



Media Release

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PRINCE CHARLES PUTS HIS TRUST IN THE COUNCIL

Harrogate Borough Council is working hard to find a solution for a partial restoration of the Royal Hall and which is expected to be considered by the Heritage Lottery Fund early in the New Year. Although it is unlikely that any partial scheme will deliver the level of public access originally projected in the full restoration scheme, it is hoped that the level of essential restoration work being considered will deliver some meaningful community use, which will be supported by HLF.

It is expected that the initial findings of the recently commissioned two stage supplementary study for what can be done with the £8m will be known within the next two weeks.

In the meantime, the council has welcomed a letter received from His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales in support of its efforts.

As Patron of the Royal Hall Restoration Trust, Prince Charles has recently written to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Gardner, to say:

I have recently learned the encouraging news that the Trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund have agreed to extend their grant offer of £6million towards the restoration of the important Royal Hall, Harrogate, for a period of five months and that Harrogate Council has agreed to commission and pay for a study to scope what could be achieved within a reduced restoration scheme.

“Having been concerned for some time that the marvellous Matcham-designed theatre – indeed the last surviving Kursaal in the mainland – should be restored to its former glory and not be mothballed (or, worse, lost as part of our national heritage), you will understand why I was greatly relieved to learn of Harrogate Council’s decision to assist the process for the Hall’s restoration. I am enormously grateful, therefore, to everyone who has made this possible.

“I have been told that the last months have been a nail-biting time for many and there is more work to be done, but I believe with this breakthrough a way forward has been heralded and, as Patron, I really could not be more delighted. I can only pray we are not far off seeing restoration work commence and I am sure Harrogate Council will do all they can to ensure this happens...

Yours most sincerely

Charles

ENDS