a heritage asset. Neither do we consider it will impact on the amenity of surrounding properties or undermine highway safety.

## **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

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**



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

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments further.

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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