

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/1136

06 February 2023

Hayley Starkey
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Mount Pleasant Road
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1RS

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

Application: 23/00034/LBC

Site: Trinity Theatre And Arts Centre Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1JP

Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Alterations to the existing timber roof to replace rotten timber wall plate and timber joists ends

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 because it is seeking to undertake works at the Trinity Theatre necessary for repairs to its roof.

The Trinity has carried out a number of works recently under previous applications for planning permission and listed building consent which were supported by the Trust. These have revealed rot to the timber joists and wallplates within the clocktower roof which requires urgent attention to prevent the failure of the roof and secure the ongoing conservation of this valued cultural and heritage asset. This will be achieved through replacement of wallplates to match those which were existing. The joists will then be dealt with dependent on individual condition in order to remove rot whilst retaining as much historic fabric as possible.

Although loss of original fabric is regrettable clearly this is justified by the need to ensure the roof is safe and that the theatre can continue to function, and in a wider sense the asset is conserved. The applicant has set out an appropriate strategy for carrying out these works and utilising like-for-like materials.

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**



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

Please contact us should you wish to discuss these comments in greater detail.

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

Tom Clarke
National Planning Adviser

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