

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/589

07 February 2018

Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
PO Box 732
Redhill
RH1 9FL

By e-mail: centralplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Application: 17/11326/FUL & 17/11327/LBC

Site: Queens Theatre Ltd, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1D 6BA

Proposal: Replacement shopfront and associated works

I write to **support** the above application and linked listed building application to replace the foyer doors and thresholds at the Queen's Theatre.

Remit:

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

Comment:

The Trust actively encourages theatre owners and operators to invest in their buildings to ensure they meet current building and safety standards and the expectations of audiences, staff, and performers. We note that the current doorsets at Queen's Theatre are in poor repair and provide an insufficient level of security. The applicant has proposed new double doorsets, fixed windows and solid screens; glass is to be specified with PVB interlayer to mitigate manual and ballast attack and blast. The internal threshold is to be refitted with new terrazzo to match the existing along with brass edge trims and a new mat-well system.

The appearance of the proposed doorsets is similar to the existing, and the reuse of existing pull handles is welcomed. Overall the Trust agrees with the conclusions in the Design & Access Statement by Curl la Tourelle Head Architecture (December 2017) that the scheme introduces an improved ground floor frontage to the theatre while conserving and enhancing the theatre's building fabric and areas of highest historical and architectural significance.

We support this application to improve safety and security at the Queen's Theatre, and therefore **recommend approval** of this proposal and the **granting of listed building consent**.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Tom Clarke
National Planning Adviser

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The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697