

Ref.: TC/686

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Andrew Gregory
Development Management
Civic Centre
Southampton
SO14 7LY

By e-mail: planning@southampton.gov.uk

Application: 25/01370/LBC

Site: Mayflower Theatre Commercial Road Southampton SO15 1AP

Proposal: Listed Building Consent sought for erection of an infill extension to provide ancillary facilities and associated internal alterations

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 Mayflower Theatre. It seeks to construct an infill extension between the original theatre and the more modern administration block. This will provide further new facilities in addition to those already being created by the studio and back of house extension currently under construction and the internal WC refurbishments and alterations which were recently permitted.

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

We welcome this further investment into the theatre and expansion of facilities, which in this block will include a further accessible WC, office space, staff facilities and an internal link enabling creation of hospitality space. The new accessible WC will provide significant accessibility and inclusivity benefits because audience members in the stalls will no longer need to exit the building.

The location of this block sits within the site and is therefore largely obscured from view. This minimises impact, although in any case we consider the design, massing and materiality of this block to be of suitable quality which corresponds with the existing theatre and administration block as well as the further studio/back of house extension.

Paragraph 98 of the NPPF (2024) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature. The further improvement of the theatre and its facilities is to be welcomed.

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