

Our Ref.: MP/130

31 January 2012

For the attention of Mrs K. Williams

Mr G. Bell
Acting Head of Planning Services
Environment and Planning
Harrogate Borough Council
Knapping Mount, West Grove Road
Harrogate HG1 2AE



Dear Mr Bell,

Royal Hall, Ripon Road, Harrogate HG1 2BS
Application Ref.:11/04328/SOSLB

Thank you for consulting The Theatres Trust on the above application for Listed Building Consent to form a kitchenette, two bathrooms and replacement windows for the Harrogate Royal Hall. 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 through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 (DMPO), Articles 16&17, Schedule 5, Para (w), that requires the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre. 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 to form a kitchenette, two bathrooms and replacement windows for the Harrogate Royal Hall because the proposed works will not only provide enhanced facilities within the backstage area, but will not detract from or adversely harm the Royal Hall's special architectural significance or historic value. The works are minor in nature and involve the removal of a modern partition wall as well as redecoration and therefore should be considered to preserve the intrinsic character of the building. The replacement of the temporary windows with stained glass windows will enhance the visual appearance of the listed building. The Theatres Trust considers that the proposed works will improve the daily functioning and appearance of the Royal Hall and therefore we would urge the Local Authority to **grant Listed Building Consent**.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mark James Price, MRTPI, IHBC
Planning and Heritage Adviser

Protecting theatres for everyone

Director Mhora Samuel **Chairman** Rob Dickins CBE
Trustees Nick Allott, Phil Clark, Ruth Eastwood, Tim Foster, Oliver Goodwin, Jerry Katzman,
Penelope Keith CBE DL, Dr Pauleen Lane CBE, Graham McPherson, Anne McReynolds,
Judith Mellor, Matthew Rooke, Chris Shepley CBE, Ben Twist

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

