Theatres fit for the **future**



Ref.: TC/2843

7 August 2024

Helen Newman South Cambridgeshire Hall Cambourne Business Park Cambourne Cambridge CB23 6EA

By e-mail: helen.newman@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Application: 24/02424/FUL

Site: Mumford Theatre Anglia Ruskin University East Road Cambridge

Cambridgeshire CB1 1PT

Proposal: Installation of door and ramp to improve accessibility to stage

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 came to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to carry out alterations at Mumford Theatre.

Mumford Theatre opened in 1970 and is located on the campus of Anglia Ruskin

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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

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University. It has a 270-seat auditorium and hosts university-related events, productions by the university's students alongside some external and touring theatre, live music and dance shows. It contributes to Cambridge's arts and cultural offer as well as helping people to develop their skills in theatre. Paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2024) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

This proposal seeks to improve the theatre's back of house accessibility, which is welcomed. It will replace an existing ramp with a replacement ramp and create a new external door giving direct access to the stage. We do not consider the design of this intervention would give rise to harm to the character and setting of the Mill Road Conservation Area.

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