

# HERITAGE CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

## Grade II\* Listed



Following a protracted period of dormancy, the concept of extending and developing the **Carlton** in Islington has been revived. The current proposal specifies a block of residential apartments to its rear and dressing-room accommodation to its side. Overall this appears to be an acceptable scheme, with the exception of the ubiquitous mandatory provision of an elevator, which is likely to mar the balanced composition of the foyer. No listed building consent application has currently been tabled. *Photo taken October 2014.*

The CTA recently released a press statement condemning inaction on the rehabilitation of Margate's **Dreamland Cinema**; this resulted in an article in the *Kent Live* publication. At that time a local authority spokesman commented that the Council was reviewing its options; that body subsequently determined to dispose of the entire Dreamland site, subject to satisfying certain fiscal obligations. This resolution has now been called in for re-examination by opposition councillors.

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The Theatres Trust has advised that a listed building consent application has been presented relating to the Picturedrome in Holmfirth, an unusual building boasting a pressed-tin ceiling. Further investigation will thus be instigated. *Photos taken August 2005 & August 2011.*

Planning and listed building consent applications have also been advanced detailing an intended addition of seven storeys above the auditorium of the **Savoy** in London's Burnt Oak. These are to be utilised for accommodation described under the somewhat peculiar appellation of 'pocket living'.

Discussions are ongoing concerning commercial viability of removal of the extensive illuminated box sign currently blighting the façade of the **Empire** (ex-**Carlton**) in London's Haymarket and also upon the feasibility of reproduction of its original canopy.

The prolonged saga of the **Longford** in Manchester's Trafford area has taken a further twist: its local Council is currently in the process of compulsorily purchasing the cinema, with a broad aim of restoring it for mixed entertainment and community usage.

A pre-application has been submitted by the organisation that has purchased the **Ritz** in Nuneaton. This introduces a potentially contentious element: the fabrication of free-standing rooms in the balcony. The Association considers that granting of permission should be conditional upon ease of reversibility. The drawings accompanying the solicitation lack detail and close scrutiny will be applied to the development of this case.

## Unlisted

Subsequent to the Local Council Elections held last May, the political complexion of Ashford's local Council has altered, resulting in the seating of additional members sympathetic to retention of the **Odeon**.

Melcorpo Commercial Properties Unlimited, the concern that has purchased the **Byron** in Hucknall, has submitted an application to convert the premises into a four-screen cinema.



Following mutilation of its interior several years ago, little of architectural interest survives within **Smart's Picture Palace** (Essoldo) in Bethnal Green. The structure has now been sold; the new owners' announced objective is to convert the building into a young persons' hostel. The Association has requested that the frontage be retained as part of this project. *Photo taken April 2015.*



The application to utilise the site of the **Regal** in Wakefield as a parking facility has been withdrawn. *Photo taken July 2004.*

Following local consultation, designation in its Local Plan of the **Royalty** in Bowness as a potential redevelopment site has been rescinded.