

Additional information provided by the petitioner (English) (Welsh below)

The Theatre Royal has been central to the community of Barry since 1910. It closed its doors in April 10th 2008 when the lease expired and since then has remained empty.

TRACT has campaign tirelessly to reopen the Cinema for the past three years which culminated into a offer at the full market value to purchase the property in 2009. Unfortunately this offer was rejected and the building remains boarded up and empty.

A statement was made on behalf of Hafod Housing regarding redeveloping the site as an Extracare Facility which has met with fierce opposition from the community as a whole however, no planning application has been filed to our knowledge.

The Theatre Royal was opened in 1910 provided an important role to the community firstly as a performing theatre staging a range of entertainment given by touring and local companies. The transition from stage to cinema use was made in the 1930's. In the 1900's the history of the building included visits from General Booth, the leader of the Salvation Army and Samson billed as the strongest man on earth.

Local connections included Victor Sylvester who was organist and musical director in the late 20's early 30's who is related to a local businessmen working in the town today. In 1910 completion of the Theatre Royal advertising curtain was given to Mr Leon Hook, sign artist. The Hook sign writing business is in its fourth generation in the town.

The Theatre Royal is older than the towns Memorial Hall. Parts of the old theatre still remaining include, the stage, proscenium, dressing rooms, basement corridors and the possibility of other undiscovered areas as they have been bricked up. When opened the theatre had a room garden on top of the shops to the side of the building. It was agreed to be entered on the Vale of Glamorgan Council County Treasure List in April 2008 and it is also on the at risk list with the Theatres Trust London.

Rather than see a change of use or redevelopment, we believe the buildings 100 year heritage is of a significant value that can be related through its history. In preserving this, it is something the community could fully recognise and appreciate while utilising the amenities it is still capable of providing.

Additional information provided by the petitioner (Welsh)

Bu'r Theatre Royal yn rhan ganolog o gymuned y Barri ers 1910. Caewyd y drysau ar 10 Ebrill 2008, pan ddaeth y brydles i ben. Ers hynny, mae'r theatr wedi bod yn wag.

Dros y tair blynedd diwethaf, mae Ymddiriedolaeth y Celfyddydau a'r Sinema yn y Theatre Royal (TRACT) wedi ymgyrchu'n ddygn i geisio ailagor y sinema. Arweiniodd yr ymdrechion hyn at gais i brynu'r adeilad am bris y farchnad yn 2009. Yn anffodus, gwrthodwyd y cynnig hwn, ac mae'r adeilad yn parhau i fod yn wag, gyda'i ffenestri dan goed.

Gwnaed datganiad ar ran Hafod Housing ynghylch y posibiliad o ailddatblygu'r safle fel cyfleuster Extracare, cynllun a wrthwynebwyd yn ffyrnig yn y gymuned. Fodd bynnag, hyd y gwyddom, ni chyflwynwyd unrhyw gais cynllunio perthnasol.

Agorwyd y Theatre Royal yn 1910. Darparodd y theatr wasanaeth pwysig i'r gymuned, yn wreiddiol yn theatr berfformio a oedd yn llwyfannu ystod eang o sioeau adloniant gan gwmnïau lleol a theithio. Roedd y 1930au yn gyfnod pontio i'r theatr, wrth i'r defnydd ohoni newid o'r byd llwyfan i'r byd sinema. Mae uchafbwyntiau hanesyddol yr adeilad yn cynnwys ymweliadau yn ystod y 1900au gan y Cadfridog Booth, arweinydd Byddin yr Iachawdwriaeth, a diddanwr o'r enw Samson, sef dyn cryfaf honedig y byd.

Roedd cysylltiadau lleol y theatr yn cynnwys Victor Sylvester, organydd a chyfarwyddwr cerddorol y theatr ar ddiwedd y 20au ac ar ddechrau'r 30au. Mae un o wŷr busnes y dre heddiw yn ddisgynnydd o deulu Mr Sylvester. Ym 1910, rhoddwyd y dasg o ddylunio llenni hysbysebu'r theatr i Mr Leon Hook, arlunydd arwyddion. Mae busnes teuluol Mr Hook, sef busnes dylunio arwyddion, bellach yn ei bedwaredd genhedlaeth yn y dre.

