

Protecting theatres
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/242

25 September 2023

Castle House
Great North Road
Newark
Notts
NG24 1BY

By e-mail: customerservices@nsdc.info

Application: 23/01551/LBC

Site: Palace Theatre 16 - 18 Appleton Gate Newark On Trent NG24 1JY

Proposal: Attachment of steel truss to existing roof truss and drill holes to plasterwork ceiling for cables for lighting rig.

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 alteration within the auditorium of the Palace Theatre to support a new lighting rig.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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

Facebook @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

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 Palace opened in 1920 as a cinema but with provision for live shows, which were held occasionally. After a period of bingo use in the early 1970s it was reverted to full-time theatre use in 1974. It is a Grade II listed heritage asset within the Newark Conservation Area. Its front façade follows the angle of the road junction and is divided into two bays by shafts with domed pinnacles rising above its parapet. Internally the auditorium has the appearance of an early music hall with balconies on three sides, the side balconies having later been converted into five boxes on each side. The ceiling is flat, made of eight panels each bordered with delicate plaster mouldings. Its fly tower is of unusual design with a mansard roof although this creates limitations because it is not possible to fly wide cloths and within the rear part nothing can be flown at all. The theatre has a varied programme and is highly regarded by local people. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

The purpose of this intervention is to facilitate improved lighting function and infrastructure for the theatre. The new rig will enable centralised projection meaning the theatre can attract and handle a wider range of shows than is currently the case, enhancing its social and cultural value and helping to support its ongoing viability. It will also provide for safer working conditions because the rig can be lowered to floor level. These can be considered as public benefits which mitigate the limited harm created through this addition.

We therefore support the granting of listed building consent.

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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