

Ref.: TC/2553

25 March 2025

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By e-mail: [planning@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:planning@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

**Application:** DC/25/00450

**Site:** The Quay Theatre Quay Lane Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2AN

**Proposal:** Planning application - Replacement of public entrance screen

## **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:**

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for planning permission at the Quay Theatre. It seeks to replace the timber and glass entry screen set behind wooden shutters which forms the main entrance to the theatre.

The Quay is a valued community theatre and arts centre, operating within a former granary which is a Grade II listed heritage asset. It is a charitable organisation run by its members and staffed by volunteers. It provides access to theatre and the

## **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

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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

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

performing arts for local people within the town and its surrounding catchment around south Suffolk and north Essex. Paragraph 98 of the NPPF (2024) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

The entry screen is believed to have been installed over forty years ago and is in a deteriorating condition. Furthermore, structural works are required to support the lintel above. Therefore to rectify this the lintel will be replaced and altered with a new glazed screen with sliding doors (in place of double doors) will be installed with new signage above.

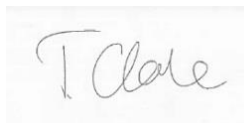
The wooden shutter doors will also be removed and restored, or if this is not possible they will be replaced on a like-for-like basis. We support this approach.

Further to this, there will be a revision to the theatre's signage strategy. The high-level theatre sign will be removed, and at lower level adjacent to the entrance will be a new banner sign to help promote shows. The theatre's logo will be applied to the shutter doors when closed.

We support the approach taken by the theatre. It is important for the ongoing operation of the theatre and conservation of the building as a heritage asset that it is kept in a good state of repair and that structural defects are rectified before causing wider issues. The existing entry screen is a later addition, and we consider the overall design approach for the replacement to be acceptable and to provide enhanced accessibility. Similarly a refresh of the theatre's branding and signage will help enhance visibility and prominence.

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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