

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/1136

15 February 2022

Hayley Starkey
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Mount Pleasant Road
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1RS

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

Application: 22/00004/LBC & 22/00015/NMAMD

Site: Trinity Theatre And Arts Centre, Church Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1JP

Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Variation to approved plans 20/00753/LBC. Proposed roof canopy to change from a moveable roof to a fixed roof.; and

Non Material Amendment in Relation to reference 20/00752/FULL in order to change roof canopy from a moveable roof to a fixed 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 for variation of approved plans at the Grade II* listed Trinity Theatre has come to the attention of the Trust. It seeks to change the permitted roof canopy details for the access hatch to lower levels on the new viewing platform from a moveable roof to a fixed roof with the structure clad in pre-weathered zinc.

The structure is at high level and therefore the visual impact of the structure is minimised; we would note the existing permission demonstrates it is acceptable in principle and neither do we have any objection in principle to the use of weathered zinc as a material on that basis. As set out in our comments for the original application we are supportive of what the applicant is seeking to achieve from this project and the opening up of further parts of the building. However there is limited explanation or justification of the proposed design approach in terms of harm other than to say the change will reduce construction and maintenance costs for the arts centre.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL
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Interim Chair Katie Town **Director** Jon Morgan

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

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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Therefore in conclusion we have no objection to the granting of planning permission and listed building consent for this variation but suggest submission of some further detail and analysis of the change might be appropriate.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss these comments in greater detail.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tom Clarke
National Planning Adviser

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