

# Fairfield Halls: a £30million makeover

*Presented by Cllr Timothy Godfrey  
cabinet member for culture*

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# Fairfield past: a rich history

- Fairfield Halls has a rich history – with its roots firmly in entertainment.
- The 1960s theatre and concert hall was built on Fair Field, a green space associated with entertainment for five centuries.
- Until the 1880s, Fair Field regularly played host to travelling fairs, markets and shows, attracting visitors from far and wide.

# Construction of Fairfield Halls



# Fairfield Halls: 1960s theatre and concert hall

- Fairfield Halls was opened in 1962 by the Queen Mother
- Throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s played host to a series of greats, including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Stevie Wonder.

# Fairfield Halls 1960s entertainment venue



# Fairfield: the decline

- In recent years Fairfield Halls has been in decline.
- Changes to the music industry and touring meant Fairfield Halls now struggled to attract big names.
- The building was starting to show significant signs of wear and tear.

# Fairfield existing frontage





# Ageing building





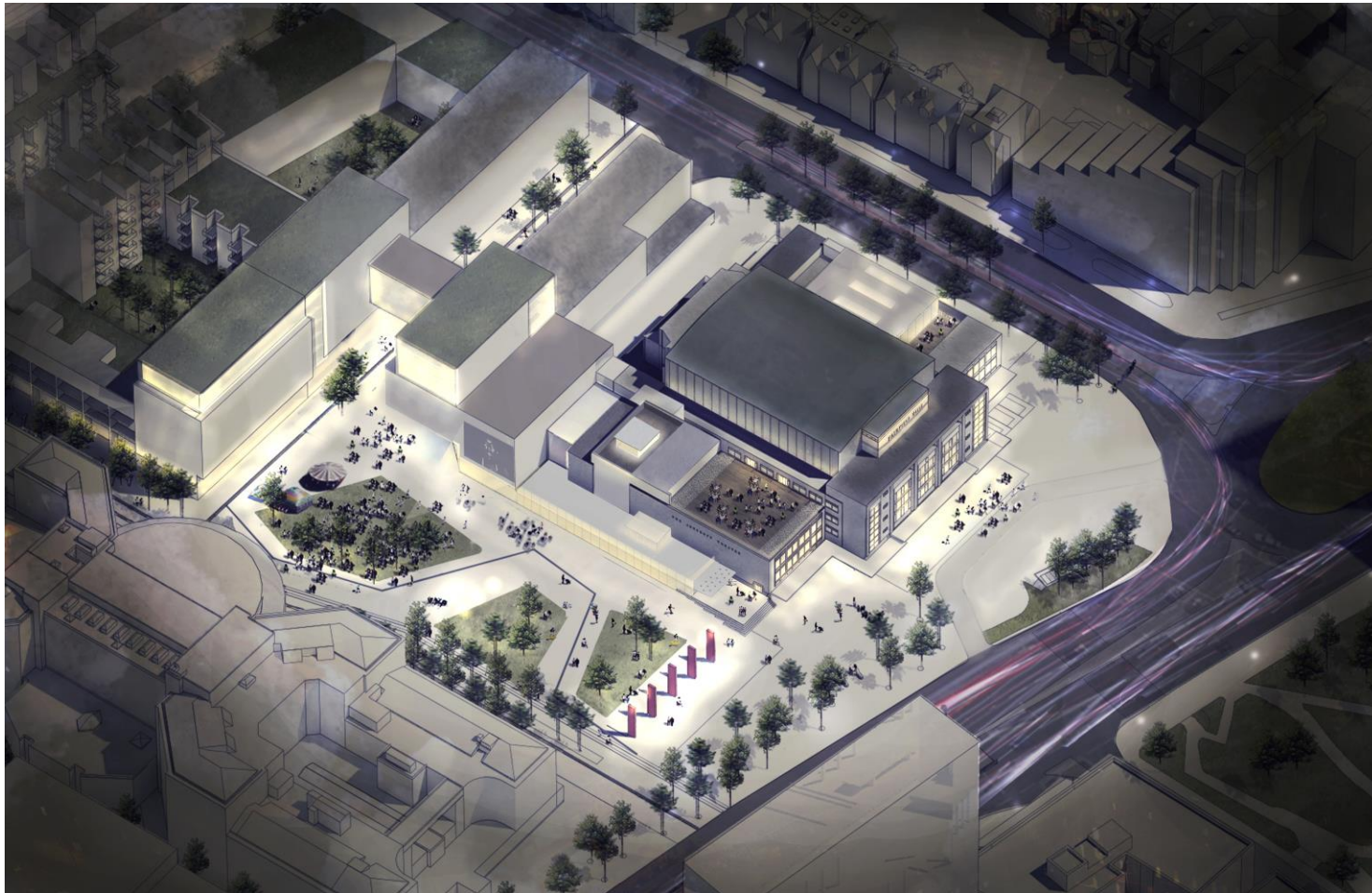
# Wear and tear inside the building



# Regeneration: an opportunity

- Croydon Council took the decision to revitalise this much loved but dated venue as part of the £5.25 billion regeneration of Croydon's town centre.
- There was a need to revitalise the area and reconnect it with the rest of the town centre.
- The vision for a stunning new cultural quarter - with Fairfield Halls at its heart - was approved in 2013.

