

Ref.: RA/9004260

24 August 2017

Mr Peter Munnelly
Planning and Development
Islington Council
222 Upper Street
London N1 1YA

Dear Mr Munnelly,

John Salt, 131 Upper Street, London N1 1QP

Application Ref.: P2017/0802/FUL

I write regarding the above planning application for the temporary change of use and associated alterations to the rear of the John Salt to create a theatre space. Please see our advice below.

Remit: The 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 use through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, that requires the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre.' This applies to all theatre buildings, including those adapted for theatre use, that are out of use, or are now in another use. Our main objective is to safeguard theatre and cultural uses, or the potential for such uses.

Advice: The Theatres Trust welcomes the development of a new replacement theatre space for the King's Head Theatre, which is the subject of related application P2017/0800/FUL, given the many opportunities this creates for the theatre into the future, both artistically and operationally.

We understand that in order for the development of the new theatre to proceed, part of the existing theatre needs to be demolished meaning the theatre will be unable to continue operating for the existing venue during construction. We therefore support the creation of a temporary theatre space at the rear of the John Salt as an interim venue. It is of a similar size and capacity and will help maintain its local audiences during construction of the new theatre. Our only concern operationally is the use of the stair linking the stage with the dressing rooms which is also the main stair for John Salt staff accessing the kitchens. This will have to be carefully managed to minimise conflict between the kitchen staff and actors waiting to go onto the stage, though we have been advised there is a dumb waiter that will be used that will hopefully avoid this becoming a problem. Otherwise, we are happy to recommend approval.

This advice reflects guidance in Paragraph 70 of the NPPF which states that in 'promoting healthy communities', planning decisions should 'plan positively for cultural buildings', 'guard

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591

F 020 7836 3302

E info@theatrestrust.org.uk

W theatrestrust.org.uk

Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

against the loss of cultural facilities and services', and ensure that such facilities 'are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community'.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Anthony', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Ross Anthony
Planning Adviser