

Ref.: TC/2291

7 August 2024

Alice Walker
North Norfolk District Council
Holt Road
Cromer
NR27 9EN

By e-mail: planning@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Application: PF/24/1407

Site: Pavilion Theatre Promenade Cromer Norfolk NR27 9HE

Proposal: Re-modelling of changing facilities, installation of accessible access, repositioning of external walls/new wall to increase floor area, replacement of windows, re-location of doors & re-rendering of walls

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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for planning permission at the Pier Pavilion, Cromer. It seeks to undertake a range of external alterations to

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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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

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facilitate a revised internal layout and better accessibility particularly within back of house areas, as well as to improve the building's thermal performance.

The Pavilion is a designated heritage asset as an integral part of the Grade II listed pier it sits on. It was built in 1901 initially as a bandstand with seating. In 1905 it was roofed over and in 1912 the bandstand was replaced with a stage and proscenium. Front of house provision was added in 1969 through screening at the rear of the auditorium and further alterations followed in 1978. In 2004 capacity was increased and a restaurant, shop and extended bar were added. Architecturally the Pavilion consists of iron framework in three bays with lower perimeter stanchions and four taller columns. The main roof is formed by flat lattice trusses between the main columns. It has a single-storey extension beyond the framework which enlarged the auditorium and provided ancillary facilities and foyer space. The auditorium is decorated in red terracotta, described as being "warm and intimate" within our database entry.

The Pavilion is one of the few remaining pier theatres which adds to its historic and cultural interest and significance. It maintains a programme of annual 'end-of-pier' summer variety and Christmas shows along with a year-round programme of theatrical productions, comedy and live music. It is an attractor of visitors into the area as well as catering for the social and cultural needs of local people. Paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2023) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

We have submitted comments under separate cover for the corresponding listed building consent. This includes our comments on internal alterations.

Externally, the wall to the north-east corner will be built out slightly with new door opening to serve a new specific scene dock. There does not previously appear to have been one, so we assume sets and equipment came in through the central fire exit to the back of house. A scene dock with its own entry will be of operational benefit, and the design of the new opening and rendering correspond with the rest of the surrounding elevation. This is similarly the design approach for the re-located and widened fire escape from the auditorium to the east elevation. We therefore support this element.

There will also be refurbishment of external wall fabric to provide greater insulation. This will replicate the existing finish. Windows to the dressing rooms will in some cases be re-positioned and all will be double glazed. This will improve the theatre's

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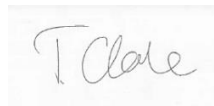
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energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, and reduce its operating costs which is welcomed. We consider there to be minimal impact on the theatre's overall character and appearance.

These alterations will ultimately help facilitate internal alterations which make the back of house more accessible. We consider them sensitive to the character and significance of the theatre and the pier.

We therefore support the granting of planning permission.

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

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