

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/9006194

31 March 2023

Jodie Harris
Planning, Policy & Development Control Team
Staffordshire County Council
2 Staffordshire Place
Stafford
ST16 2DH

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

Application: 23/37106/FUL

Site: Crown Wharf Theatre Crown Street Stone Staffordshire ST15 8QN

Proposal: Installation of Heating and Ventilation System including external ducting and verification of internal seating arrangement.

Remit:

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 installation of heating and ventilation at the Crown Wharf Theatre.

Crown Wharf Theatre is a new venue which is nearing completion alongside a pub, built next to the canal. It will be run by a local charitable organisation with the aim of hosting professional touring acts alongside performances and activities by local community and amateur groups. We provided comments on the primary planning application for this development, and look forward to seeing this theatre become operational.

For the comfort and safety of audiences, performers, staff and other users it is important that the theatre has sufficient heating, cooling and ventilation; regulations in this regard have recently been strengthened although there is no statutory duty for this development to comply as building works have already commenced.

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

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We do not consider that additional external installations will undermine the overall character and design of the theatre or undermine the setting of the surrounding conservation area. We support the applicant's design approach to contain and mitigate the impacts of pipes, ducts and other equipment including placing units within timber compounds which should help also reduce noise impacts. If deemed necessary the hours of operation might be managed through condition. Nonetheless there is a necessity for this system to enable the theatre to function, a use which will provide social and cultural benefits for the town. This constitutes a public benefit.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us if you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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