

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/2132

11 May 2020

Regeneration and Planning
Development Management Team
PO Box 4
Town Hall
Lancaster
LA1 1QR

By e-mail: dcconsultation@lancaster.gov.uk

Applications: 20/00359/FUL

Site: EE Communications Site Alhambra Buildings Yorkshire Street East Morecambe
Lancashire

Proposals: Installation of telecommunications equipment comprising of 3 antenna support poles accommodating 3 antennas and 6 remote radio units at 20m above ground level on southeast and southwest elevations

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 relates to development at the Alhambra, specifically the installation of telecommunications equipment.

The Alhambra opened in 1901 as a music hall with a market, shops and restaurant at ground floor. It had a deep stage and a number of dressing rooms and films were screened in winter months. In the inter-war period it was a dedicated cinema, but reverted to theatre use from 1946 until a large fire in 1970 which resulted in the loss of much of the interior. It was then used as a nightclub and from the late 1980s also hosted other live events. In recent years further theatre and events have returned to the building within the roof space.

Telecoms equipment is already housed at this site and this proposal seeks to upgrade what is existing to support 4G technology and coverage. We do not consider this would impact the

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Simon Ricketts, 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

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appearance of the Alhambra as a non-designated heritage asset and neither would it compromise the building's function as a venue.

Therefore we raise no objection to this development.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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