

Our Ref.: RA/2721

2 January 2018

Planning & Public Protection
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road Hove BN3 3BQ

Dear Sir/ Madam,

The Astoria, 10-14 Gloucester Place, Brighton

Application Ref.: BH2017/04022

Thank you for consulting The Theatres Trust on the above application to demolish the former The Astoria Theatre and redevelop the site. The Trust **objects** to the application. Please see our remit and 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 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: The Theatres Trust remains opposed to the total demolition of The Astoria Theatre. While the Trust acknowledges that Council has previously granted several approvals for the demolition of the building, it has never accepted the case for demolition presented in this or previous applications. The Trust believes that the Astoria is of special architectural significance and believe that the building should be restored, adapted and incorporated into the proposed wider redevelopment of the site.

There are many examples of the successful reclamation and reuse of redundant cinema and theatre buildings that have fallen into disrepair and there is no reason why the Astoria cannot be retained and contribute to the rejuvenation of this part of Brighton. While we support the retention and reuse of decorative features, such as the grills, The Astoria is a landmark within the conservation area and as such it is something the Council should be keen to preserve.

The Trust therefore remains opposed to the complete loss of this former theatre building.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Ross Anthony

Theatres Trust

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

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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

Planning Consultant