

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/3294

17 February 2023

Michael Rowson
Warwick District Council
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Leamington Spa
CV32 5HZ

By e-mail: planningenquiries@warwickdc.gov.uk

Application: W/23/0125

Site: Priory Theatre, 5 Rosemary Hill, Kenilworth, CV8 1BN

Proposal: Retention of two existing air handling units and installation of a proposed attenuator unit.

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 has come to the attention of the Trust because it is seeking to regularise the installation of air handling units to the Priory Theatre along with the addition of an attenuator unit.

The Priory is a valued community theatre serving Kenilworth and surrounding areas. It is member-owned and run by volunteers. It produces a number of shows each year and has youth provision which helps develop skills in theatre and the arts. Venues such as this are particularly important in supporting the social and cultural well-being of local people, bringing people together and reducing isolation. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this and Policy PC0.h of the Warwick District Local Plan (2017) supports the important role that culture and leisure plays in the district's communities.

The air handling units which have already been installed are to the theatre's north-west elevation, one to the roof and one along the side of the building. The unit to the side is concealed from view along a passageway, and whilst the roof unit can be observed from some more distant

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

viewpoints we consider the impact to be minimal and does not undermine the character and significance of the Kenilworth Conservation Area.

The benefits and importance of sufficient ventilation within buildings has become apparent in recent times. We welcome that the theatre has invested in upgrading its facilities to enhance comfort and safety. Supporting the health and wellbeing of audiences, performers and other staff and visitors provides public benefits which further mitigates in heritage and design terms the limited harm caused by installation of the units.

We note the conclusions of the Environmental Noise Assessment which state that the recorded noise levels from the units could have significant adverse impact on the neighbouring residential receptors and that mitigation would be required. This is being achieved through the addition of the attenuator unit to limit sound levels.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission, in part retrospective.

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



Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser