

Ref.: TC/2

5 June 2025

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**Application:** A250216

**Site:** Ceredigion Museum, Colliseum, 57 Terrace Road, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2AQ

**Proposal:** External and internal repairs, rehabilitation and refurbishment of external walls, replacement roofworks, rooflights and associated works.

## **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](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk)

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**Chair** Dave Moutrey OBE

**CEO** Joshua McTaggart

**Trustees** Vicky Browning OBE, Anna Collins, James Dacre, 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

## **Comment:**

This application for listed building consent has been brought to the attention of Theatres Trust because it relates to works being undertaken at the former Coliseum Theatre. This will see building repairs undertaken including re-roofing.

The Coliseum is Grade II listed. It opened in 1905 as a theatre, originally hosting music hall acts, sketches and plays. It is significant for its well-preserved auditorium which has the appearance of a mid-nineteenth century music hall despite being built much later. There were two horseshoe balconies with three rows of seats extending all the way to the proscenium supported by iron columns. The balconies have elaborately fretted cast-iron balustrades with Art Nouveau-inspired decoration. The auditorium is at first floor level with shops below. The Coliseum has retained its character despite later conversion to dedicated cinema use and then to a museum. We understand the building to retain scope for future reversibility back to performance use if required.

The building and its fabric has suffered from deterioration particularly as a result of water ingress and previous ineffective repairs. We therefore welcome efforts to invest in the building to find a sensitive and long-term solution, and to ensure the ongoing conservation and operation of this important asset. A condition survey and photographic information illustrating deficiencies has been provided.

There are a number of works being undertaken. The roof slates will be replaced in their entirety on a like-for-like basis. Later unsympathetic and redundant installations will be removed. There will be removal of vegetation, repointing and repairs/redecoration to masonry, windows and leadwork. Velux rooflights will be replaced by more sympathetic examples. There will also be repair to internal fabric which has been harmed by water ingress, including reinforcement of structural steel and timber.

We agree with and support the methodology for these works. Alongside ensuring the building's ongoing conservation, they will also help improve the character and setting of the former Coliseum. Largely repairs and replacements will be on a like-for-like basis and utilising sensitive materials but in some cases there will be alternatives where necessary and justifiable. Generally these generate some degree of heritage benefit and/or are of enhanced sensitivity, for example the replacement of UPVC rainwater goods with aluminium replacements. For longevity and cost effectiveness we urge utilisation of marine-cast aluminium due to the town's marine environment. We support replacement of PV panels to help enhance environmental sustainability

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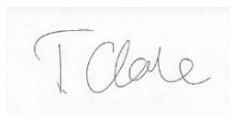
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and energy efficiency, which constitute public benefits which mitigates harm in heritage terms. Replacement is justified because, aside from the condition of the existing panels, modern examples are likely significantly more effective than those being replaced, and this remains a reversible intervention.

We are therefore supportive of the granting of listed building consent.

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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