

Protecting theatres
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/3547

23 May 2023

Mr Chris Morris
Municipal Offices
Promenade
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 9SA

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

Application: 23/00670/LBC

Site: Bayshill House Bayshill Road Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL50 3AA

Proposal: Damp proofing works at the basement of the property Parabola Arts Centre

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 Theatres Trust because it is seeking to carry out works at Parabola Arts Centre.

The Parabola is a 325-seat theatre and mixed arts venue within the Grade II* listed Bayshill House. It is part of Cheltenham Ladies' College but is open to the general

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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Chair Dave Moutrey OBE

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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public. It is a venue for some of the town's renowned festivals, including the Cheltenham Jazz Festival, Cheltenham International Film Festival and Cheltenham Comedy Festival. It is an important cultural and social facility for the town, for which paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively.

The applicant has clearly outlined the need for this intervention, namely that a survey within the building's basement has shown areas requiring damp proofing due to damage being caused to plasterwork and the walls being damp in places. This has been demonstrated through photographic evidence. If this issue is left unresolved the longer-term result would be further deterioration which could compromise other more historically significant parts of the building; the basement area appears to be of lower significance. Furthermore, a damp environment could raise issues of health and safety for persons accessing or working within the affected areas.

To remedy this a dry lining system will be applied. Upon completion the areas of the basement will be reinstated to current appearance.

As these works will not compromise the special character and significance of this asset, and are necessary for its ongoing conservation, we are supportive of the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or if you wish to discuss these comments further.

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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