

Protecting theatres  
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/2943

23 June 2023

Cornwall Council Planning  
PO Box 676  
Threemilestone  
Truro  
Cornwall  
TR1 9EQ

**Application:** PA23/04582

**Site:** Sterts Arts And Entertainment Centre Upton Cross Liskeard

**Proposal:** The erection of a steel-frame structure to cover the seating and stage areas (replacing the previous steel-frame and fabric canopy structure). The proposal includes a new privacy and weather screen and solar panels.

**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 Theatres Trust because it is seeking to carry out works at Sterts Theatre and Arts Centre to replace its weather and storm-damaged canopy structure as well as associated development. We have not been directly consulted despite this application falling within our statutory remit described above.

**Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**Telephone** 020 7836 8591 **Email** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://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

## Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Sterts started life as an open-air theatre which opened in 1990. In its early years various basic canopies were erected to provide protection for audiences in inclement weather. Following the award of grant funding in 1994 a permanent canvas canopy was installed allowing for the extension of the theatre's season and more shows to be held. Over time the programme was expanded to include touring shows and youth productions, as well as comedy, live music and other events. Sterts is a valued cultural asset providing access to theatre and the arts for its rural local catchment, as well as opportunities to participate. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

The theatre's original canopy was replaced in 2014. However, we understand from media reports and contact from the theatre that the canopy and its structure were badly damaged through prolonged hot weather in Summer 2022 and strong winds towards the end of the year. With replacement required efforts were undertaken to fundraise.

To address this it is proposed that a new steel frame will be installed which will be more robust with metal sheet roofing and a translucent movable screen. We are supportive of these plans and the design approach, which are consistent with the ethos and distinguished character of Sterts as a venue whilst offering a better degree of longevity in terms of ongoing retention and upkeep of the venue's weather protection for audiences, performers and other users.

We therefore support 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Clarke".

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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