

Ref.: TC/909

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By e-mail: PlanningServices@rctcbc.gov.uk

Application: 24/0147/08 & 24/0184/10

Site: PARC AND DARE THEATRE, STATION ROAD, TREORCHY, CF42 6NL

Proposal: Replace boilers with new condensing gas fired boilers, installation of a new external flue (application for Listed Building Consent).

Remit:

Theatres Trust is the National Advisory Body for Theatres and was established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres'. The Trust is a statutory consultee in the planning system and local planning authorities in Wales are required to consult the Trust on planning applications for '*development involving any land on which there is a theatre*', '*residential development within 50 metres of a theatre*' as well as for proposed theatres. The definition of theatres within the Act defines a theatre as 'any building or part of a building constructed wholly or mainly for the public performance of plays', and therefore applies to theatres, playhouses, arts centres, ciné-varieties or buildings converted for theatre use, old and new, in other uses or disused.

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 James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Lucy Osborne, 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

Comment:

These applications for planning permission and listed building consent have come to the attention of Theatres Trust because they are seeking to undertake alterations at the Park and Dare Theatre, specifically to replace the building's boilers with associated installation of a new flue.

The Park & Dare Theatre is a Grade II* listed heritage asset, listed for its outstanding façade and being an early theatre which retains much of its original character and is largely unaltered. Its external architectural style was influenced by the design of Welsh chapels. It is in effect two separate buildings which are connected; the Parc and Dare Hall and the former Parc and Dare Institute. The Hall and Institute were built in 1892, funded by donations from the wages of miners at the nearby Dare and Parc (Park) collieries. They were to provide welfare facilities for workers and a place to meet and socialise. Further development was undertaken which created the theatre and this opened in 1913. Cinema facilities were added in 1920. By 1975 the facility was at risk of closure and in need of repair and modernisation. The Council took it on and it continues to be a valued arts and cultural facility for the town and its surrounding communities.

Within the application form it is stated the theatre's existing boilers have come to the end of their operational life. The theatre has successfully obtained funding to undertake this project. Alongside this the existing mechanical flue will be replaced with a powder coated twin wall flue to its rear (northern) elevation.

Whilst the rear elevation is visible it is less sensitive architecturally. We therefore consider the addition of the proposed flue will have little impact on significance and setting. Similarly, replacement of the boiler itself has a neutral impact in heritage terms. The flue and replacement boiler system is necessary to support the theatre's operation and ongoing conservation as well as audience comfort.

We therefore support the granting of planning permission and 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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