

Ref.: TC

5 April 2024

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

**Application:** FUL/352513/24

**Site:** Oldham Civic Centre Car Park West Street Oldham

**Proposal:** Temporary theatre structure to be erected on the hardstanding area of the Oldham Civic Centre car park for a period of up to 3 months.

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

**Facebook** @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

**Chair** Dave Moutrey OBE

**Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Lucy Osborne, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

**Comment:**

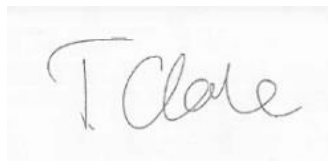
This application for temporary planning permission has come to the attention of Theatres Trust. It is seeking to locate a theatre structure within the car park of Oldham's Civic Centre for a three-month period during summer 2024.

The original Coliseum Theatre closed just over one year ago. Plans are being progressed for a replacement theatre but this is not currently expected to be available until 2026. In the meantime there is a commitment and funding to provide cultural activity around Oldham.

We therefore welcome and support this proposal, which will provide a 'pop-up' 167 seat theatre within a movable dome structure. It is scheduled to be open for performances between late April and mid-July 2024, with construction and dismantling on the days around those dates. This will provide at least some degree of replacement theatre provision. The nature of the structure means that the land on which it is placed can be easily restored to its original state.

As such, we support the granting of planning permission. We would encourage consideration of other opportunities to deliver theatre to meet the needs of local audiences until a long-term permanent solution is secured.

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



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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