# Theatres fit for the **future**



Ref.: TC/271

24 June 2024

Ben Peffers
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By e-mail: Ben.Peffers@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Application: 040315

Site: Ritz Bingo and Social Club, Abbey Street, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11 5BX

**Proposal:** Corresponding Listed Building Consent for works and renovation.

Resubmission of previous application ref. 036735

### 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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the Grade II listed former Ritz. It seeks to undertake alterations to the building associated with a proposal for change of use to a mixed use community facility with restaurant and residential apartment. It is identical to a previous scheme on which we

#### **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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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were consulted in late 2018. That consent has since lapsed. We have also been consulted on the corresponding planning permission to which we have responded under separate cover.

This application is unchanged from the previous version, therefore our advice remains the same. We continue to welcome efforts to bring about a positive and sustainable re-use of this important heritage asset as a multi-purpose community facility which can include cinema, theatre and other live performances. In heritage terms this is consistent with the building's original function and significance.

We have set out some further design and accessibility considerations within our comments on the planning application. We would additionally add that interventions within the upper levels such as raising/levelling of floor levels should be reversible, and where there is loss of historic fabric and important decorative features there should be provision of full justification and a programme of recording carried out.

Subject to those conditions we remain supportive of the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser