

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2977

13 May 2022

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By e-mail: developmentmanagement@pkc.gov.uk

Application: 22/00758/FLL

Site: Pitlochry Festival Theatre Pitlochry PH16 5DR

Proposal: Installation of bandstand and play equipment (for a temporary period) (in retrospect)

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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust regarding this application for retrospective planning permission at Pitlochry Festival Theatre for the installation of an external bandstand and play equipment for a temporary period of up to five years.

These structures have been positioned to the north-east of the theatre building with online images showing them to have been in place during summer 2021. The bandstand is utilised for occasional small-scale external performances with the climbing frame providing activity for children.

The provision of play equipment helps widen the reach and inclusivity of the theatre for families. Similarly the bandstand is complementary to the venue's core arts and theatrical programme and will help to bring in additional visitors. These can be considered as public benefits. There are other examples of external bandstands and structures utilised in a similar manner at other theatres around the UK where they have sufficient and appropriate external grounds, such as Chichester Festival Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon and the National Theatre in London. All of those examples are designated heritage assets.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL
T 020 7836 8591 E info@theatrestrust.org.uk W 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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The structures are modest in scale and are removable, thus constituting a reversible change. It appears the band stand is using an existing decked area which has previously been used for external picnic benches and seating. Although the theatre is not a listed building we consider it to have special architectural interest which would be worthy of listing. Therefore should the applicant subsequently seek to make these interventions more permanent we would suggest further appraisal of impact on the building's setting and views towards it.

We are however supportive of the granting of temporary planning permission.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T Clarke".

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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