

Our Ref.: AL/121

20 January 2012

Mr Matthew Griffiths
Planning Officer
Regeneration and Development
Powys County Council
The Gwalia
Ithon Road
Llandrindod Wells LD1 6AA



Dear Mr Griffiths,

Wyeside Arts Centre, Castle Street, Builth Wells LD2 3BN
Application Ref.: P2011/1355

Thank you for consulting The Theatres Trust on the above planning application for the replacement of windows at the Wyeside Arts Centre. The Trust **supports** the application. Please see our detailed advice below.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres. The Theatres Trust Act 1976 states that 'The Theatres Trust exists to promote the better protection of theatres' and defines a theatre as 'any building or part of a building constructed wholly or mainly for the public performance of plays'. It delivers statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in Wales through The Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995, Article 10, Para (v) that requires the Trust to be consulted on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre.' This applies to all theatre buildings, old and new, in current use, in other uses, or disused. 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 the proposal forms part of a much needed restoration project for the Wyeside Arts Centre. The building requires a serious overhaul and the Trust is pleased that a thorough and considered restoration scheme is to be undertaken. We are also pleased to support the decision to appoint a specialist conservation architect to undertake the necessary works. The new replacement timber framed windows to the building's west facade have been carefully designed and detailed, in-keeping with the building's striking 19th Century exterior. The new windows also consider the future internal use of the building, providing improved ventilation to the foyer area and supporting the Arts Centre's sustainability agenda through the use of double glazing.

The Trust is also happy to support the restoration of decorative tympanum mouldings in order to retain the distinctive character of the building and define the form of the Neo-Gothic windows when the building is approached from The Strand. The Trust recognises that in order to restore such distinctive historic buildings to their full potential, it is important that all elements of the building fabric are given the same level of attention to detail in order to produce a successful and authentic restoration.

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Protecting theatres for everyone

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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



The Trust welcomes such considered and well conceived conservation of important listed arts and theatre buildings, particularly in the context of small provincial towns where they help to define the town's built heritage. The Arts Centre is both an important cultural and historical building situated at a prominent point in the centre of Builth Wells. It is therefore important that the building is restored to its full potential, following its recent internal redecoration, providing the town with a striking and distinctive beacon for the performing arts.

We would urge you to **grant** Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission, attaching any appropriate conditions accordingly.

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', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Mark James Price, MRTPI, IHBC
Planning and Heritage Adviser