

Protecting theatres
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/2858

25 September 2023

Development Management
4 Civic Way
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BE

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

Application: 23/02794/FUL

Site: The Little Theatre Gloucester Street Chester CH1 3HR

Proposal: Remodelling of theatre entrance area to include new cladding to the facade over the entrance door, new paving and a new entrance door.

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 alterations at Chester Little Theatre, specifically around the building's front entrance where there will be a new main entry door, new paving and new cladding around the entrance.

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 purpose of these works is to improve the visibility and prominence of the theatre. We would concur with the applicant that the current entry is “underwhelming”, with minimal signage or sense of arrival. There is also a disparate use of materials and architectural styles, probably reflecting piecemeal additions and interventions over the years.

The Little Theatre is a valued cultural, community and social asset for local people. We are therefore supportive of efforts by its owner and operator to invest in the building, to improve its accessibility and to increase visibility of the building and its offer. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature. We consider that the design and approach address the theatre’s objectives.

Therefore we are 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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