

Our Ref: JH/2015-05/1

Ms Patience Trevor
Designation Team South
Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square
138 – 142 Holborn
London
EC1N 2ST



22 May 2015

Representation in respect of adding the Royal Vauxhall Tavern to the National Heritage List for England

Dear Ms Trevor,

As Lambeth's cabinet member for Jobs and Growth, I am writing in support of the application which you are currently considering to place the Royal Vauxhall Tavern on the National Heritage List for England.

As you will know, Lambeth has ambitious plans for Vauxhall which seek to ensure that the area becomes a thriving district centre which will accommodate a substantial growth in jobs, homes and shops and services whilst also seeing the environment transformed from one which is congested and dominated by the car. Of course, our driver for doing so is because we recognise that Vauxhall is already a special place with a unique character, cultural history and range of uses which give it so much potential. We absolutely must ensure that as we deliver our objectives for Vauxhall that we focus on preserving what is already special. In this context, The Royal Vauxhall Tavern stands out as something which we need to preserve for existing and future generations.

I understand that the Council's Conservation and Design Area Delivery Lead has written to you in terms of the value of Royal Vauxhall Tavern within the built environment. I endorse his comments.

Why is the Royal Vauxhall Tavern so important to Lambeth Council? As a Council, we are proud that we have the highest percentage of people from the LGBT community living in the borough of any local authority in Britain and we are also proud of the fact that the LGBT community across London hold Vauxhall so dear to their hearts. As Cabinet member with responsibility for economic development, I am also very aware of the importance of LGBT businesses to the economy in the area. The area has a proud history as being a centre for LGBT culture and meeting places. Indeed, there

London Borough of Lambeth
Leader and Cabinet Office
Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton Hill
London SW2 1RW

Telephone 020 7926 1166
Facsimile 020 7926 2049
www.lambeth.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

are a number of renowned LGBT venues in the area. None have a prouder history than the Royal Vauxhall Tavern which provides a unique and welcoming environment to the whole community and has a long and renowned tradition of cabaret. It is an LGBT venue which opens its arms to everyone in the local area as well as being important to the LGBT community across London. Its place in history as being the most enduring LGBT space in the city is unarguable.

In many ways the Royal Vauxhall Tavern is what makes Vauxhall so cherished as a place where people can be who they want to be, celebrate diversity and be simultaneously welcoming to people from both the local area and across our great city. I am particularly mindful that the Royal Vauxhall Tavern has stood the test of time of being so cherished by the LGBT and wider community. There is no doubt that the venue's heritage is related to the social and cultural history of the adjacent Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens which is a place which has a long history of giving previously marginalised groups a sense of place and identify. Indeed, it is my view that the Royal Vauxhall Tavern is the very embodiment of providing a welcoming space for people to be themselves, and that it is now the sole reminder of the site's longstanding cultural heritage. It must therefore be afforded the protection it deserves. The value of such spaces, their historic importance and importance to the community cannot be underestimated.

For these reasons, I would ask that you agree to the listing request. Please keep me informed of your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Hopkins', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Jack Hopkins
Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth
London Borough of Lambeth
Email: jhopkins@lambeth.gov.uk