

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

27 January 2023

Dale Jones
Planning
Worcester City Council
The Guildhall
High Street
Worcester
WR1 2EY

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

Application: 22/01096/LB

Site: Former Scala Theatre and Corn Exchange, Angel Street, Public Conveniences, Angel Place
WORCESTER WR1 3QT

Proposal: Listed building consent for the removal of existing external escape stair to rear of Corn Exchange, new external escape stair, replacement of existing ducted windows with louvres and demolition and rebuilding of existing Crown Passage ramp. Internal alterations to the Corn Exchange to include partial demolition to first floor for new escape stair, demolition, and reconfiguration of existing walls to basement and ground floor levels, demolition to form new opening in party wall at first floor to connect the Scala performance arts centre and Corn Exchange and existing services upgraded throughout.

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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the Corn Exchange to facilitate internal and external alterations associated with the change of use and link to the neighbouring Scala to create a new theatre and arts/cultural centre. We have also submitted comments on the corresponding planning permission under separate cover.

These plans will help facilitate the return to use of the Corn Exchange and neighbouring Scala, a non-designated heritage asset. The Corn Exchange will provide much-needed supporting front of house facilities which are required to meet the expectations of audiences, support the financial

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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sustainability of the venture and enhance its social and cultural role through enabling greater use outside of performance times. The Scala as a former cinema has very little foyer space meaning it is unable to provide such facilities.

Whilst this results in alteration and loss of fabric to the Corn Exchange as well as additional non-designated assets such as the adjoining public toilets and the Scala itself, we consider that this is justified through the public benefits of bringing these assets back into positive use as well as helping to revitalise their wider setting of the Conservation Area.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss this representation further and continue to engage with us should plans be further amended.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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