

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/3622

13 March 2023

Jamie Mackenzie
Dumfries and Galloway Council
English Street
Dumfries
DG1 2DD

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

Application: 23/0177/FUL

Site: Old Well Theatre Old Well Road Moffat DG10 9AP

Proposal: ERECTION OF EXTENSION TO SOUTH ELEVATION

Remit:

Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1978 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in Scotland through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulation 2013, 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 planning permission has come to the attention of the Trust because it is seeking an extension to the Old Well Theatre. We have not been directly notified despite this falling under our statutory remit outlined above.

The Old Well Theatre is a small community-run venue, owned and operated by the Upper Annandale Dramatic Society which is a charitable trust. Its programme consists of the society's own productions alongside other events and film screenings. It is available for wider community use and hire, for example it is also the home of the Moffat Music Society, making it an important and valued cultural and social asset for the town and its surrounding areas. The theatre opened in 1970 following acquisition and conversion of a former church hall, which had already been equipped with a stage and was used for performances. The building is not a designated heritage asset but has historic character and features, positively contributing to local townscape. The auditorium has a capacity of 70 along with a separate meeting room, and the theatre is well-equipped for audiences and performers.

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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The extension will be to the theatre's south-west elevation beyond its prop room and fire exit. This will provide new storage space across two levels, the first floor accessible through the existing building with a new opening from the escape stair. The extension is modest in scale and we consider its design and materials will complement the character of the existing building. The Policy Intent for Policy 31 of the adopted National Planning Framework 4 (2023) is to encourage and facilitate development which supports culture, with outcomes including expanded cultural provision. This project will enhance the theatre operationally and can therefore be considered to contribute towards those policy objectives.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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