

Ref.: TC/2105

11 December 2024

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

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

Application: 24/07888/LBC

Site: Apollo Victoria 17 - 18 Wilton Road London

Proposal: Refurbishment of existing internal back of house areas

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 refurbishments and alterations

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

Facebook @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

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

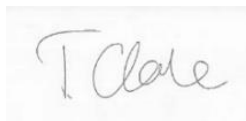
within the theatre's dressing rooms, staff accommodation and associated WCs and showers.

Whilst the theatre is a Grade II* listed heritage asset, the dressing rooms and associated back of house staff areas are of lesser significance as is commonly the case. They are quite plainly decorated, some of which have already had modern refurbishments and fit-outs as demonstrated through the photographic evidence included within the applicant's Heritage Statement. Where there are potentially original mouldings, although of simple rather than elaborate profiling, they will be retained. We consider that this constitutes a neutral impact on significance in heritage terms although investment in audience and staff facilities is welcomed and ultimately contributes towards the venue's ongoing conservation by maintaining its reputation and attractiveness to producers.

As part of this project there will be replacement of doors into those rooms. Similarly, although some are potentially original they have been previously altered which has reduced significance and there has also been damage to frames and architraves. Furthermore in some cases there is a requirement that they are to be fire doors, necessitating removal. Whilst if doors are original this would constitute a degree of less than substantial harm, that harm is mitigated by the public benefit of meeting safety standards and helping to protect and conserve the building.

Therefore we can 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

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

Facebook @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

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