# Aerial view at night



# A cultural quarter for Croydon

- A £30 million makeover will transform Croydon's Fairfield Halls into a state of the art performance venue at the centre of a stunning new cultural quarter in Croydon.
- The complete refurbishment of Fairfield Halls is the first stage in an ambitious regeneration to revitalise and reconnect this part of East Croydon with the rest of the town centre.



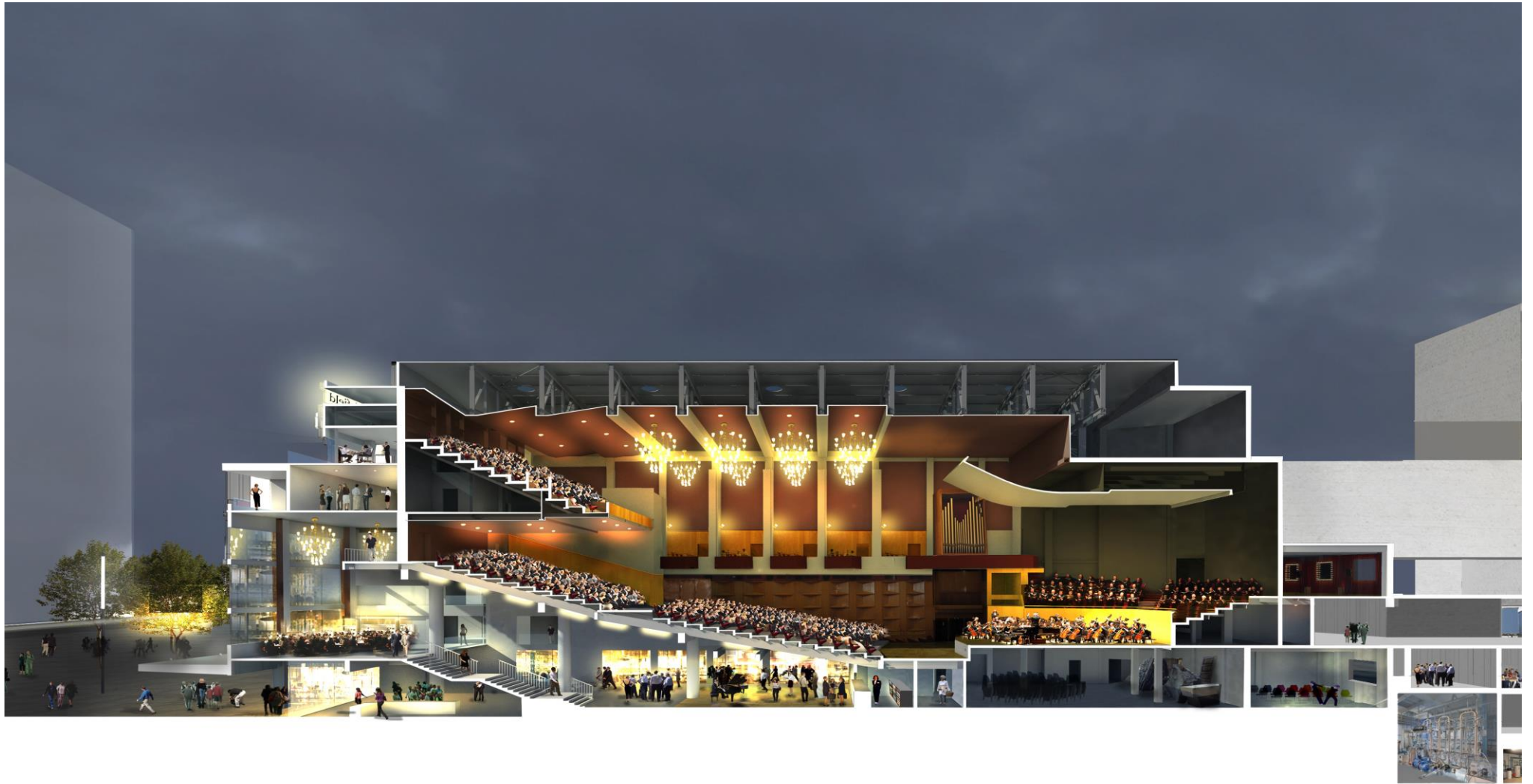
# View from college green



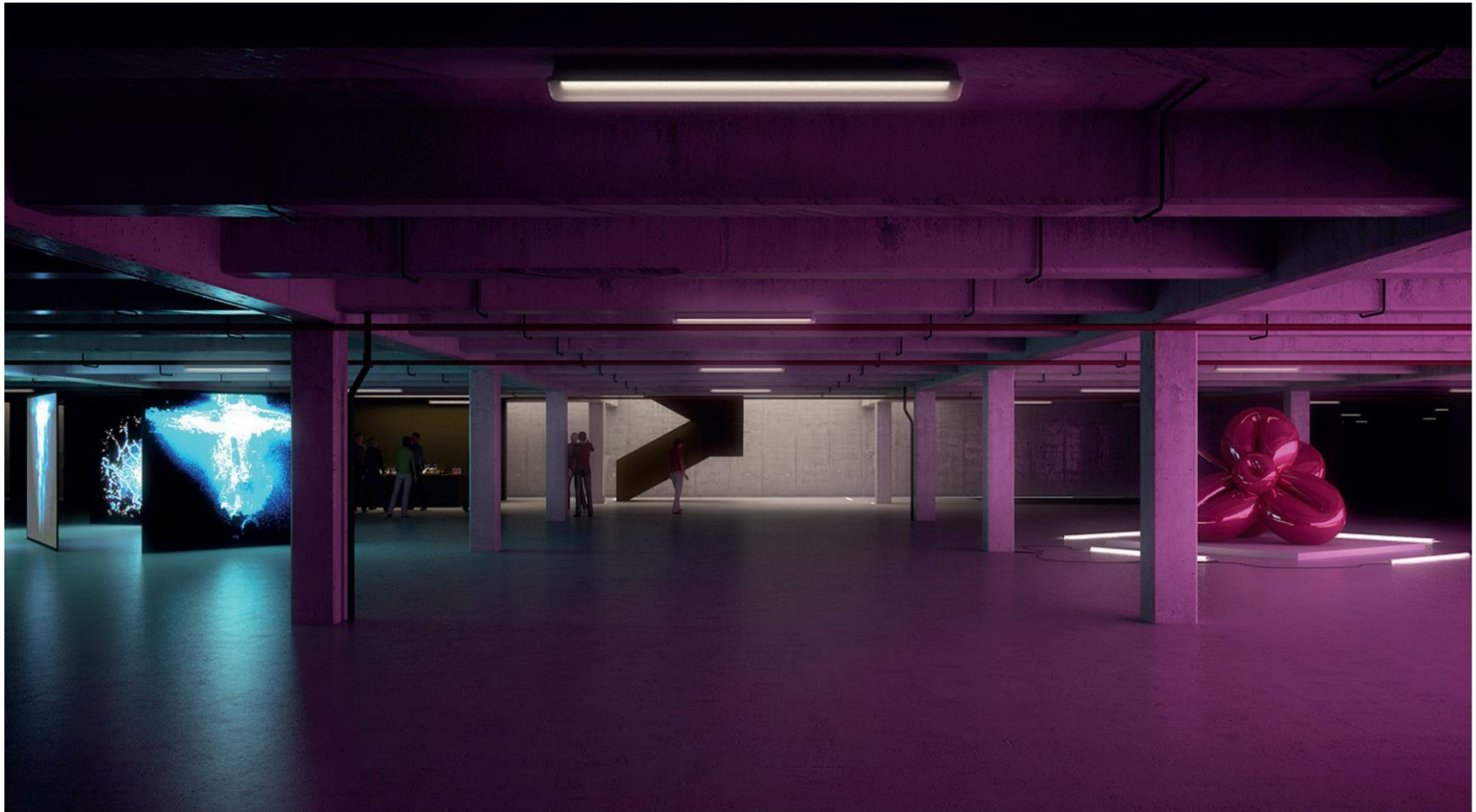


# Fairfield: the future

- Fairfield will become home to a vibrant new cultural quarter, creating a landmark destination for the arts in South London.
- The plans include a new, high-quality public space, a new college, a stunning 2000 m<sup>2</sup> art gallery, niche retail and office space as well as much-needed homes – as well as the fully refurbished and modernised Fairfield Halls.



# Art gallery



\_PROPOSED VIEW OF SUBTERRANEAN GALLERY

# Timescales

- The overall cultural quarter will take place over a 10 to 15 year period, delivered in three phases
- Phase 1, to be delivered by Brick by Brick, includes the refurbishment of Fairfield Halls, new homes on the site of the multi-storey car park, the enhancement of the public realm and the new Croydon College.





Hoardings were put up around the site in late July



# Progress

- Fairfield Halls is closed temporarily for the refurbishment. It will reopen in 2018.
- Hoardings are up around the site and surveys, including Asbestos survey, undertaken across the building
- Brick by Brick contractors are on site commencing ‘soft strip’ – the removal of all loose fixtures and fittings taking place this month
- Asbestos removal to start following soft strip



## **Contractors carrying out surveys in the concert hall**

Cllrs Timothy Godfrey and Alison Butler visit the site in October while surveys are being carried out.



## **Harrison & Harrison arrive to protect the organ during the work Fairfield Halls**

Fairfield Halls has a large organ worth approximately £1.4million, which has been part of the building since 1963. The council asked its makers Harrison & Harrison to advise on protecting the organ during the works. Here they are taking the console for storage at their workshop – the vertical pipes will be boxed in.

# New Fairfield Halls

