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Planning - Development Control
Camden Council
Camden Town Hall
London
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01 December 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

LISTED BUILDING CONSENT THE BRITISH LIBRARY, 96 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, NW1 2DB

A Listed Building Consent application has been prepared and submitted via the planning portal (Reference: PP-06211038) on behalf of The British Library. The application seeks Listed Building Consent under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, at The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB for the following:

"Internal works comprising the installation of interactive screens, headphones and induction loops within existing unused telephone booths."

The Applicant has acknowledged that The British Library is Grade I listed, in accordance with Historic England's listing records, so has therefore cautiously considered national and local planning policy to ensure no substantial harm is caused to the listed building.

Proposal

The interactive screens and headphones, will be installed within the existing phone booths, located in a central area inside the main building of the British Library, as shown on the Lower Ground Floor Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/001/LG). The booths were previously used as public telephone booths, however this use ceased in 2013 and the telephones were subsequently removed.

The proposal will enable the empty phone booths to serve a greater purpose and role within the Listed Building, and enhance the service offer of the Library. The phone booths will provide all visitors with an accessible opportunity to engage with sound archive collections, many of which are available only to registered Readers at the Library. The proposal will provide a positive change to the Library and an enhanced service to its users.

Consultation

Given the nature of the building, the Applicant has engaged in discussions with Claire Brady from Historic England and the London Borough of Camden's Conservation Officer, Catherine Bond, to ascertain the acceptability of the proposal. The consultees have agreed that the proposal is considered acceptable and advised that Listed Building Consent is required for the proposal.

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not assigned

Heritage Statement

The proposed development is compliant with both National and Local Planning Policy, as set out below.

Section 12 of the NPPF (2012) sets out the approach to be taken for the consideration of Listed Buildings, of particular relevance are Paragraphs 132 and 133 which seek to protect heritage assets (inclusive of Grade I listed buildings) by resisting the approval of planning applications which will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of an asset. In line with these requirements, substantial weight has been given to the conservation of The British Library and it is considered that this minor internal alteration to the listed building will have no substantial impact on or loss of the significance of the heritage asset.

Policy D2 (Heritage and Conservation) of Camden's New Local Plan (adopted 03 July 2017) seeks to preserve and enhance Camden's heritage assets and their settings. In accordance with the policy requirements, this proposal does not result in the loss of, or substantial harm to the designated heritage asset, affect the preservation and will not cause harm to the special architectural or historic interest of the listed building.

Schedule of works

As identified on the submitted Proposals Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/200/OO Proposed) the layout and materials of the wooden booths will remain as existing (Photograph 1), with the addition of an interactive screen of approximately 22" and headphones in each booth. These additions will be fixed to the thin panelling strip within each booth using a 'vesa' mount for the screen and small pole mount for the headphones, both of which will be screw fixed.

The proposed works will be very minimal and comprise forming a small hole behind the panelling into the plant area, behind which will contain all power and data services. Cabling will pass through this hole and will feed the screen, headphones and induction loops. The hole and cabling will be hidden by the panelling strip.

The induction loop will be adhered to the underside of two of the booth counters, identified on the submitted Proposals Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/200/OO Proposed) and will not be visible. These works will not damage or cause any substantial harm to the existing feature of the listed building.

In addition to the installation of the screens and headphones, the Applicant seeks to restore two booths which are currently different from the others, to their original form. These two booths have no strip of panelling on the rear and the counter is made of unidentified wood covered in a blue vinyl (Photograph 2), which is not in continuity to the other booths. Therefore, the applicant seeks to replace the blue covered shelves with matching stone and add wooden panelling, affixed by pin nail, to the rear of each booth, to match the other neighbouring booths. In addition, the woodwork on all booths will be revived and restored by French polishing.

Given the minor works required to install the screens, headphones and induction loops, there are considered to be no structural concerns associated with the proposal.

Listed Building Consent Validation Requirements

In accordance with Camden Council's validation requirements, the following documents have been submitted in support of the application:

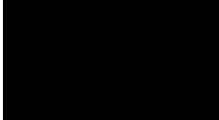
- Site Location Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/200/SP);
- Lower Ground Floor Plan (Drawing No. BL/000/001/LG);
- Existing Plan, including plan and elevations (Drawing No. BL/0000/200/OO Existing);
- Proposed Plan, including plan and elevations (Drawing No. BL/0000/200/OO Proposed);
- Photographs (enclosed);
- Heritage Statement (included within this covering letter); and
- Schedule of Works (included within this covering letter).

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In respect of the planning application fee, no payment is required for Listed Building Consent applications.

I trust that the enclosed information is sufficient for the application to be promptly validated. However, should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Ruby Wilkinson, at the above office.

Yours Sincerely



Alister Henderson
Partner

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Photograph 1: The existing booths



Photograph 2: The two booths which are currently different to the rest, with blue shelving and no panelling.

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