

Rebecca Mosley

From: Rose Freeman [rose.freeman@theatrust.org.uk]
Sent: 08 August 2006 15:18
To: Major Developments
Subject: Sherford Area Action Plan Submission



Our Ref.: RF/551

Sherford Area Action Plan Submission

Thank you for your letter of 30 June consulting The Theatres Trust on the Submission stage of the Sherford AAP. We welcome the opportunity to comment.

The Theatres Trust is an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body and a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect land on which there is a theatre and was established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres'. Our main objective is to safeguard theatre use, or the potential for such use, but we also provide expert advice on design, conservation, property and planning matters to theatre operators, local authorities and official bodies.

Local authorities are required by Government Order to consult the Trust when considering planning applications affecting land on which there is a theatre. This applies to all theatre buildings, old or new, and regardless of whether or not they are still in use as theatres, in other uses, or disused.

We congratulate you on a comprehensive and well-written document. We support your **Vision** on page 21 that the mixed-use new development should be provided with a full range of community facilities from the outset, the **Key Development Principle** on page 23 that each neighbourhood should provide a focus for community life. We support item **7.25** that some of the community facilities will help to extend the range available to neighbouring communities.

With these points in mind, and the fact that there are cultural facilities and theatres nearby in Plymouth, there is a great opportunity here to create a multi-purpose community centre and we therefore fully support paragraph 7.29 j) (page 37) which includes a theatre/cinema. However, it should be attached to the school rather than contained within it. The Theatres Trust has found that a community will value and make better use of a stand-alone facility, and a separate building will provide more flexibility and room for future expansion or alterations than as a space within another environment. We would be happy to offer advice and guidance on this matter as your plans develop.

The provision and protection of cultural facilities is of course an essential factor to take into account and is a valuable resource for the visual arts and music, the performing arts, crafts, museums, libraries, theatre and cinema. We note that on page 36 it is suggested that a library be incorporated within a new town hall. A library and youth centre could well be accommodated within the multi-purpose community centre.

We look forward to being consulted on further LDF documents.