

Ref.: TC/2840

28 August 2024

Shannon Kimber
Surrey Heath House
Knoll Road
Camberley
GU15 3HD

By e-mail: development.control@surreyheath.gov.uk

Application: 24/0654/FFU

Site: The Camberley Theatre Knoll Road Camberley Surrey GU15 3SY

Proposal: Installation of a new Air Handling Unit to the rear of the theatre including a steel frame and timber clad enclosure.

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'. The Trust is a statutory consultee in the planning system and local planning authorities in Wales are required to consult the 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 planning permission has come to the attention of Theatres Trust

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

because it seeks to replace the theatre's air handling unit, installing a new unit to the rear of the theatre with a timber enclosure. We were not notified of this application despite it falling within our statutory remit outlined above.

Camberley Theatre opened as Civic Hall in 1966. It contains a main auditorium with 400 seats along with a rehearsal studio, function room and conference room. It is an important cultural and social asset for Camberley and its surrounding areas.

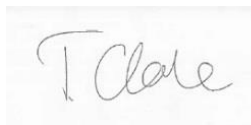
Paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2023) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

This project is being undertaken in conjunction with roof and structural works at the theatre due to its construction with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) panels. The existing air handling unit is located to the theatre's roof, and following these works its replacement will be sited at ground floor level behind the theatre. The roof works are clearly necessary to ensure the ongoing safe operation of the theatre, and removal of the air handling unit will reduce loading to the roof.

With the age of the air handling unit, there is also clear benefit in replacing the unit to provide a more efficient solution with enhanced performance capabilities. This will also enhance audience comfort. It will necessitate installation of a new external duct broadly matching the height of the theatre, but as the theatre and the rear elevation in particular is not of particular architectural significance we have no objection to this. Similarly the theatre does not appear to be in proximity to sensitive receptors.

We therefore support the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss these comments further.



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

Theatres Trust

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