

Ref.: TC

30 October 2024

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Planning Services  
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30 Trinity Road  
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L20 3NJ

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

**Application:** DC/2024/01774

**Site:** Formby Little Theatre Lonsdale Road Formby L37 3HF

**Proposal:** Erection of a detached single storey storage building, after demolition of existing storage cabinets and repositioning of gates

**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:**

This application for planning permission has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to construct a new storage building at Formby Little Theatre 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

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

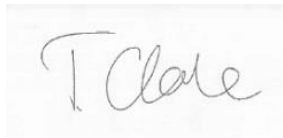
the front of the theatre, to replace two existing metal storage cabinets. Associated with this will be relocation of adjacent entry gates.

Formby Little Theatre is a small amateur theatre which is a valued community and cultural facility. It is owned and operated by its members. It was first initiated when the Fellowship Players formed in 1947 and performed in a local church hall. In 1984 the building through internal alteration was adapted into a more formal theatre which was refurbished and extended around twenty years ago. Facilities such as this are particularly important for the social and cultural well-being of local people, providing opportunities for participation and engagement in theatre and the arts, the development of skills, and the opportunity to come together. Paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2023) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

The replacement storage building will be of increased footprint and capacity to the existing units. Typically 'little' theatres have limited space and resources, so opportunities to expand will be beneficial and are to be supported. Although an expansion this proposed development is modest in scale and would have little impact on nearby properties.

We therefore support the granting of planning permission.

Please continue to engage and consult with us as these plans are progressed and further information is submitted.



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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