

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/206

23 December 2021

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

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

Application: 21/08239/TCH

Site: Theatre Royal Catherine Street London WC2B 5JF

Proposal: Use of two areas of the highway measuring 10.625m X 4.320m for the placing of 11 tables and 22 chairs and an area of 3.035m x .960m for the placing of 1 table and 2 chairs adjacent to the Theatre Royal, Catherine Street. The furniture will be placed on the southeastern end of Catherine Street, along a stretch of the pavement which will, once the tables and chairs are in place, provide for in excess of 2m unobstructed highway

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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust regarding this application for the placing of tables and chairs on the highway outside 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 is part of the West End's 'Theatreland' cluster of venues which is globally recognised and brings large numbers of visitors into the area. Together they contribute to London's attractiveness as a place to visit.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL
T 020 7836 8591 E info@theatrestrust.org.uk W theatrestrust.org.uk

Interim Chair Paddy Dillon Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, Paul Cartwright, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

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 theatre has recently re-opened following major refurbishment and has established a substantial 'all-day' food and drink offer. 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 is especially critical as theatres seek to recover from the pandemic and ongoing uncertainty.

We supported a similar proposal in 2020 at slightly smaller scale which was implemented in 2021. Similarly, we support this proposal. We consider it will help activate Catherine Street and contribute to the character of the public realm without compromising pedestrian movement, the amenity of nearby properties or the significance of the theatre as a heritage asset.

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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