

ROCK + POPPINS

DESIGN ACCESS STATEMENT The Manchester Social

Date: 26th June 2024

1. APPLICATION DESCRIPTION

The Manchester Social
9 South King Street,
Manchester,
M2 6DG.

Application is for a tattoo studio comprising of reception on the ground floor, event space in Basement level -1 & tattoo treatment space in Basement level -2.

Access into the building is via a single raised step to the main entrance door.

Access to lower floors is limited to a narrow stair: the first flight down to basement -1 appears to be a recent addition within the last 10years. The final flight down to basement -2 looks to be the original stair.

Fire exists located on each of the basement floors.

2. PROPOSED FIT-OUT WORKS

Ground floor:

Introduction of a new DDA compliant W.C. to the ground floor. This will be an enhanced and larger space than the minimum requirements under current Building Regulations. This space will also act as a private treatment room with the same facilities and treatments available to able-bodied clients.

Basement -1:

To remain as existing.

Basement -2:

Minor partition alterations to basement -2 to open up the space to create a more open treatment studio. 2No. WC's will be available and new staff kitchen also provided.

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3. DESIGN STATEMENT

Signage:

No material external alterations to the building are proposed.

The proposed fascia sign on the Ridgefield elevation replaces the one that is already there.

Similarly, the proposed sign above the entrance door replaces one that is in situ.

The proposed fascia sign on the South King Street elevation reinstates a sign that was in situ when the unit was occupied by a previous tenant 'Lacey Fine Arts'. **Ref adjacent image:**



Heart motif rationale:

The proposed four hearts motif is a contemporary adaptation of a Celtic Love Knot which comprised of four hearts composed of one line - meaning a lifetime of love. A knot formed from one continuous line evoked eternity. Hearts symbolise love and relationships. While heart shaped love symbols are forefront, if you change your perspective, you can see an X in the middle of the Hearts, the space within... In rune lore, X is Gebo, meaning gift or fair exchange. In a lifetime of love, fair exchange of giving and receiving must be balanced. In numerology, every number has a certain power. The symbolic meaning of number four deals with stability and invokes the grounded nature of all things. Consider the four seasons, four directions, four elements...all these powerful essences brought together in one motif. Fours represent solidity, calmness and home.

4. ACCESS STATEMENT

As a general rule, we would always where possible try to cater for all, in respect of the design.

The premises are accessed via a single raised step into the studio reception area. A wheelchair ramp will be located nearby for the staff to enable access into the ground floor. Whilst unfortunately the premises do not allow for disabled access to the lower basements floors we have provided as outlined above a full offer on the ground floor to ensure that our disabled customers are treated to the exact same level of care and service as our able bodied customers.

To provide the same level of care deserved to all our customers, we are taking a disability-friendly approach. On one hand, our team members are required to undertake induction training that allows them to accommodate disabled customers. Regular training is given each 6 months to the staff as well. Disabled customers will not have to reach the counter at all. Any of the items or products that they might require will be served to them where they are. Furthermore, this location will have a removable payment card reader to ensure that customers in wheelchairs do not have to reach over to the counter to pay, a team member will bring the card reader to them.

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As part of our disability-friendly approach, we plan to always have at least 3 team members on shift and assign one of them to prioritise helping disabled customers. Team members will also ensure they help any ambulant disabled person if required. Team members are informed to proactively help the customer instead of waiting for them to ask.

We continue to review and assess how we can serve all our customers equally and take reasonable measures whenever we can to ensure that any disabled customer can enjoy the same experience as any other customer. The aforementioned measures that will be implemented in the new space will ensure that the space works well for all customers. We will continually review how we can do things differently to ensure the space is usable by all our guests and everyone feels welcome.
