

Ref.: TC/1041

7 August 2024

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**Application:** P/2024/0400

**Site:** Brixham Town Hall New Road Brixham TQ5 8TA

**Proposal:** Reordering works to include: Reinstatement of Scala Hall main entrance with level access. Alterations to internal shop area to accommodate new access corridor. Installation of raised terrace to Market Street. Installation of signage. Building fabric repairs.

**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 listed building consent has been brought to the attention of Theatres Trust because the Town Hall building includes the Brixham Theatre. It

**Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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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

seeks to undertake some alterations to the building, carry out external repairs and to replace current signage. We have commented on the corresponding application for planning permission under separate cover.

The Town Hall is a Grade II listed heritage asset constructed in 1886. It is a multi-function facility which includes a market, a charity shop and office, function rooms and the Brixham Theatre.

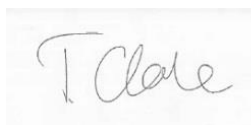
We welcome the carrying out of maintenance and repairs to the building, including repointing to brickwork and stonework, removal of vegetation and clearing of rainwater groups. This will ensure the building is kept in a good state of repair and conserved into the future, benefiting its occupants including Brixham Theatre.

As noted within our comments for the related planning permission, internal and external alterations enabling better movement through the building will have some benefit for the theatre, and in heritage terms this constitutes a public benefit.

However, we urge reconsideration of plans for revised signage which removes reference to Brixham Theatre. Whilst overall there is a neutral impact in heritage terms in terms of the replacement of signage, it will have a negative impact on the theatre and its ongoing viability. As a purpose-built facility within the Town Hall its undermining could be harmful to the building's function and significance.

We do not currently support the granting of listed building consent in the application's current form.

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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