

HARBORNE ROYALTY TRUST NEWS

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Coming together is a beginning;
Keeping together is progress;
Working together is success.

Henry Ford



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90% WANT TO SEE THE ROYALTY RESTORED AS A COMMUNITY FACILITY!

Dear Reader,

The future of the Royalty was discussed at a meeting in January with the owner Parminder Singh, local Councillor Peter Fowler (representing both our Councillors), Andrew Fuller from BCC planning and Trev Norris and Rob Vaughan from HRT. Also in attendance were various technical advisors. The premise for the meeting was that everything was on the table from full demolition to full rebuild. Despite the fire occurring last September we have been waiting for an initial structural report with the unsafe parts of the building already having been removed shortly after the fire. Our initial proposals were based on full use of the original building and we can revert to those if the Council take the right course of action and insist the Royalty is rebuilt. Far more damaged buildings have been rebuilt elsewhere, so it would be a lesson to others about the consequences of similar fires to a listed building. Further structural reports are awaited and we have been told we shall be given a copy of the initial report, but not for publication. Doubtless if there is a public enquiry following any planning application it will need to be put in the public domain. In the meantime we are looking at worst case scenarios. We are confident the front of the building is safe and so we are looking at what can be conserved in the space behind and how this can be used to deliver the consultation results. It was made clear by the senior planning officer at the meeting that any planning application should include community use and HRT are the only group involved that have the understanding and capability to deliver those aspects for the local community. The Royalty provides a real opportunity for local people to secure and own a local resource. We have many commercial expressions of interest coming forward and no shortage of potential community user groups who want to use the building. Rob Sutton. Chair. Harborne Royalty Trust

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND SUPPORTS TRUST

The Harborne Royalty Trust received the exciting news that we are to be allocated a grant of **£4,520** from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) to enable the Trust to engage professionals and undertake further research in order to test the viability of proposals for the Royalty building and then produce a Project Viability Report.

The funding will enable the Trust to engage a **Conservation Accredited Architect** to prepare a **Heritage Statement and Impact Assessment** to accompany our proposals for the restoration and redevelopment of the Royalty Cinema. The Heritage Statement and Impact Assessment will inform HRT of what can and should be saved and restored at the Royalty and which in turn will provide the evidence for securing further funding as we move forward. We will also look to secure independent structural advice on the building.

We would like to express our thanks to the AHF for supporting us with this funding.

AHF Transforming
Heritage
www.ahfund.org.uk



Café at the Royalty



Website www.theroyaltyharborne.co.uk email chair@theroyaltyharborne.co.uk www.facebook.com/theroyaltyharborne



Concept street view of a restored Royalty with additional community space. Courtesy Miller Studios.

The Royalty Restored

The Royalty Cinema opened on Harborne High Street on 20th October 1930. We want to see it brought back with sufficient seating and number of screens to support the requirements of a proper film programme. This means a variety of screenings during the day and flexible use of space to maximise the use of the building.

We want to ensure that proper advice is sought on what needs to be conserved from the existing build, what needs to be restored and the cost. As a not for profit organisation HRT will be able to access funding not available to a commercial business.

Do You Want to Help?

Since the fire we have been working hard behind the scenes looking at options. Now we know that community is an expected part of any future for the Royalty, we need to ensure it's done properly and not just as a token gesture. We have a lot of work to do. We need to ensure there is a good heritage statement prepared which we can take to funders to support funding applications. We will need to put in place legal agreements if we are to take on responsibility for parts of the building. True Pearl, the owners, have no experience of this but we can partner with them to deliver a solution. There will be expenditure on valuations and further architectural support. We are very grateful to architects Miller Studios who have continued to support us.

There are many ways to help the Trust, from being a supporter, delivering newsletters like these, acting as an advisor to the Committee, to joining the Committee itself and many more. If you would like to know more, then please contact the Trust at:
chair@theroyaltyharborne.co.uk

**95% NO TO THE ROYALTY BEING
DEMOLISHED AND REBUILT AS
APARTMENTS**

We are also grateful to the various individuals and companies who are providing support, including Crendon Insurance Brokers, Miller Studios, Paul Mountain, Trowers Hamlins and Greenwoods Projects, and those who have offered help when we are ready in the future.



88% WOULD USE A CINEMA



The first floor balcony with false ceiling over entrance vestibule. There is no reason why this and other details can't be rebuilt and included in our proposals.



The circular room with fireplace and stained glass double doors should be a key feature of a restoration.

The Trust steering committee comprises:
Rob Sutton.
Bob Boucher.
Simon Coghlan.
Katie Ross.
Lizzie Hayes

Alison Solomon
Rob Vaughan
Kate Daly
Trevor Norris
Sue Timberlake
Debbie Kerslake
Michael Carroll