c/o The Workhouse Museum
Allhallowgate,
Ripon, HG4 1LE
info@riponcivicsociety.org.uk
www.riponcivicsociety.org.uk

North Yorkshire Council
PO Box 787
Harrogate
HG1 9RW

4th April 2026

Dear Sirs

26/01508/FUL - CHANGE OF USE FROM RETAIL (USE CLASS E) TO CINEMA (SUI GENERIS), INCLUDING REPAIRS TO FLAT ROOF. SHOP FRONTAGE TO REMAIN WITH STRUCTURAL REPAIRS. EXISTING OPENINGS REMAIN THE SAME.

Ripon Civic Society supports the above proposal to convert the above property into a cinema.

Whilst the site lies within the Ripon Conservation Area we consider the fact that no structural changes are being proposed to the Fishergate elevation, along with its repair and decoration, will represent an improvement to building and wider area and one that will extend the use of the building into the evening thereby adding to the vibrancy of the Market Square area.

Our only concern is that Drawing No. 037-ED-A-001 Proposed GA Plan and Sections shows internal roller shutters to the entire shop front without any details of type or design. Whilst we agree that it is preferable for shutters to be located behind the glazing, we consider that solid shutters behind the large existing windows would result in an unacceptably blank frontage in this prominent location in the Conservation Area and next to a Listed Building. We would therefore expect to see an open type of shutter so that visual interest is maintained from the outside when the interior lights are left on. This is particularly important for a use that may operate outside normal shop opening hours.

When considering improvements to the Fishergate elevation, we question whether similar improvements to the blank rear facing wall of the property might also be possible that is, at the minute, underwhelming. Perhaps a darker painted render or a mural could enhance this very visible part of the building. This is, however, a minor comment and in no way detracts from our support of this application.

The closure of the Curzon cinema in 2023 was a sad loss for the City and one which Ripon Civic Society has been keen to see remedied. We would like to echo the comments made by Ripon Business Improvement District and we are very pleased that this application has come forward. It represents much valued investment and optimism in Ripon as a vibrant place to live.

We trust you will take these comments into account when considering this application.

Yours faithfully

Ripon Civic Society