

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/206

22 February 2023

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

Application: 23/00789/FULL

Site: Theatre Royal Catherine Street London WC2B 5JF

Proposal: Variation of Condition 5 of planning permission dated 26th January 2022 (RN:21/08239/TCH) for 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 0.960m for the placing of 1 table and 2 chairs adjacent to the Theatre Royal, Catherine Street Namely to allow the tables and chairs to be placed on the highway for a further one year.

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 on this application to vary a planning condition at Theatre Royal Drury Lane which would enable the theatre to utilise the highway for external seating for a further one year period. The existing Condition 5 of permission reference 21/08239/TCH permitted this use only until 31st January 2023, therefore now lapsed.

The Trust has supported both previous applications of this nature, the most recent in late 2021. The theatre has established a substantial ancillary all-day front of house offer which is helping contribute towards the sustainability and viability of this important heritage and cultural asset. We consider the additional outdoor seating further activates Catherine Street and contributes to the character and vitality of the public realm without compromising pedestrian movement or the

Theatres Trust

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

Chair Dave Moutrey **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Paul Cartwright, James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Lucy Osborne, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

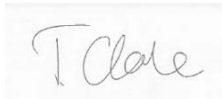
The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres
The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with the Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

significance of the theatre as a heritage asset. There are other food, leisure and hospitality venues in the immediate vicinity which make similar use of the highway.

The applicant has stated that no complaints have arisen from these activities in the previous year, and existing conditions manage hours of operation and other matters to protect the amenity of nearby residents.

Therefore we are supportive of consent being granted for the variation of Condition 5 and external seating to the theatre being maintained for a further period.

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



Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser