

Ref.: TC/2105

11 July 2024

Jennie Humphrey
Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
PO Box 732
Redhill
RH1 9FL

By e-mail: southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Application: 24/03841/LBC

Site: Apollo Victoria 17 - 18 Wilton Road London

Proposal: Repair and protection of a decorative frieze on the external facade of the Apollo Victoria Theatre.

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 Apollo Victoria Theatre. It seeks to undertake repairs to the original frieze on

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

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the building's Wilton Road elevation next to its main entrance. The frieze to the opposite side of the entrance is a later replica. We have also commented on a corresponding application for planning permission under separate cover.

The Heritage Statement shows photographic evidence of deterioration of the frieze, this is also evident on Google Streetview images which show marked decline between 2020 and 2022 and netting being in place. The damaged plaster is increasing water permeating into the frieze which in turn further exacerbating the situation.

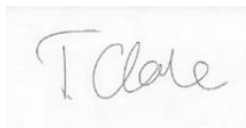
The Apollo is a Grade II* listed heritage asset, and the friezes are an important element of the building's external character and significance. They are referenced within Historic England's listing description. We are therefore keen to see action to remedy the situation for the remaining original frieze and welcome the applicant's plans in that respect.

It is proposed that the frieze will be retained, with corrosion treated and lime mortar applied to restore the original detailing as closely as possible. It would then be protected by a ventilated polycarbonate sheet.

Whilst this intervention will alter and add to the existing materials to some extent, this is demonstrably necessary to protect the frieze, repair it and retain it in the original location. This can be considered less than substantial harm, but with reference to paragraph 208 of the NPPF (2023) there is great public benefit in conserving the frieze and enabling its continued public display and access.

We therefore support 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

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