

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/1299

27 March 2023

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LD3 7HP

By e-mail: planning.enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Application: 23/21716/FUL

Site: Theatr Brycheiniog Canal Road Brecon LD3 7EW

Proposal: Replacement of existing windows with new system and installation of HVAC equipment to existing fenced compound.

Remit:

Theatres Trust is the National Advisory Body for Theatres and was established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres'. The Trust is a statutory consultee in the planning system and local planning authorities in Wales are required to consult the Trust on planning applications for '*development involving any land on which there is a theatre*', '*residential development within 50 metres of a theatre*' as well as for proposed theatres. The definition of theatres within the Act defines a theatre as 'any building or part of a building constructed wholly or mainly for the public performance of plays', and therefore applies to theatres, playhouses, arts centres, ciné-varieties or buildings converted for theatre use, old and new, in other uses or disused.

Comment:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for planning permission at Theatr Brycheiniog. It seeks alterations to the building to improve insulation and energy efficiency through replacing windows along with replacement of an existing external bin store to its south-east corner with condenser units to serve a new heating and ventilation system.

Theatr Brycheiniog was developed with funding from the European Regional Development Fund and the Arts Council of Wales's lottery scheme, constructed in red brick with Welsh slate roof and timber projections in the style of a canal warehouse to sensitively reflect its setting and the traditional Brecon building style. It became the first partially solar-powered theatre in Wales in 2007 when PV panels were installed to its roof. It is a well-equipped theatre technically and has a flat-floored square auditorium with seating on three levels offering flexible capacities, formats and configurations. It is a multi-purpose facility with rehearsal studio which can operate as conference

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
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or function space. The theatre is an important arts and cultural facility for Brecon and its surrounding communities.

The replacement windows appear to be on a like-for-like basis in terms of design and appearance, and therefore there would be no change to the building's character and wider setting. We are supportive of efforts to improve environmental sustainability, which also positively impacts operational costs.

With regard to the installation of new condenser units we note the conclusions of the applicant's acoustic report. This states that the operating volume exceeds background sound levels so enclosure is recommended to protect nearby amenity. This appears to be achieved through utilising the existing fenced area, and the Council's Environmental Health Officer has raised no objections in this respect.

We also note that the re-located bins appear to be housed within new storage units which will ensure these will be kept secure and tidy and will not be visually intrusive.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss these comments further.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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