

Our Ref.: TC

10 October 2019

Alex McCombie
Development Management Service
Planning and Development
PO Box 3333
222 Upper Street
London
N1 1YA

By e-mail: planning@islington.gov.uk

Applications: P2019/2576/FUL & P2019/2605/LBC

Site: Islington Central Library 2 Fieldway Crescent Islington London N5 1PF

Proposal: Refurbishment of the ground and first floor of the building reinstating the public foyer from Holloway Road entrance to provide a link to the main library at ground floor level. Change of use of the north western portion of the building at ground and first floor levels in association with the creation of a rehearsal room/ theatre (D2) and associated office at ground and first floor levels. Work includes demolition of internal partitions and mezzanine floor, minor structural alterations to form new doorways, new partitions at ground and first floor level and installation of a new ventilation fan with an accompanying external louvre window which would replace the existing sash window above the loading bay doors at ground floor level upon the Fieldway Crescent Elevation. Listed building Consent application reference P2019/2605/LBC also submitted.

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:

This application has come to the attention of the Trust because it includes the creation of a new theatre space to be used as a rehearsal and preview studio by the Tall Stories Theatre Company. This is to be facilitated through alterations within the foyer of the Grade II listed

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591 **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, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

Islington Central Library as part of a wider programme of works to make more effective use of the building.

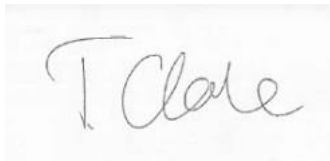
We are supportive of this proposal. Predominantly the new studio will be used as a rehearsal space, for which there is a general shortage across London. To the rear of the space will be a relatively small amount of retractable seating which will enable the studio to be utilised for public performances as well as for school groups. This will bring people into the building and contribute towards the wider objective of making more effective use of the library in order to maintain it as a community asset for local people.

The new studio will be accompanied by additional WCs including a new accessible WC and a shower which will also benefit other users of the building as well as staff. Plans show there to be acoustic glazing and motorised blackout blinds which will be necessary to block out noise from Holloway Road. The accompanying Heritage Statement states these alterations will be achieved by removing later additions which detract from the building's historic significance.

Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks decisions to plan positively for community facilities. This proposal will help increase the strength and diversity of cultural provision within Islington as well as provide a much-needed rehearsal space and support an existing community facility. We therefore **recommend the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser