

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2064

23 December 2021

Sam Pilbeam
Housing & Regeneration
Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham ME4 4TR

By e-mail: planning.representations@medway.gov.uk

Application: MC/21/3524

Site: Central Theatre Chatham Medway ME4 4AS

Proposal: Application for a lawful development certificate (proposed) for the installation of solar panels to roof

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:

This application has come to the attention of the Trust because it is seeking development at the Central Theatre. It seeks a Certificate of Lawful Development for the installation of solar panels to the theatre's roof under Part 14, Class J of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.

The panels will help reduce the theatre's energy consumption and in turn reduce its costs. Efforts to improve sustainability and enhance the viability of the theatre to support its ongoing operation is to be welcomed. The plans do not appear to contravene any of the conditions prohibiting development from proceeding under this part of the GPDO. The NPPF (2021) is also supportive of improving sustainability and low-carbon energy and heat.

Therefore we are supportive of a Certificate of Lawful Development being issued for these works.

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

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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for **everyone**



Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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