

Ref.: TC/3746

26 November 2024

Somerset Council  
Brympton Way  
Yeovil  
BA20 2HT

By e-mail: [planningsouth@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:planningsouth@somerset.gov.uk)

**Application:** 24/02624/FUL

**Site:** Swan Theatre 138 Park Street Yeovil Somerset BA20 1QT

**Proposal:** Alterations and the provision of an external fire exit stair to North East side elevation.

**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. This requires Theatres 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 Theatres Trust because it is seeking to undertake alteration at the Swan Theatre. We have not been directly notified.

The Swan is a small community theatre which is owned and operated by its members and volunteers. Venues such as this are particularly important for the social and cultural well-being of local people, providing opportunities for participation

**Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**Telephone** 020 7836 8591 **Email** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk) **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

**Facebook** @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

**Chair** Dave Moutrey OBE

**Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Vicky Browning OBE, Anna Collins, James Dacre, Suba Das, Liam Evans-Ford, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Tracy Ann Oberman, Lucy Osborne, Saratha Rajeswaran, Truda Spruyt, Michèle Taylor MBE, Katie Town

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund supports the work of The Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

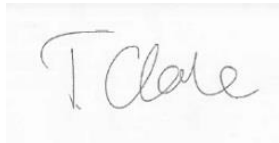
and development of skills in theatre and the arts. Paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2023) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this type.

The theatre is seeking to undertake internal alterations within their front of house areas located on the north/north-east side of the building. This will optimise use of the space they have available for a much-needed increase in WC provision. This is welcomed and supported as it will enhance the experience of audiences. The bar area and servery will be relocated with the front desk/box office removed.

To facilitate this internal stairs from the upper level will be removed and relocated to the side of the building to maintain emergency egress with a new external opening. It is this element for which planning permission is required.

This constitutes a minor alteration which will have little impact on character or setting. It will enable significant improvements within the theatre. We therefore support the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

## Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**Telephone** 020 7836 8591 **Email** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk) **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

**Facebook** @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

**Chair** Dave Moutrey OBE

**Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Vicky Browning OBE, Anna Collins, James Dacre, Suba Das, Liam Evans-Ford, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Tracy Ann Oberman, Lucy Osborne, Saratha Rajeswaran, Truda Spruyt, Michèle Taylor MBE, Katie Town

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund supports the work of The Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697