



Portobello Community Council

1st September, 2023

Historic Environment Scotland
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

**De-designation of the George from Category C listed to no designation.
HES Ref: 300064318 14 Bath Street, the George, formerly The County**

On behalf of Portobello Community Council, I would like to reaffirm our shared consensus, views and opinions of the local community and wider public interest regarding the iconic community landmark, that is the George Cinema, situated in Bath Street, Portobello.

Portobello has a comprehensive collection of buildings covering almost every period since 1600's. The County/George building is the only remaining example of Art Deco period.

This 'Odeon style, spare and modernist' building designed by T. Bowhill Gibson, whose architectural firm was well known for its cinema architecture and was notable for the so called 'super-cinemas' of which examples in Edinburgh include the Astoria, the Blue Hall and the Rutland. The County was the last of these 'super-cinemas' to be built in Scotland and as such is one of the last examples of this phase of modern movement architecture. The George is one of the key remaining fragments of the town's cultural and social past, reflected in its current C Listed status, sitting within the Portobello Conservation Area. Internally, the building retains significant original architectural character, and externally, makes a significant contribution to Portobello's townscape, sitting prominently on the main thoroughfare between the High Street and Promenade.

The responses to our recent community council survey has highlighted the unanimous affection and connection to the George and this is recorded by the numerous memories that were received, highlighting how architecture plays a pivotal role in shaping the way we interact with our surroundings, its impact on the urban fabric of our community and influences the behaviour of the community. The overwhelming spirit of the community is that the George is well-known town landmark and an irreplaceable part of cultural heritage of the area.

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Portobello
Community Council

Portobello Community Council is pleased to attach our recent engagement data on the building, which is held in high regard by the community and of considerable local importance. The George is not only a beautiful building, but links Portobello to its history as a seaside town.

As a last point, we note concern in relation to the demonstrable dilapidation of the building over the last 7 years. We are hopeful that this iconic building can be saved and brought back to life and serve the community as it has done for countless generations.

We hope the attached makes useful reading and helps give a sense of place the George has within Portobello.

Sincerely,

Craig McIntyre
Chair

Attached documents:

14 Bath Street: 20/05800/FUL & 20/05799/LBC

Public_Comments_14_Bath_Street