

The Theatres Trust

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Our Ref: MP/123

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15 February 2010

For the attention of Ms Joscelyn Ratcliffe

Mr Mike Holmes
Head of Planning and Transport
Bournemouth Borough Council
Town Hall Annexe, St Stephen's Road
Bournemouth BH2 6EA

Dear Mr Holmes,

**Former Moderne Cinema, 713 Wimborne Road, Bournemouth
Application: 7-2010-4021-L**

Thank you for consulting The Theatres Trust on the above Planning Application for alterations to the front elevation of the church premises, formerly the *Moderne Cinema*. The Trust **supports** this application. Please see our detailed advice below.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres. The Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995, Article 10, Para (v) requires the Trust to be consulted on planning applications which include '*development involving any land on which there is a theatre.*' It was established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 '*to promote the better protection of theatres.*' This applies to all theatre buildings. Our main objective is to safeguard theatre use, or the potential for such use but we also provide expert advice on design, conservation, property and planning matters to theatre operators, local authorities and official bodies.

Advice/comment: The Trust supports the application for alterations to the front elevation of the church and shop premises because they will enhance the architectural and historic interest of the building as well as the surrounding streetscape.

The *Moderne* was built in 1935 by the architect Edward de Wilde Holding as a modern picture house. Predominantly a cinema, it was also used for variety and was built with full stage facilities. It has a simple rendered façade in three bays, the large centre bay forming the entrance. The *Moderne* became a bingo hall in 1963 and was converted to a church in 2008.

The existing modern angled bay windows, central yellow overpanelling blue painted render and external canopy cladding are all later additions and detract from the original 1930s architectural composition envisioned by the architect. The proposed alterations will reinstate a number of key original architectural features to the front façade including the off-white render, replacement curved vertical panels, metal bay windows and steel pole. In addition, we are happy to note that much needed repairs to the corroded metal structural beams and fastenings will be undertaken, further safeguarding the fabric of the building and returning it to a good state of repair.

Protecting theatres for everyone

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The proposed new alterations have also been sympathetically designed to replicate the form and style that would have been originally found on a building of this age and genre and will act to unify the appearance of the whole façade. Furthermore, the improvement of toilet facilities to Part M standards and new wheelchair accessible ramp and handrails will provide better comfort, safety and amenity to churchgoers and the general public.

The Theatres Trust therefore supports the application and would urge you to grant planning permission.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J Price', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark J Price MRTPI IHBC
Planning and Heritage Adviser

cc Eva Branscome, Cinema Theatre Association.