# Conservation Consultation

| Proposal: | | Location: |
|---|---|---|
| Erection of sound and lighting booth | | Commemoration Hall, High Street, Huntingdon. |
| DC Case Officer: | Conservation Officer: | Application Ref. No: |
| Olivia Manton | Nick Armour | 25/01050/LBC |

The Commemoration Hall is a Grade II listed building located within the Huntingdon Conservation Area.

History and significance

Formerly 'The Institution' (Literary and Scientific Institution) but now known as Commemoration Hall this building was constructed by public subscription in 1842 and opened in 1843. As built it consisted of rooms flanking the entrance, an octagonal Library / Museum and Lecture Room which is now the main hall. The hall was extended with a full height stage and dressing rooms in 1957.

Proposal

The sound and lighting booth has already been constructed within the main hall on the opposite end to the stage. The structure consists of a timber framework covered in plywood panels which forms a mezzanine platform to house sound and lighting equipment. Beneath the mezzanine are two enclosed spaces forming a storeroom and housing a staircase. The 1950s entrance doors to the hall and surrounding glazed panels have been boarded over to control light ingress into the space.

Discussion

The structure has been constructed with due regard for historic detailing which has been accommodated without alteration. It is judiciously fixed to the historic structure with a limited number of anchor bolts and screws which allows the booth to be fully reversible with minimal 'making good'.

The sound and lighting booth provides essential functionality to the stage which helps support a wide variety of performances in Commemoration Hall. This flexibility will make a considerable contribution to the ongoing success of the listed building as a local performance venue.

Impact

The impact of the sound and lighting booth on the special interest of the listed building is negligible. Under the terms of the NPPF any harm would be less than substantial and justified by keeping the building in a viable use consistent with its long-term preservation.

Conclusion

This application accords with the NPPF, Local Plan Policy LP34 and will preserve the special interest of the listed building as required by the Planning (LBs and CAs) Act 1990. I have no objections.

Note:

Permission and consent for air conditioning units was granted under applications 24/00812/FUL and 24/00813/LBC – please omit submitted plan 22417_04 dated Apr 24 from the decision notice.

Summary: No objections.

Signed Nick Armour Date 04/09/2025 Signed……Date……..