

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

29 July 2022

Mr Martin Brooks
Ipswich Borough Council
Development Management
Grafton House
15-17 Russell Road
Ipswich
IP1 2DE

By e-mail: development.management@ipswich.gov.uk

Application: 22/00624/LBC

Site: The Gallery Studio Theatre, St Georges Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3LH

Proposal: Installation of an additional CCTV camera on the front face of the building.

Remit:

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 for listed building consent has come to the attention of the Trust. It is seeking installation of a CCTV cameras to the front (west) elevation of the building.

The Gallery Studio Theatre is located within a former Salem Chapel and is a Grade II listed heritage asset. It was previously a studio theatre operated by the New Wolsey until they vacated in 2019 following completion of additional facilities at their main site. It was taken on by The Gallery Players, a local amateur theatre group which is a charitable organisation and run by its members and volunteers. They utilise the theatre for their rehearsals and productions, as well as making it available for general community hire. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for community, cultural and social facilities such as this.

The applicant has outlined the need and rationale for the addition of an external CCTV camera due to criminal damage and general crime and anti-social behaviour. There is an existing camera on one side of the front of the building and this will be located the opposite side to improve coverage.

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

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In terms of impact on the building as a heritage asset we consider the camera to be discreetly positioned. As such harm to appearance and setting is very limited. This is also mitigated by the need to deter further crime and financial loss and help secure the building as both a heritage and community/cultural/social asset which can be considered a public benefit.

Therefore we would support the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us 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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