



23 October 2022

102 Petty France,
London
SW1H 9AJ

To: Helen Stephenson, CEO, Charity Commission

Dear Helen Stephenson,

We the undersigned all urge you to help in saving the Hulme Hippodrome, a 120-year-old Variety Theatre and Grade 2 listed building in Manchester, saving it for future community benefit and well-being, and at no cost to the public purse.

In 2003 the disgraced charity Gilbert Deya Ministries purchased the Hulme Hippodrome for religious meetings. The building has been shuttered since 2018, and on 11 January 2021 a minority of the charity trustees attempted to transfer the building to a disgraced property developer. Other trustees have given statements that they did not know of nor consent to this attempted transfer and that the requirements of charity and property law were not followed. The Land Registry has also refused to allow the transfer to the property developer. The property developer is based in south London and is a disqualified director until 2025, he was described officially as “a confidence trickster” by a government investigator in June 2014 after the High Court closed 14 of his companies, and in February 2021 he showed his hand by advertising the Hulme Hippodrome site as suitable for residential apartments.

Now, on Friday 14 October 2022 we understand that the Charity Commission has invoked its powers under Section 69 of the Charities Act 2011 and has taken legal control of the 120-year-old Hulme

Hippodrome building, removing control from all of the Gilbert Deya Ministries trustees.

We are concerned that Charity Commission staff might be about to override the legal objections of the Land Registrar and use the Section 69 powers to complete the stalled transfer to the disgraced property developer, even though a fully-funded community alternative is on the table.

Time is of the essence.

An angel investor of good reputation is working with Save Hulme Hippodrome Ltd to return the building to community use, and the most recent full-price offer letter is dated 6 October 2022. We understand that their solicitors are standing by to complete the conveyancing for community benefit as soon as the Charity Commission is ready to proceed. A sheet of technical details is available on request.

Yours sincerely,

Save Hulme Hippodrome

Signed to date by over 170 people

Copies to:

Susanna McGibbon, Permanent Secretary, Government Legal Department,

Sarah Healey, Permanent Secretary, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Signatories A- Z

Olivia Adamson, University of Manchester

Eileen Allen, Manchester Guided Tours

Ray Allen, Interested resident

Jama Abdukayumov, Edward Williams Architects
Louise Andrew, Local Resident
Zoe Ashpole, Manchester resident
Renate Aspden, SHH Supporter
Dr Jenna Ashton, University of Manchester/ Lecturer in Heritage Studies (with a focus on community heritage assets)
Paul Baker, Director of Save Hulme Hippodrome Ltd
David Bailey, Friend of Hulme Hippodrome
Miguel C Balagtas, Architecture/Architectural Designer
Tony Baldwinson, Director of Save Hulme Hippodrome Ltd
Faz Barber, SHH Supporter
Stuart Baron, Manchester resident
Mike Bath, Director of Save Hulme Hippodrome Ltd
Jenny Bedford, SHH Supporter
Cara Berger, University of Manchester
Martin Bolt, Musician
Cath Booth, Local resident
Simon Borkin, Friends of Stretford Public Hall
Douglas Boyd, Ex Hulme current Manchester resident with interest in retaining cultural links
Sean Braithwaite, Niamos, Playhouse, Manchester
Elena Brearley, Creative Practitioner
David Brotherton, Manchester Tour Guide
Alice Brotherton-Burns, Supporter of Save Hulme Hippodrome
Anne Brown, Local Resident
Laura Brown, Quadriga Contracts Ltd/University of Manchester/Local resident
Aaron Burton, Supporter of Save Hulme Hippodrome
Amanda Burgess, Local Resident
Damion Burgess, Supporter of Save Hulme Hippodrome
David Butler, University of Manchester
Dr David Calder, University of Manchester
Danielle Carbon-Wilson, Director of Save Hulme Hippodrome Ltd

David Clare, Concerned Local Resident
Julie Clare, Supporter of Save Hulme Hippodrome
Catherine Chesworth, Local Resident
Richard Clarke, Supporter of Save Hulme Hippodrome
Rose Constantine, Private citizen
Alistair Cox, Personal
Sam Davies, Supporter of Save Hulme Hippodrome
Robert Delahunty, Local resident
Ms. Claire Louise Dixon, Prop maker
Paul Dobraszczyk, Bartlett School of Architecture
Michael Duffield, Local worker
David Eatock, Community Arts
Cllr. Ekua Bayunu, Green Party Councillor for Hulme
John Ellison, Carno Station Action Group
Janet Evans, Private individual seeking a common sense outcome
Alexandra Fairclough, Local Resident
Susan Ferguson, Personal interest (architect)
Steve Fishwick, Personal Interest
Corinne Ford, Local resident
Andrew Fordyce, Supporter of Save Hulme Hippodrome
Gideon Foster, Brewer at Niamos, Hulme Playhouse
Emma Fox, Manchester tour guide
Julie Froud, Local Resident
Victoria Garlick, I did my PhD on WH Broadhead. The Hippodrome was a key part of his theatre circuit.
Professor Cathy Gelbin, Dept. of Drama, University of Manchester
Paul Gardner, Director of Save Hulme Hippodrome Ltd
Philipp Gelbin, Supporter of Save Hulme Hippodrome and Artist
Sophie Gibson, Burnley Empire Trust
Dympna Gould, Local Resident
Grainne Gordon, Local Resident
David Govier, Local Resident
Elizabeth Gow, Local Resident
Catalina Guian-Illanes, Director of Save Hulme Hippodrome Ltd

