

Ref.: TC/2004

24 February 2025

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

Application: 25/00227/FULL

Site: Theatre Royal Catherine Street London WC2B 5JF

Proposal: Variation of condition 5 of planning permission dated 28th March 2023 (RN:23/00789/FULL) which itself varied an earlier planning permission dated 26 January 2022 (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 2 year temporary period.

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'.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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Chair Dave Moutrey OBE

Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Vicky Browning OBE, Anna Collins, James Dacre, Suba Das, Liam Evans-Ford, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Tracy Ann Oberman, Lucy Osborne, Saratha Rajeswaran, Truda Spruyt, Michèle Taylor MBE, Katie Town

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund supports the work of The Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

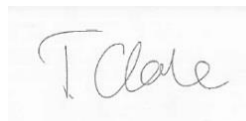
Comment:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application to vary planning condition 5 of permission reference 23/00789/FULL at Theatre Royal Drury Lane. This seeks to enable the theatre to continue utilising the highway for external seating for a further two year period. The existing condition lapses in March 2025.

We have supported both previous applications, the original temporary permission in 2022 and the previous 2023 variation of condition. The theatre has established a substantial ancillary all-day front of house offer which contributes towards the sustainability and viability of this important heritage and cultural asset. We consider the additional outdoor seating helps activate Catherine Street and contributes to the character and vitality of the public realm without compromising pedestrian movement or the 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. Existing conditions manage hours of operation and other matters to protect the amenity of nearby residents.

We are therefore again supportive of consent being granted for the variation of this planning condition enabling external tables and seating being maintained for a further period.

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



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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