

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/3142

31 May 2023

Sian Cutts
West Berkshire Council
Development and Planning
West Berkshire Council
Market Street
Newbury
RG14 5LD

By e-mail: planapps@westberks.gov.uk

Application: 23/01005/FUL

Site: Watermill Theatre Bagnor Newbury RG20 8AE

Proposal: Extension of use of a temporary single-storey portakabin building to be used as additional office space for a period of 3 years.

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 planning permission has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking further temporary planning permission to retain its portacabin utilised as office space for a further period of three years. We wrote in support of the

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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original application in June 2021 which was for a two year period. This will shortly lapse.

The theatre suffers from a lack of internal space, and the accompanying Design & Access Statement sets out that they are seeking a more long-term solution. In the meantime retention of this structure will give the theatre additional working space for administrative functions.

Whilst at the time of our previous comments the need for social distancing was a priority which provided mitigation against the minor impact on setting, enabling the theatre and its staff to work efficiently when internal space is limited is also a benefit. The cabin is located next to other external structures within a less sensitive part of the site.

We therefore support further retention of the portakabin and the granting of temporary 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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