

Protecting theatres
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Ref.: TC

01 September 2023

Planning Services
Leeds City Council
Merrion House
110 Merrion Centre
Leeds
LS2 8BB

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

Application: 23/04904/FU

Site: Jamyang Buddhist Centre Leeds Clyde Works Ingram Road Holbeck Leeds LS11 9RQ

Proposal: Change of use from industrial unit (Class B) to a theatre and community space (Sui Generis)

Remit:

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 Theatres Trust because it is seeking permanent change of use to a theatre and community space for Slung Low. We commented on and supported an identical application in 2022, but this was granted

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

Facebook @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

Chair Dave Moutrey OBE

Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Paul Cartwright, James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Lucy Osborne, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

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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permission only on a temporary basis for one year to allow for highways impacts to be understood.

Slung Low is an established theatre company with a strong community offer and focus. It operated from the Holbeck Working Men's Club, offering a development and rehearsal space for artists and local groups. It also had a base within a local primary school. Slung Low provide valuable community outreach which is accessible to all, helping people to participate and engage in the arts and to learn and develop new skills. They work with other local and national organisations.

The nature of Slung Low and their work within the community means it is both important and beneficial that their ongoing development and operation is supported. Objective 11 of the Leeds Local Plan, 2019 (as amended) supports provision of community infrastructure that meets the needs of the community including cultural and community facilities. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for community facilities and shared spaces and to support strategies to improve social and cultural wellbeing for all sections of the community.

The applicant has submitted information showing there to be sufficient capacity for parking within the local highway network, and that they endeavour not to programme at times which coincide with high levels of pressure arising from Leeds United home matches.

This location, within Slung Low's direct local catchment, meets the needs of both the organisation and its users. Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission for change of use on a permanent basis.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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