

Ref.: TC

21 May 2024

Allan Fenwick  
County Hall  
Durham  
County Durham  
DH1 5UL

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

**Application:** DM/24/01083/FPA

**Site:** The Everyman Theatre Ohanlan Street Spennymoor DL16 6RY

**Proposal:** Erection of replacement wall and palisade fencing

**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 for planning permission has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to undertake works at the Spennymoor Settlement Everyman Theatre, specifically to replace the theatre's wall and fencing to its south-east boundary.

The reason for these works is because the existing wall has collapsed; images online

**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

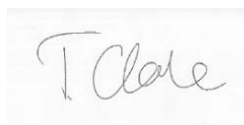
**Trustees** James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Lucy Osborne, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

from Google Streetview show this to have occurred in 2023 or earlier. There is a need to replace the wall both for public safety and security purposes. The remaining wall will be demolished and existing debris removed with reinforced concrete inserted to retain the theatre's garden. A replacement brick wall would sit in front with palisade security fencing above, reflecting the previous appearance. If it is possible for existing bricks and materials to be salvaged and re-used this would be encouraged.

It is stated the existing wall is not original, nonetheless there is demonstrably a necessity for replacement. With reference to paragraph 208 of the NPPF securing the site and maintaining public safety clearly constitutes a public benefit.

We are therefore supportive of 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

**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