Mae'r Theatre Royal yn hŷn na neuadd goffa'r dre. Ymhlith y rhannau hynny o'r theatr sy'n parhau i fodoli y mae'r llwyfan, y prosceniwm, yr ystafelloedd newid, a'r coridorau tanddaearol. Mae'n bosibl bod rhannau eraill o ddiddordeb sydd heb eu darganfod eto gan nad oes mynediad iddynt ar hyn o bryd. Pan agorwyd y theatr, roedd ganddi ardd do a oedd wedi'i lleoli ar ben y siopau sydd drws nesaf i'r adeilad. Ym mis Ebrill 2008, cytunwyd y dylid ei chynnwys ar restr Cyngor Bro Morgannwg o drysorau'r sir, ac mae hi hefyd wedi'i chynnwys ar restr yr Ymddiriedolaeth Theatrau yn Llundain o adeiladau sydd mewn perygl.

Yn hytrach nag awgrymu y dylid adnewyddu'r adeilad neu newid sut y mae'n cael ei ddefnyddio, credwn fod gwerth treftadaeth yr adeilad, sef cyfnod o 100 mlynedd, yn rhywbeth sylweddol y gellir ei fynegi drwy adrodd ei hanes. Byddai cynnal yr adeilad yn rhoi cyfle i'r gymuned werthfawrogi ac ymfalchïo yn yr hanes hwn, a hynny wrth ddefnyddio'r adnoddau y gallai'r adeilad eu darparu.

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth
Minister for Heritage



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-306
Ein cyf/Our ref AFJ/01393/10

Christine Chapman AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Christine,

13 November 2010

Thank you for your letter of 10 November, covering a petition you have received from Theatre Royal Arts and Cinema Trust, relating to the Theatre Royal, Barry.

Welsh Assembly Government arts funding is channelled through the Arts Council of Wales (ACW), working within the strategic framework that the Assembly Government sets. In accordance with the arms-length funding principle, it is for ACW to determine its own priorities and how much funding organisations or individuals might receive, taking into account competing demands on its budget. It would therefore be for ACW to consider any requests for support in relation to this venue. I understand that ACW have received no application for funding or other support.

I am advised that Cadw inspected the building in 2008 and concluded that the building had been considerably altered and did not satisfy the criteria for listing by a considerable margin, so cannot be listed. The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Conservation Officer, presented at the inspection agreed with the assessment.

Whilst I am unaware of any plans to protect or preserve the building, I understand that the site is the preferred location for an Extracare housing scheme. In relation to which discussions have been taking place between Hafod Housing Association and the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council.

Sincerely,
Alun Ffred Jones

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth/Minister for Heritage

Y-AM

Response from Vale of Glamorgan

Date of issue: 25th January 2011
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VALE of GLAMORGAN



Local Ref No: P-03-306 My Ref No: HP&T/aty/S11/7611

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA



Dear Mrs. Chapman AM

P-03-306 Save Barry Theatre

Thank you for your letter of the 14th January 2011 in respect of the above.

I can confirm that Theatre Royal is included on the County Treasures' register. Although not currently included in the County Treasures' document (it being separately 'listed' in April 2008), the building will be described as follows in the document, when next updated following a review later this year.

The present building is successor to an earlier Theatre Royal. Frontage block, of three and a half storeys, in red brick and stucco debased classical style, with taller pedimented centre. Converted into a cinema in the 1930s when the stage was removed and absorbed into the auditorium which was completely reconstructed with one balcony. More recently the auditorium has been divided into upper and lower levels by the insertion of a floor, and only the upper level is in use. The canopy above the main entrance has been removed.

I include a link to the County Treasures Supplementary Planning Guidance, which provides advice and guidance on County Treasures and the effect of slating.

http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/planning/planning_policy/county_treasures.aspx

In terms of the future plans for the site, you will appreciate that the Council does not own the site and its role will be to consider any development proposals submitted to it as Local Planning Authority. In this regard, pre-application discussions have been held with a local Housing Association who wishes to redevelop the site for an extra care housing scheme utilising Welsh Assembly Government funding.

These discussions have culminated in the recent submission of a planning application on the 21st January 2011 by Hafod Care. This application will be subject to full consultation and a subsequent report to Planning Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Thomas', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation

Response from the petitioner

For the attention of
Christine Chapman, AM
Chair, Petitions Committee.

P-03-306 Save Barry Theatre

Thank you for your letter dated 14th January 2011 regarding above petition. Apologies for the delay in responding. As our offer for the Theatre premises was made in 2008, I wanted to check all our relevant records in order to be certain of the information you requested.

Unfortunately, we were not given any indication as to why our offer was not accepted either in written format or verbally.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact.

Yours faithfully,

P.Sutton

Theatre Royal Arts and Cinema Trust

3.2.2011