

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/1849

30 March 2023

Mrs Jan Cresswell
Planning department,
PO Box 17,
Corporation Street,
Blackpool
FY1 1LZ

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

Application: 23/0099

Site: WINTER GARDENS, CHURCH STREET, BLACKPOOL, FY1 1HW

Proposal: Alterations to the Renaissance restaurant toilets including removal of boarding from walls to expose original tiles, replacement of existing sinks with art deco period pedestals and wall mirrors, replacement of existing toilet cubicles; additional alterations to the gents toilets including reinstatement of urinals, addition of extra toilet cubicle, and relocation of sinks to existing foyer/cloakroom.

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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the Winter Gardens, in relation to alterations to the toilets serving the Renaissance restaurant. We have also been consulted on two further applications to which we have responded under separate cover.

The rationale for these works is that although the Renaissance restaurant offers high-end dining and functions the WCs serving this space are inefficient in terms of use of space and need of refurbishment. Furthermore, original decorative tiling has been concealed behind later panelling which provides an opportunity for reinstatement.

The Heritage Statement refers to a number of changes within the restaurant itself which are not covered by the application description; whilst much of this appears to be matters which likely

Theatres Trust

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Chair Dave Moutrey **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

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would not require listed building consent the final paragraph under the 'Access' section refers to alterations to doorways which would need consent. The actual scope of any permission should be clarified particularly as there are no plans provided for the restaurant which show new or altered openings.

The current WC layout provides clear opportunities to increase provision without needing to expand into other areas. An additional cubicle and three urinals will be added which will much better meet the needs of larger events, enhancing the visitor experience. Additionally this will also provide heritage benefits because tiling will be revealed and the overall character of the space will be enhanced.

Therefore we support the granting of listed building consent for works to the WC, but reiterate that alterations to the restaurant should be clarified and if necessary further plans provided.

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

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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