

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/206

28 November 2019

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Pending Applications
Development Planning
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By e-mail: southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Applications: 19/08653/LBC; 19/08785/FULL; 19/08783/LBC

Site: Theatre Royal Catherine Street London WC2B 5JF

Proposal: Redecoration of the facades of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane (including doors, window frames, balustrades, columns, lanterns and high-level Theatre signs) and external repairs and cleaning to the Russell Street façade; &

Variation of conditions 1, 14, 17 (i), 17 (ii), 17 (iii), 17 (iv) and 22 of Planning Permission dated 16 November 2018 (RN: 18/07079/FULL) which itself varied condition 17(i) of planning permission dated 12 December 2017 (RN 17/08082/FULL) for use of the ground floor and basement of no. 6 Catherine Street as a restaurant (use class A3), together with associated elevational changes at ground floor level (No. 6 Catherine Street); creation of a new opening between no. 6 Catherine Street and Vinegar Yard; enclosure of the rear part of Vinegar Yard; demolition of a redundant generator shed in Vinegar Yard; installation of exterior plant equipment on the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and Vinegar Yard; and the creation of a publically-accessible terrace on the Theatre Royal at the corner of Russell Street and Catherine Street. Internal works to the front of house, auditorium, stage area and back of house of the Theatre Royal; to allow the approved revolving doors to be replaced with double doors. NAMELY to allow amendments to the colour scheme of the theatre facades. (Linked to 19/08783/LBC): &

Variation of conditions 1, 2, 3, 6 (i), 6 (ii), 6 (iv) and 17 of listed building consent dated 19 August 2019 (RN: 19/03229/LBC) which itself varied condition 1 of listed building consent dated 11 December 2018 (RN: 18/07240/LBC) which itself varied conditions 1 and 6(i) and removal of conditions 10(iii) and 12 of listed building consent dated 12 December 2017 (RN 17/08085/LBC) for Internal works to the front of house, auditorium, stage area and back of house of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane; creation of a new opening between no. 6 Catherine Street and Vinegar Yard;

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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enclosure of the rear part of Vinegar Yard; demolition of a redundant generator shed in Vinegar Yard; installation of exterior plant equipment on the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and Vinegar Yard; and the creation of a publicly-accessible terrace on the Theatre Royal at the corner of Russell Street and Catherine Street. Namely, to allow amendments to the colour scheme of the theatre facades.

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:

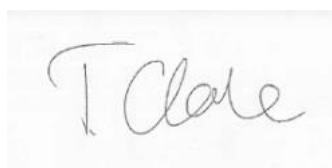
This set of applications for listed building consent and to vary conditions of applications 18/07079/FULL and 18/07240/LBC are associated with the current renovation and improvement project at Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Specifically, they are seeking redecoration of the theatre's facades along with general external repairs and cleaning.

Currently the external colour scheme for the theatre predominantly consists of a cream front façade and colonnades with blue joinery and detailing. Plans show an intention to refresh the cream façade, colonnade and cornices with two shades of stone – one for the front façade and the other for all other elements. Signage, doors, windows, front balcony railings and flambeaux will be painted in a 'regency' red with metal railings and pipework along Russell Street to be black.

We are supportive of the proposed decorative scheme. We would concur with the applicant's assessment that this scheme would enhance the character and setting of the building, and that it is reflective of colour schemes used in the Regency era. There is evidence that darker colours were previously in place. The use of two shades of stone do help accentuate the building's architectural features.

In terms of general repairs, it is important that health and safety as well as the general condition of the building are maintained. These works will rectify any existing deficiencies and help prevent future deterioration of this Grade I listed heritage asset. Therefore we **recommend the granting of planning permission and listed building consent** for these applications and the variation of previous conditions.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments further.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'T Clarke', is shown within a light blue rectangular border.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser