

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

15 December 2021

Lyndsay Shinner
Development Management
Planning Service
Cheshire West & Chester Council
4 Civic Way
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BE

By e-mail: planning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Application: 21/04371/S73

Site: Whitby Hall Stanney Lane Ellesmere Port CH65 9AE

Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of 19/04540/FUL (discharge of pre-commencement conditions 3, 7 and 8)

Remit:

The 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 regarding this application to vary the approved plans of permission reference 19/04540/FUL. We have been notified because this development includes demolition of the existing studio theatre for Action Transport Theatre and provision of a replacement.

These variations are mainly external, although some are internal. They are relatively minor, such as loss of a WC to the ground floor of the theatre but the addition of one on the first floor above. We would encourage the theatre to make sure the presence of the upper WCs is appropriately signposted to help manage and reduce queues and congestion for the main lower block.

Within the auditorium there will now be a set of double doors rather than single into the café and foyer which again will reduce congestion particularly for the start of intervals which will enhance audience experience and maximise time available for purchases. The control room has been reduced in size which facilitates the additional WC, this is likely a better outcome. For best

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL
T 020 7836 8591 E info@theatrestrust.org.uk W theatrestrust.org.uk

Interim Chair Paddy Dillon Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, Paul Cartwright, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

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

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practice the control room should be accessible, from plans it appears there may be an opportunity to provide lift access from adjacent to the ground floor accessible WC although we acknowledge this hasn't been provided within the consented original plans and that overall there is much greater accessibility than is the case with existing facilities.

Other changes relate to external treatment and materials, including a raising of the height of the auditorium block with addition of PV panels and changes to windows and doors. We have no objections to these plans.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission for the revised plans.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T Clarke".

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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