

Ref.: TC

2 August 2024

Emily Rule
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury
CT1 1YW

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

Application: CA/24/01071

Site: 44 Buller's Avenue Herne Bay Kent CT6 8UH

Proposal: First floor rear extension.

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 been brought to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to construct an extension to Herne Bay Little Theatre.

The Little Theatre is an amateur venue owned and operated by its members, a local amateur theatre group. It runs an annual programme of its own productions, and the theatre is also used for related activities and events. Its auditorium has a capacity of

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 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

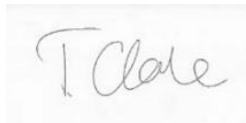
72 seats. Venues such as this are particularly important for the social and cultural well-being of local people, providing opportunities for participation and engagement in theatre and the arts. They help people to develop new skills, and allow people to come together and volunteer which reduces isolation. Paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2023) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

In common with other similar venues around the country, the Little Theatre operates within a small and constrained space working around their limitations. The proposed rear extension is small in scale but will have a significant positive impact on the theatre's operation. It will provide a costume store at first floor level enabling potential reconfiguration of its dressing rooms to provide two additional dressing rooms. This is important for reasons of safeguarding where the theatre is being used by youth groups.

We consider the design and scale of the extension to be appropriate.

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

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