

Ref.: TC/18

15 October 2025

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Barry
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By e-mail: planning@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Application: 2025/00952/FUL

Site: Memorial Hall Theatre, Gladstone Road, Barry

Proposal: External material alterations to the north and east entrance doors, including associated canopy. Window replacements as identified. Advertisement board to north facing elevation over entrance.

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'. Theatres Trust is a statutory consultee in the planning system and local planning authorities in Wales are required to consult Theatres 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

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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

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Comment:

This application was brought to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to undertake alterations to the Memo Arts Centre. We are listed as having been formally notified on the council's planning portal, although nothing appears to have been received.

Memo Arts Centre opened as The Memorial Hall in 1932, intended for use as a theatre and community hall. Since that time the building has been refurbished (the building was damaged by fire in 1943) and undergone changes of name, at one point being the Memorial Hall Theatre. It has a large capacity of up to 1,300 in standing format or close to 900 seated. It is a significant venue for Barry and its wider catchment, with a mixed programme of events.

There are various external alterations proposed. To the main entrance on the north elevation there will be replacement of the existing three sets of entry doors as well as the glazing above and timber surrounds. The new scheme will see a central sliding double-door with glazing either side. From the proposed internal plan it appears there will be installation of an internal glazed lobby. Whilst there is no specific statement setting out the rationale for this, it will likely improve access and accessibility into the building and the internal lobby should reduce heat loss and drafts into the foyer. We can support this design. We would also support the advertisement board above the doorway, which we assume would be utilised either to improve prominence or to promote shows and events.

To the southern elevation there will be installation of a new steel-frame canopy with 'Box Office' fascia signage. The existing doorway at this location will be replaced with automatic doors. As with the main entrance, this will improve accessibility but also the venue's prominence. There will be a green living wall alongside this to enhance biodiversity.

Along the ground floor of the eastern elevation the windows and frames will be replaced. Whilst we have no objection to this in principle, we would encourage retention and repair as a first priority to minimise carbon impact and only fully replace if necessary.

We welcome that Memo Arts Centre is making investment into the maintenance and upkeep of its building

We can support the granting of planning permission.

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Theatres fit for the **future**



Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss this further.

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Manager

Theatres Trust

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