

Ref.: TC

6 September 2024

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Carlisle City Council
Civic Centre
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA3 8QG

By e-mail: EDAdmin@carlisle.gov.uk

Applications: 24/0531

Site: Carlisle Green Room Ltd, West Walls, Carlisle, CA3 8UB

Proposal: Removal Of Existing Recessed Rear Door And Replacement With Metal Fire Door Onto Backhouses Walk; Installation Of 2no. Security Lights And 2no. CCTV Cameras To Rear Of Building (LBC)

Remit:

The 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'.

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

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Comment:

This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of the Trust because it is seeking to undertake alterations at the West Walls Theatre, specifically the replacement of a rear door and the installation of CCTV.

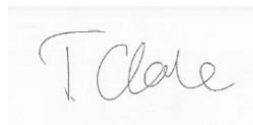
West Walls Theatre is Grade I listed due to the city's historic boundary wall being beneath the building. It is a valued community theatre operated by the Green Room Club and is run by its volunteers and members. Facilities such as this help improve the cultural and social wellbeing of local people, bringing people together and providing opportunities for participation and engagement in the arts. Paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2023) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for cultural facilities. Paragraph 4.42 of the Carlisle District Local Plan 2015-2030 promotes and supports the district's arts and cultural sectors.

The door subject to this application is to the theatre's rear elevation, within a recess. The door is of modern design and is not of historic importance or significance. Its replacement would therefore have a neutral impact in heritage terms.

Additionally there will be installation of CCTV and security lighting along this elevation. Backhouses Walk lacks natural surveillance and is therefore prone to antisocial behaviour. Whilst this generates a degree of less than substantial harm, it is a reversible change and is considered beneficial in helping to protect the building and its ongoing conservation. With reference to paragraph 208 of the NPPF we consider this provides sufficient public benefit to mitigate harm.

We therefore support the granting of listed building consent.

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



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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