

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2209

17 May 2022

Susanna Stevenson
Civic Centre
Stockwell Close
Bromley
BR1 3UH

By e-mail: planning@bromley.gov.uk

Application: 22/01299/FULL1

Site: Churchill Theatre High Street Bromley BR1 1HA

Proposal: Installation of luminaires on the east and south elevations of Churchill Theatre and Bromley Central Library as part of a façade lighting scheme for the upper floors of the building.

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 at Churchill Theatre for works relating to a new lighting scheme. We have not been directly notified by the Council despite this falling within our statutory remit as outlined above.

The Churchill Theatre is a 780 seat venue which opened in 1977 within a wider civic and retail complex, built following its predecessor the New Theatre being destroyed by fire. The Trust's database describes the theatre as having a continental-style auditorium with good sightlines and well-equipped stage and backstage facilities. It has a mixed programme of touring productions, comedians and musicians as well as its own productions. It is an important cultural facility for Bromley and its town centre. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2022) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

Although the theatre is centrally located within the town centre we would concur with the applicant that its access which is away from the High Street lacks prominence. To help alleviate this a lighting strategy is being taken forward to better illuminate and activate the two most visible

Theatres Trust

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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

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elevations which are directly onto the High Street and from the direction of the railway station. This will be facilitated by the installation of luminaires at various positions.

This proposal will help improve the profile of the theatre and better make it a visual point of interest which should help draw people in. The installation of the luminaires will not impact on the function and operation of the theatre. Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission.

Please contact the Trust 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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