Theatres fit for the **future**



Ref.: TC/3538

5 April 2024

Neville Palmer
The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
Town Hall
Hornton Street
W8 7NX

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

Application: PP/24/01131

Site: Public House, 118 Finborough Road, LONDON, SW10 9ED

Proposal: Installation of extract duct at the rear and timber waste bin enclosure.

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 for planning permission has been brought to the attention of Theatres Trust because the site includes the Finborough Theatre. This proposal seeks to install an extract duct and waste enclosure.

Finborough Theatre is long established and highly valued by its users and the wider community, forming part of London's substantial fringe theatre offer which contributes

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Chair Dave Moutrey OBE Director Jon Morgan
Trustees James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Lucy Osborne, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

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to the city's strong reputation as a global hub for the arts and to the economy. It is located above the Finborough Arms pub. Policy at local, London and national level is clear that such uses should be supported and protected. Paragraph 97 of the NPPF (2023) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for cultural facilities. Policy CF7 of the Council's Local Plan (2019) "supports the borough's role in both local and world-class arts and culture" and will "protect, nurture and encourage those which already exist". Part a. protects all current arts and cultural uses.

The pub has been closed for some time, having not re-opened following its enforced closure due to Covid-19 restrictions. This has had a negative impact on the theatre. We are therefore keen to see the pub brought back to use, and welcome that a new operator is preparing to re-open the premises. These works will help facilitate this. Pubs are themselves important social and community facilities which are to be supported.

We note the conclusions of the accompanying noise impact assessment, which concludes the proposed extract duct can operate without harm to amenity.

We therefore support the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser