

Protecting theatres
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/2272

19 June 2023

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London
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By e-mail: planning-consultation@greenwich.gov.uk

Application: 23/1608/F

Site: THE BOB HOPE THEATRE, WYTHFIELD ROAD, ELTHAM, LONDON, SE9 5TG

Proposal: Demolition and replacement of existing garage for the purpose of storage with associated external alterations

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 to demolish and replace an outbuilding at Bob Hope Theatre.

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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The Trust has been aware of these plans and provided the theatre's operator with advice prior to submission.

Bob Hope Theatre is a valued community theatre which is owned and operated by its members and volunteers. It has an interesting history with the building having been purchased for the community when the Eltham Little Theatre group were threatened with eviction by renowned actor and comedian Bob Hope. It was renamed in his honour. It mostly hosts amateur productions by its own and other local groups as well as community events such as coffee mornings and craft fairs, and occasional live music. Theatres such as this are particularly important for the social and cultural well-being of local people, enabling access and participation in theatre and the arts and providing opportunities for people to come together and develop their skills.

Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively these types of facilities.

The outbuilding covered by this application is a garage utilised for storage. It is in poor condition and of no architectural or historic merit, and would be replaced by a new structure of similar size and scale which will be more fit for purpose. It is concealed from public view so would have no impact on the character and setting of the Eltham Palace Conservation Area.

We are therefore 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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