

Ref.: TC/206

27 March 2020

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Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
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By e-mail: southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Applications: 20/01143/FULL & 20/01144/LBC

Site: 62 - 65 Haymarket London SW1Y 4RL

Proposal: External alterations including reprofiling of steps and creation of accessible access, reinstatement of original entrance design and replacement of entrance doors; &

External alterations including the reinstatement of original entrance design, replacement of entrance doors, reprofiling of steps and creation of accessible access. Internal alterations including conversion of two existing auditoria at basement level into four smaller auditoria, seating upgrade in main auditorium, with reprofiling of the stadia, refurbishment of basement bar area, introduction of disabled access and provision of accessible washrooms, refurbishment of existing toilets at mezzanine levels, and other associated works (LINKED TO 20/01143/FULL).

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:

Thank you for consulting the Trust regarding this application for planning permission and listed building consent at the Carlton on Haymarket. Last year we provided comments on the wider development proposals around this site as well as listed building consent and advertisement consent for cleaning of the façade, new signage and related works. These applications seek a range of external and internal alterations and refurbishments to the Carlton.

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, Truda Spruyt, 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

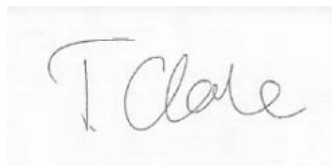
Our interest in the Carlton arises from its history as a theatre; although it later became a dedicated cinema there have more recently been occasional theatre productions such as Brief Encounter which ran in 2018. We consider there is potential to revert the Carlton back to more dedicated theatre use in future should its cinema function cease, and indeed we have been independently approached by parties seeking West End theatre accommodation enquiring as to its availability. We have been previously engaged by the applicant during the pre-application process for the wider scheme and we appreciate that they independently notified us this application had been submitted.

We are broadly supportive of this proposal which is a heritage-led proposal with a stated intention to refurbish the interior and re-instate original architectural and decorative features and improve the building's accessibility. This is to be welcomed. The intention of external works is also to bring back original design features including removing the more modern canopy and replacing the entrance doors. We consider the proposal for the main entrance doors to be much improved compared to the previous submission and better reflect the original proportions. We note the Design & Access Statement discusses different options regarding finishes and materials and we understand that revised plans have been submitted which we have not had sight of.

While we appreciate the operational needs of the cinema operator which has informed the subdivision of the stalls level and the over-raking of the main auditorium facilitates the installation of sofas in place of current seating this will come at the detriment of the building's flexibility to host theatre as has been facilitated in the recent past. However, we do not object to the principle of this because it is a reversible change which wouldn't preclude reversion to theatre in future.

In conclusion, we welcome the investment into the Carlton and broadly support the approach in terms of reinstating historic and decorative features. As these alterations will not preclude the possibility of future theatre use we raise no objection.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments further.



Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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