

Our Ref.: MP/65

25 August 2010

For the attention of: Jo Riley

Ms Debbie Redding
Development Management Service Manager
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
Council Offices, North Quay
Weymouth
Dorset DT4 8TA



Dear Ms Redding,

The Pavilion Theatre, The Pavilion Complex, The Esplanade, Weymouth
Application number: 10/00548/FUL3

Thank you for consulting The Theatres Trust on the above planning application for a replacement canopy to the west elevation and new doors, ramp and steps to the café (part Retrospective) for the *Pavilion Theatre* in Weymouth. The Trust **supports** the application. Please see our detailed advice and **suggested conditions** 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 in principle because it will provide better safety and amenity to theatregoers and the general public. The works adhere to CABE's '*Principles of inclusive design*' and will provide much needed and improved facilities including disabled access which are essential to upgrading the building to Part M standards. The removal of the existing incongruous entrance canopy will be of benefit to the appearance of the building. And certainly from our interpretation of the plans, the proposed works including the new railings, steps and doors to the café and new canopy, ramp and refurbishment of the doors to the front entrance appear to be sympathetically designed within the context of the existing building. The works therefore will enhance the significance of theatre as a landmark building within the streetscape. We would, however, suggest that you request further details of the canopy and the railings as a **condition** of the permission as these were not clear from the plans.

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Protecting theatres for everyone

Director Mhora Samuel **Chairman** Rob Dickins CBE
Trustees Jason Barnes, Phil Clark, Marilyn Cutts, Venu Dhupa, Tim Foster, Penelope Keith CBE DL,
Dr Pauleen Lane CBE, Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall, Anne McReynolds, Matthew Rooke,
Chris Shepley CBE, Sam Shrouder, Ben Twist

Theatres need substantial development if they are to keep pace with the public's expectations and the needs of performers and producers and we are keen to help theatre owners do more to improve, adapt and sustain their building stock to attract new audiences.

We would therefore **urge you to grant Planning Permission and attach any appropriate conditions.**

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Mark James Price, MRTPI, IHBC
Planning and Heritage Adviser