

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/680

10 January 2023

Holly Sharpley
Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
PO Box 732
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By e-mail: centralplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Application: 22/08345/FULL & 22/08346/LBC

Site: The Gielgud Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue London W1D 6AR

Proposal: Refurbishment and structural repairs main entrance canopy on Shaftesbury Avenue and side canopy on Rupert Street.

Remit:

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 these applications for planning permission and listed building consent at the Gielgud Theatre, which seek to repair and refurbish the canopy to its main entrance.

The need and rationale for these works has been clearly articulated, namely that within the front (Shaftesbury Avenue) canopy's primary structure there are some instances of corrosion likely from water penetration and there has been some movement and damage to one beam; there has been more extensive corrosion within the secondary structure and the plywood fascia has reached the end of its life. To the side canopy (Rupert Street) there is significant corrosion to the primary structure and some other damage to fittings. Therefore repair works are required both for reasons of safety and to help conserve the structure and its historic fabric and decorative elements.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL
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

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There will be some alteration to the decorative scheme of the canopy shields, glass panelling and light fittings but these can be considered sensitive to the theatre's significance and in any case those currently in place date from the works of 2007.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.

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

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