

Ref.: TC/3078

21 January 2025

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

Application: A240914

Site: Aberystwyth Arts Centre Aberystwyth University Campus, Penglais,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3DE

Proposal: Re-roofing and minor internal alterations

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.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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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

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Comment:

This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to undertake works at Aberystwyth Arts Centre, specifically the refurbishment and replacement of parts of its roof. These focus on the Great Hall and Theatr Y Werin

Aberystwyth Arts Centre is an important arts and cultural venue for the town, which alongside provision directly for its local community and students at Aberystwyth University also has regional and national significance within Wales for its performing arts programme. It consists of different elements; the Great Hall was completed in 1970 followed by Theatr Y Werin in 1972. The former is a significant venue built as a concert hall with 1,250 seats and hosts some larger-scale theatre, comedians, music concerts, conferences and some university events such as its graduation ceremonies. The latter is a formal theatre space with fly tower and 312 seats, hosting both professional touring and local productions. There is additionally a flexible studio theatre with maximum capacity of 80, a cinema, art galleries, workshops and a cafe/bar. The Arts Centre is also of great interest and significance in terms of design and architecture, reflected by its partial listing including the Great Hall which is designated at Grade II*.

Nonetheless, parts of the venue including the Great Hall and the theatre require attention. Deterioration of the metal sheeting overlay to the roof has resulted in water ingress which has affected internal fabric within the Great Hall and back of house areas within the theatre as well as other parts of the building. The roof also has poor thermal performance which makes the venue inefficient.

Whilst the Heritage Statement indicates there will be a wider refurbishment programme, this application focuses on the Great Hall and theatre as a 'Phase 1'. The existing profiled metal overlay to the Great Hall and the auditorium and fly tower at Theatr Y Werin will be removed and replaced with a new flat roof with insulated overlay. Alongside this will be refurbished and replacement roof access and equipment to provide for better and safer ongoing maintenance, and repaired or replaced water and drainage goods.

We welcome investment into the maintenance and upkeep of this important venue, which ultimately will keep it operational and conserve it into the future. We also support improvement in the venue's thermal performance, which should improve its environmental sustainability and reduce operating costs. From a heritage perspective

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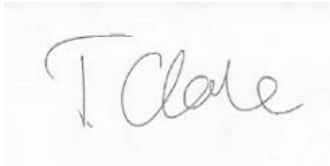
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these works are demonstrably necessary and will have limited impact on historic significance and setting.

We therefore support the granting of listed building consent.

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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