

Ref.: TC/224

4 March 2025

Eleanor Hardie
Planning Services (Scarborough Area)
North Yorkshire Council
Town Hall
St Nicholas Street
Scarborough
North Yorkshire
YO11 2HG

By e-mail: planning.rye@northyorks.gov.uk

Application: ZE25/00147/FUL

Site: Helmsley Arts Centre Bridge Street Helmsley North Yorkshire YO62 5DW

Proposal: Erection of external storage building (retrospective) and provision of solar PV panels to south elevation roof.

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'.

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 Joshua McTaggart

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

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Comment:

This application for planning permission has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it covers development at Helmsley Arts Centre, specifically the addition of an external storage building and the installation of PV panels.

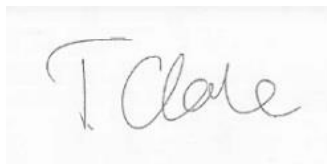
Helmsley Arts Centre is a valued cultural and community venue providing the town and its surrounding communities with access to the arts and opportunities to volunteer and participate. It has a varied programme including theatre, cinema, live music and other events along with provision for classes, rehearsals and meetings. As such it helps contribute to the social and cultural well-being of local people. Paragraph 98 of the NPPF (2024) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

The arts centre is quite small in scale; having sufficient space for storage is often a challenge at venues of this nature and applications for additional installations is something we frequently comment on. The rationale for installing an additional space is understood. It is a simple timber structure located to the south of the building. We do not consider this will cause harm to the character and setting of the conservation area.

We also support the installation of PV panels to the roof. Paragraph 167 of the NPPF gives significant weight to supporting energy efficiency and low-carbon improvements including through installation of panels. This will help enhance the venue's environmental sustainability and reduce its operating costs.

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

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