

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

17 February 2023

Ms Laleeta Butoy
Planning
Regeneration
Education and Enterprise
Wolverhampton City Council
Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square
Wolverhampton
WV1 1RP

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

Application: 23/00134/FUL

Site: Newhampton Arts Centre Dunkley Street Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 4AN

Proposal: Installation of 2no. external chillers

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 planning permission for the installation of two chiller units, one to the north-east elevation of its studio block and the other to its inner courtyard serving its theatre and gallery.

Newhampton Arts Centre occupies the former Municipal Grammar School. When a subsequent school left the site in 1989 it was taken on by Wilfrun (now Wolverhampton) College with part of it run by the Council as a small arts centre. Over time the arts provision expanded through refurbishment of vacant spaces offering recording and rehearsal studios, a dance studio, a theatre within the former gym along with a café and offices. When the College vacated in 2013 the Newhampton Arts Centre took on the whole site. The Arts Centre provides a home to several local cultural and creative organisations, provides a number of spaces for hire and use by local people, offers exhibitions and gallery space, and has a mixed performance programme including theatre, comedy and live music. It is a valued social and cultural facility for Wolverhampton. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such

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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as this.

The plans for the studio block show units will be installed in proximity to neighbouring residential receptors. They state there will be acoustic enclosure around those units with details to be confirmed. It should be ensured they provide adequate mitigation should sound levels from the chillers exceed levels which could cause significant adverse impacts on neighbouring amenity. This might be managed by condition.

We are otherwise supportive of the granting of planning permission.

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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