

Theatres fit for the **future**

Ref.: TC/1960

25 June 2024

Sarah Duckworth
Wrexham County Borough Council

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

Application: P/2024/1025

Site: THE STIWT THEATRE, BROAD STREET, RHOSLLANERCHRUGOG,
WREXHAM, LL14 1RB

Proposal: LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

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.

Comment:

This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to undertake alterations at Theatr Stiwt, specifically the replacement of its windows.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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

Facebook @theatres.trust Instagram @TheatresTrust

Chair Dave Moutrey OBE Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Vicky Browning OBE, Anna Collins, James Dacre, Suba Das, Liam Evans-Ford, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, 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

Theatres fit for the future

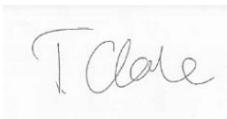
Theatr Stiwt is Grade II* listed. It opened in 1926 as the Miner's Institute, incorporating a main auditorium, reading room, games room, billiard room, assembly hall and a residential flat which was subsequently replaced by a library. It was funded by a grant from the Miners' Welfare Association with donations by local miners collected weekly. The main auditorium was adapted to become a cinema in the 1930s with fixed seating added. The Institute closed in 1977 after which the building was vacant for some time. After a prolonged local campaign and fundraising works started in 1996 to restore the building to use, reopening in 1999 as a theatre. The auditorium has seating for 490 people, and the building's other facilities are available for hires and events. The theatre is a registered charity and is run by the community. It is an important social and cultural facility for local people.

This proposal is part of a wider environmental strategy to reduce carbon emissions and improve the theatre's energy efficiency, which in turn will reduce operating costs. The principle of this is supported and welcomed. This element will see secondary glazing added to windows throughout the venue. This will entail aluminium frames sitting behind the existing painted timber frames. Existing details and materials will be retained.

This constitutes a reversible change. Whilst there would be some impact on original appearance, we contend that reducing heat loss and improving environmental sustainability constitutes a public benefit which mitigates the degree of harm.

We therefore support the granting of listed building consent.

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

Theatres Trust

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