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**From:** james monahan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 December 2023 20:21  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Listed Building Planning Application Ref 2023/4072/L

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Dear Sir/'Madam

It is with incredulity that I am writing to object to the planning application to reinstate the water fountain at Princess Circus WITHOUT it being reinstated as a working drinking fountain.

Undertakings were made by the Council that the fountain would be repaired and reinstated as a working water fountain as part of the West End Road Project .In a very sly manner the traffic and engineer's department appear to be trying to cover up their errors by merely reinstating the fountain but not as a working fountain. This is totally unacceptable.

The more than pathetic claim by the West End Project team that has turned locals lives upside down with the traffic re-arrangements over the past three years with their fabulously expensive scheme, is that they have not sufficient monies to provide a water connection to the fountain and to carry out the necessary repairs to the fountain so that it can once again discharge water is completely unbelievable.

It is much more likely that the Team only recently realised that they had failed to install a water connection as part of the vastly expensive and hugely delayed construction work creating Princess Circus public Open space when the works took place some two years late . Rather than admit their errors they are now endeavouring to find other ways to reinstate the water fountain without abiding by the obligations and undertakings that were made by the West End Project in the past. that the fountain would be a *working* water fountain.

If money is the problem then surely the section 106 monies for 'public realm improvements' from the Post House and other commercial developments that the Council has granted planning permission can be used for this project.

The application for listed building consent should be refused as it fails to undertake to reinstate the restored water fountain as a working water fountain.

If, as I am sure the West End Team will claim, that a working water fountain will attract anti-social behaviour or be a health and safety concern or some such spurious justification to obscure the fact that they have mishandled the whole reinstatement of the water fountain, what is much more of concern is the failure to have sufficient litter bins commensurate with the quantity of seating that has been provided. Coupled to the inadequate collection of rubbish that is now spread about around the few bins that have been provided or stuffed into the planting troughs behind the bench seating, is a health hazard and attracts anti-social behaviour and this is a direct result of the West End Project Team's handling of how to design and maintain the public open space that has been created outside the Shaftesbury Theatre . Rather than being a public asset it often looks like a large collection point or take away food containers.

To my mind the application must be referred to a full planning committee meeting and a truthful report be made as to how the West End Project Team has mishandled the reinstatement of a working water fountain, should be provided and exposed to full public scrutiny.

Yours faithfully

Jim Monahan

