

Ref.: TC/1839

27 September 2024

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By e-mail: [planning@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:planning@blackpool.gov.uk)

**Application:** 24/0452

**Site:** 33-45 CHURCH STREET, BLACKPOOL, FY1 1HT

**Proposal:** Alterations to shop front sign mounts on the north elevation consisting of the installation of painted heritage timber fielded panels, repainting of shopfronts to north elevation and the installation of illuminated LED lighting to the north and west elevation.

## **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](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk) **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

**Facebook** @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

**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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the Grand Theatre. It seeks to install new lighting around the windows to the theatre's north elevation and canted entry block to the edge of the western elevation, redecorate the shopfronts along the north elevation and replace the fielding panels above the shopfronts.

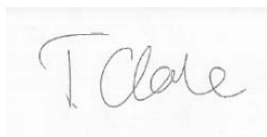
The Grand Theatre is a Grade II\* listed heritage asset within the Town Centre Conservation Area. It is considered one of the finest works of renowned theatre architect Frank Matcham. It is an important and valued cultural venue for Blackpool, hosting a busy programme which both meets the needs of local people as well as contributing to Blackpool's visitor offer. Paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2023) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

The shopfronts and panels are of modern insertion which detract from the character and significance of the theatre. The panels will be replaced with timber which is more sensitive and will therefore enhance the theatre's setting. This is similarly the case for the redecoration of the shopfronts.

With regards to the proposed lighting, this is also in a traditional style and will help further activate the theatre. It will complement the addition of the traditional 'Grand' signage which we supported through a recent application. Lighting and signage can be considered an integral part of the design and character of theatres; in that respect in recent years the Grand could be considered to have been understated. These plans will help add definition as an important place of culture and entertainment in Blackpool.

We therefore support the granting of listed building consent.

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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