

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/414

14 June 2022

Jane Lamnea
Planning and City Regeneration
Directorate of Place
Civic Centre,
Oystermouth Road,
Swansea,
SA1 3SN

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

Application: 2022/1279/FUL

Site: Grand Theatre Singleton Street Swansea SA1 3QJ

Proposal: Renew glass dome to front elevation with replacement glazed windows and solid roof, repair/replace render panel above glass dome to match existing and replacement lead flashing

Remit:

Theatres Trust is the National Advisory Body for Theatres and was established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres'. The Trust is a statutory consultee in the planning system and local planning authorities in Wales are required to consult the Trust on planning applications for '*development involving any land on which there is a theatre*', '*residential development within 50 metres of a theatre*' as well as for proposed theatres. The definition of theatres within the Act defines a theatre as 'any building or part of a building constructed wholly or mainly for the public performance of plays', and therefore applies to theatres, playhouses, arts centres, ciné-varieties or buildings converted for theatre use, old and new, in other uses or disused.

Comment:

This application for planning permission has come to the attention of the Trust because it is seeking external works at the Grand Theatre to repair and replace parts of its glass dome to its front elevation.

The Grand is not listed but is an important heritage asset and the last remaining theatre by architect William Hope. Although it has a modern stage house and back of house facilities following demolition beyond the proscenium arch in the early 1980s along with other later elements such as the glass atrium subject to this application and colonnade below. The building's original frontage sits behind this and internally the auditorium is richly decorated with

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

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

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two curved balconies and bow-fronted boxes on each side, with elaborate plasterwork. We consider it worthy of statutory listing.

We welcome efforts by theatre owners and operators to invest in their buildings and to keep them well maintained so they can be conserved into the future. These plans will alter the front upper atrium to replace the higher level glass panels with a warm roof and change and renew the remaining glazing below. Associated lead flashings and timber panelling will be replaced. This part of the building is a later addition and its alterations will not increase harm to its character and significance.

The large rendered theatre sign will also be replaced. We assume this is necessary due to deterioration but it is stated this will be replaced to match the original appearance and lettering. This is important because it is an original feature of the theatre and contributes to its significance. We would suggest there is merit in like-for-like replacement being conditioned.

In conclusion we can support the granting of planning permission for these works.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss these comments further.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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