

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/3100

17 May 2022

Anna Horn
Sevenoaks District Council
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1HG

By e-mail: planning.comments@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Application Reference: 22/01222/PARSOL

Site: Stag Community Arts Centre London Road Sevenoaks KENT TN13 1ZZ

Proposal: Installation of two Solar PV systems of 182 x 395W across two roofs using South facing elevations of The Stag Theatre.

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 development under Part 14, Class J of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the installation of solar panels to the roof of The Stag on its southern elevation.

The panels will help reduce the theatre's energy consumption and in turn reduce its costs. For community and charitably-operated venues such as The Stag any cost savings are particularly beneficial to their longer-term viability. More generally efforts to improve sustainability and enhance the viability of the arts centre to support its ongoing operation is to be welcomed. In the context of the Stag being a non-designated heritage asset the installation of panels constitutes a reversible alteration which generates public benefit. The areas to which there will be installation can be considered a less sensitive part of the building. The plans do not appear to contravene any of the conditions prohibiting development from proceeding under this part of the GPDO. The NPPF (2021) is also supportive of improving sustainability and low-carbon energy and heat.

Therefore we are supportive of Prior Approval being granted for these works.

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

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**



Please contact us if you wish to discuss these comments further.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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