

Ref.: TC/3097

9 September 2024

Connor Liken
Planning Services
Sand Martin House
Bittern Way
Fletton Quays
Peterborough
PE2 8TY

By e-mail: planningcontrol@peterborough.gov.uk

Application: 24/01095/R3FUL

Site: The Key Theatre Embankment Road Peterborough PE1 1EF

Proposal: Replacement of existing RAAC roof to main auditorium roof including the mono-pitched sections, replacement with metal deck insulation and build up high performance felt covering to the flat roof with artificial slates clad to the mono-pitched slopes of the roof including on the flat roof solar PV panels to be installed

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'.

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 planning permission has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to undertake works to the roof including the addition of lightweight metal profile deck and PV arrays at Key Theatre.

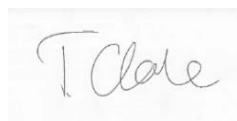
The Key Theatre is an important arts and cultural asset for Peterborough and its wider catchment. It opened in 1973 and has a varied programme including theatre, comedy, talks, film screenings and other events. It has two spaces, a main auditorium with 360 seats and a smaller 108-seat studio theatre. Paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2023) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

Due to the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) within the theatre's roof construction, the venue was closed in September 2023. Works were undertaken to provide a temporary solution enabling the theatre to reopen for its Christmas pantomime. It remains operational.

This project will provide a permanent solution; maintaining and securing the theatre's operation into the future must be prioritised and we welcome the efforts of the operator and the Council in expediting proposals to remedy the situation. These works will remove remaining RAAC and replace with a new build-up to include the addition of a lightweight metal profile deck and PV arrays. These will enhance the building's insulation, efficiency and sustainability which again is welcomed. There will be a modest increase of 500mm to the roof parapet but we consider the necessity of the works in allowing the venue to operate and improved efficiency and sustainability constitute substantial public benefits in mitigation.

We therefore support the granting of planning permission.

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



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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