

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/206

03 June 2020

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Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
PO Box 732
Redhill,
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By e-mail: southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Applications: 20/03150/TCH

Site: Theatre Royal Catherine Street London WC2B 5JF

Proposal: Use of the public highway measuring 10.98m X 1.44m for the placing of 7 tables and 14 chairs adjacent to the Theatre Royal, Catherine Street.

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 application is seeking permission for the placing of tables and chairs on the highway and is associated with the current renovation and refurbishment project at Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

Theatre Royal Drury Lane is a cultural and heritage asset of great significance; it is one of the few theatres in the country to be statutorily Grade I listed reflecting that is of exceptional interest. It plays a key role in the overall 'West End' and 'Theatreland' cluster of theatres and entertainment venues which is recognised globally, bringing visitors into the area and contributing to London's attractiveness as a place to visit. The theatre is seeking to open their facilities to the wider public and provide more of an 'all-day' offer of which we are supportive.

Income from front-of-house sales and ancillary provision is becoming increasingly important in supporting the ongoing sustainability and viability of theatres and other cultural venues. This may be especially critical in the coming months until such time as theatres and other venues are able to open their auditoriums and facilities more fully.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591 E info@theatrestrust.org.uk W theatrestrust.org.uk

Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Simon Ricketts, Truda Spruyt

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

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The scale of this proposal is relatively modest but would help further activate Catherine Street without compromising pedestrian movement. Neither do we consider this would harm the amenity of nearby properties.

Therefore we are supportive of consent being granted for the placing of tables and chairs on the highway.

Please contact us if you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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