

Ref.: TC

15 April 2024

Robert Webb  
Norwich City Council  
St Peter's Street  
Norwich  
NR2 1NH

By e-mail: [planning@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:planning@norwich.gov.uk)

**Application:** 24/00091/F

**Site:** The Hewett Academy Cecil Road Norwich NR1 2PL

**Proposal:** Partial demolition of locally listed building, redevelopment and refurbishment of the school, construction of a sports hall, refurbishment of the swimming hall and demolition of buildings next to The Hewett Academy.

### **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:**

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for planning permission at The Hewett Academy. We have been notified because the site contains the Walter Roy Theatre, and the proposal includes refurbishment of this theatre.

#### **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** James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Lucy Osborne, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

Walter Roy Theatre is part of The Hewett Academy and is named after the school's first headteacher. It's main auditorium has a capacity of around 300 and the wider department also has a dance studio and supporting facilities. The theatre is open for external use and hire and hosts public performances. The host building within which the theatre sits is on Norwich City Council's register of locally listed heritage assets

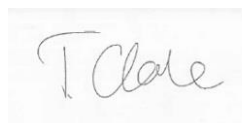
These comments relate only to works to the theatre. The applicant's Planning Statement notes refurbishment is to bring the theatre up to modern standards and heritage implications notwithstanding, in principle this is something we would welcome and support. The theatre's public accessibility would also be maintained. We make no comment on the wider development proposals.

The plans show little change to the internal layout of the theatre. At the upper level the drama work room and office will become a furniture and general store respectively. The ground floor plan shows a lighting and audio booth which is not on the existing plan, and some reduction of foyer/reception serving the theatre due to some partitioning to create a pupil reception. We have no objection to this, as it appears that pre-show and interval refreshments could be served from the nearby dining hall if required.

The areas marked for demolition in this area appear to be windows and doors, with the visualisations showing replacement grey-framed heritage windows. On the assumption it is impractical to retain and refurbish existing windows due to condition, this approach can be supported. Improved efficiency constitutes a public benefit.

We can therefore, in relation to the theatre element of this application, support the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.



Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

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