

Ref.: TC/3852

5 March 2025

Tabitha Kaye
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
King's Court
Chapel Street
King's Lynn
PE30 1EX

By e-mail: borough.planning@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Application: 25/00188/F

Site: Westacre Theatre River Road West Acre King's Lynn Norfolk PE32 1UA

Proposal: Wooden outbuilding as a replacement costume storage unit, sited adjacent to existing storage of similar size on theatre land

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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for planning permission at Westacre Theatre, which seeks the addition of a wooden outbuilding for storage.

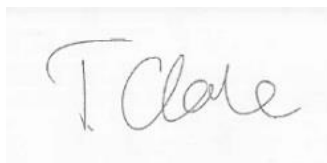
Westacre Theatre is an important rural community theatre which hosts local amateur productions as well as some touring productions, cinema, classes and other events. It is an important facility for local people providing opportunities for participation in the arts. Paragraph 98 of the NPPF (2024) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

We commented on a previous application in 2019, which sought installation of storage sheds due to the theatre having lost off-site provision. Having adequate storage is commonly a challenge amongst small theatres so the desire to increase provision is understood.

The proposed shed will be a simple timber structure located within the theatre's car park on an area of hardstanding. The visual impact of this installation is limited, with vegetation along the site boundary also shielding it from view. It will provide the theatre with the storage space it needs.

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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