Gareth Hacking
Kevin Hainsworth, Personal interest
Siobhan Hanley, Siobhan Hanley Comms
Ina Hanson, Local Resident
Susan Hardy, Community member
Paul Harrison, Charity director
Sue Hatton, Local Resident
Jackie Haynes, Artist & Manchester Resident
Marion Hewitt, Save Hulme hippodrome group member
Brenda Hickey, Save Hulme Hip
Stephen Hoar, Historian
Suzi Hoffmann, Personal and All Fm community radio
Carmel Hughes, Local resident
Margaret Hollins, Mancunions
David Holman, Community
F. Hunt, Local Resident
Timur Iablokov, Freelance Architectural Designer
Carol Iqbal, Save Hulme hippodrome group member
Katy Jackson, PhD Student
Bryony Jameson, Leeds Heritage Theatres
Alison Jeffers, Live locally and want to support this campaign
Lorna Jellicoe-Jones, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Phil Jones, ASP Events Ltd / Edge Street Live
Kim Joslin, Secretary Hulme Labour Party
Georgia Kenington, Local Resident
Sarah Kennedy, Local Resident
Ewan Kenny, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Olabisi Ketiku, Local charity organisation member
Craig Lambie, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Valerie Lane, Interested supporter
Tom Lyall, Director of Save Hulme Hippodrome Ltd
Vicky Lowe, University of Manchester
Jo Magee, Local resident
Sara Mahoney, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome

Sarah Mander, Community member

Lauren Massey, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome

Charlotte Marceau, Used to help out, thought the community project was valuable

Joanne Maylott, Local resident

Deidrie McLaughlin, Save Hulme Hippodrome

George Mills, The future of the hippodrome must be in the hands of local people not some external company who has no real interest rooted in such a valuable asset in a diverse and dynamic neighbourhood

Ora Mitchell, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome

Trevor Morson, interested in preserving this historic building

Rita Mulvey, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome

Mrs E Murray, Personal - used this theatre with parents as a child

Christine Myery, Concerned ex Manchester resident

Laura Nardella, Person in the community

Tom Niblett, Architecture, theatre and arts

George Nixon, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome

Mike Nolan, Private citizen

Lucy Nolan, Interested in preserving local history

Susan Nolan, Interested in preserving local history

Dave Norman, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome

John O'Donnell, Local resident

Allan Openshaw, Volunteer at Save Hulme Hippodrome (and previous attendee of Hulme Hippodrome)

John Oughton, Supporter of local determination for local heritage

Chris Paul, CEO Wythenshawe Community Media, Trustee Director

Walk The Plank, Founder/CEO IDEA, Founder City Life Magazine, former Councillor

Gemma Powell, Young resident of Hulme

Kit Pratt, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome

Nicholas Ralph, Manchester resident

Jimmy Rapanut, Tim Groom Architects Limited

Florentina Robino Rapanut, Preserving the building
Jane Ray, Supporter
Susan Rayner, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Janey Riley, SHH Niamos
Duncan Robertson, Dk Services Group Ltd - Technical Safety for the
community
June Robson, Local resident
Andy Roman, Public interest
Steve Roman, My interest is in saving our Victorian and Edwardian
heritage.
Katrina Roman, I think old buildings should be rescued
Sissy Rooney, Street Style Surgery Ltd
Graeme Rowland, I have been to gigs at the Hippodrome
Denise Sackett, Manchester Tour Guide
Dominic Sagar, Architect supporting Hulme community projects
Simone Sanchez, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Constanze Schliebs, Neighbour
Jonathan Schofield, Writer and tourism professional
Roger Shelley, SHH Suporter
Jon Silver, Local Resident
Mr Ian Smith, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Sandra Skuse, Supporter of Save Hulme Hippodrome
Lois Smith, Preservation of historic buildings
Trish Spillane, Local supporter, rare historical buildings must be saved
Brian Stark, Heritage Photographer
Mike Stoneham, Cultural heritage
Maureen Stirpe, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Judith Swift, Save Hulme Hippodrome Supporter
Thomas Swingler, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Ruth Taylor, Local resident
Simon Taylor, I am a supporter of the campaign to save hulme
hippodrome.
Corin Thorpe, Software Engineer

Becca Toop, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Lamin Touray, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Professor Vanessa Toulmin, Professor of Early Film & Polisario
entertainment Chair of Morecambe Winter Gardens Preservation Trust
Catherine Tolan, Member of the public
Jane Turner, Neighbour to the Hippodrome since 1981
Eliza Tyrrell, Local Resident
James Varney, Hulme Resident
Mr David Wade, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Moz Walsh, Age Friendly Manchester
Rob Watts, University of Manchester
Duncan Wenham, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Deborah Whiteley, Concerned supporter
Luke S Whiting, Individual supporter
Oli Wilson, Director of Save Hulme Hippodrome Ltd
Anastasia Wiest, Manchester Green Party
Adam Wright, public interest
Cllr Annette Wright, Local councillor Hulme Ward, Manchester
Jonathan Wright, Individual/ Save Hulme Hippodrome
Jeremy Whyatt, Interested party who wants to preserve the building