

Ref.: TC

10 April 2024

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By e-mail: development.management@croydon.gov.uk

Application: 24/00844/FUL

Site: The Shoestring Theatre Oakley Road South Norwood London SE25 4XG

Proposal: Installation of replacement entrance doors and scene dock doors, change of colour to side elevation and all other associated 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:

This application has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to undertake various external alterations at the Shoestring Theatre.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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Chair Dave Moutrey OBE

Director Jon Morgan

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

The Shoestring Theatre is run by the Croydon Youth Theatre Organisation. This is a long-established theatre company which specialises in provision for children and young people, including developing skills and experience in performing and production. Their facilities include the theatre which is equipped with raked seating for 72 people and a dance studio along with supporting spaces. Facilities such as this are important for the social and cultural well-being of local people; paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2023) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for them.

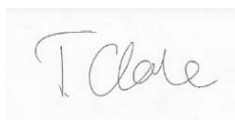
We are aware that the applicant has a wider programme of refurbishment and upgrade planning for which they are fundraising. This is an initial phase which contains a number of elements.

The main entrance to the building will see the installation of new signage with a fascia and projecting sign, show signage and 'CYTO' lettering placed above the entry foyer doors. The doors themselves will be replaced for an automated door. We welcome and support these interventions, as the doorway works will improve accessibility and the new signage will help improve prominence and visibility of the venue whilst avoiding unacceptable impact on the amenity of nearby properties. Currently we consider it to be understated, exacerbated by the out-of-centre location in a residential area likely to have limited passing footfall.

The scene dock door will also be replaced with the stated purpose of improving security. We have no objection to this.

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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