

Theatres fit for the **future**



Ref.: TC/1136

6 December 2024

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Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Mount Pleasant Road
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1RS

By e-mail: planning@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Application: 24/02800/LBC

Site: Trinity Theatre And Arts Centre Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1JP

Proposal: Removal of internal ceiling mounted gas heating system & associated pipework. Installation of replacement infrared ornamental heaters to be hung from ceiling.

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

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

Comment:

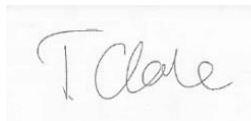
This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to undertake works to replace the heating system within the auditorium at the Trinity Theatre.

The Trinity Theatre is a Grade II* listed heritage asset and a valued arts and cultural venue within Tunbridge Wells. Its heating system is outdated and no longer functions.

It is important for the venue that the comfort of its audiences is maintained, and more broadly there are negative financial and environmental implications of operating inefficient equipment. The installation of a more modern replacement will reduce those impacts, but also as the new equipment is of reduced size compared to the existing there is a heritage benefit in replacement. Whilst a small amount of ceiling will need to be removed to facilitate the suspending of the new system, with reference to paragraph 208 of the NPPF (2023) we consider that this constitutes less than substantial harm and is mitigated by the public benefit of keeping the Trinity in viable operation and reducing energy usage.

We are supportive of the granting of listed building consent.

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



Tom Clarke

National Planning Adviser

Theatres Trust

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