

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

21 February 2022

Jayne Pallas
County Hall
Durham
County Durham
DH1 5UL

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

Application: DM/22/00233/FPA & DM/22/00032/LB

Site: The Everyman Theatre Ohanlan Street Spennymoor DL16 6RY

Proposal: Installation of 5 No. CCTV cameras; &

Listed Building Consent for the installation of 5 No. CCTV cameras

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:

These applications for planning permission and listed building consent have come to the attention of the Trust. They are seeking installation of CCTV cameras at the Grade II listed Spennymoor Settlement's Everyman Theatre.

The Spennymoor Settlement building opened in 1939. The Settlement was established in 1930 at a time of great challenge for Spennymoor with high unemployment and impoverishment. Its objectives were to give local people an opportunity to develop new skills and interests and to provide advice and guidance. The theatre followed nine years later built by unemployed miners. It produced and performed plays rooted in socialism and these were supported by the skills of the Settlement's various groups, such as woodwork, painting and sewing, to provide sets, props and costumes. The Settlement has seen great social success and positive outcomes for the community. The building was granted statutory listing in 2004 and is a relatively rare example of such a building in County Durham which also has great social history and significance. It continues to host shows including an annual pantomime by local community and amateur groups with occasional outside performers, live music and cinema screenings. It also runs coffee

Theatres Trust

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

Chair Dave Moutrey **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Paul Cartwright, James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Lucy Osborne, 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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mornings and fitness classes. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for community, cultural and social facilities such as this.

The theatre is in a location peripheral to the town centre in a more residential area. As such it has limited natural surveillance. It appears to be the case the theatre has encountered trespassing and loss which will be an unnecessary cost. They are therefore seeking to alleviate this and minimise the risk of more substantial damage through the installation of CCTV.

Although this will create some limited harm to the building as a heritage asset and whilst regretful it is deemed necessary, we consider harm to be less than substantial and mitigated by the public benefits of helping to secure the asset and the operations of an important community and cultural facility. Therefore we would support the granting of listed building consent.

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

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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