

Protecting theatres
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Ref.: TC/795

01 December 2023

Mrs Megan Osborn
Winchester City Council
City Offices
Colebrook Street
Winchester
SO23 9LJ

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

Application: 23/01930/LIS

Site: Chesil Little Theatre Chesil Street Winchester Hampshire SO23 0HU

Proposal: Demolition of adjoining building (no.14). Alterations and extension to Chesil Theatre

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 to carry out development resulting in an extension to the Chesil Theatre as well as internal alterations within the existing theatre. We have provided comments on a corresponding planning application under separate cover.

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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We have been aware of these plans for some time, having been engaged by the applicant on previous iterations at pre-application stage in 2017 and 2020.

The proposed plans will see demolition of the existing neighbouring building and a replacement building which will provide expanded and additional facilities for the theatre. Alongside this will be some internal alteration within the existing theatre building which is a Grade II* listed heritage asset. This consists of new openings into the building so there is a direct link from the new extension, which encompasses a new foyer, and revision to the WC layout which provides a much-needed additional cubicle.

These alterations are relatively minor. In heritage terms this constitutes less than substantial harm but we consider this is mitigated and justified through the public benefits of improving the function and facilities of the theatre including enhancing its wheelchair accessibility.

Therefore we support the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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