

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2024/0993/P	Koula achillra	16/05/2024 19:20:46	COMMNT	I fully support these plans And believe they will positively impact all areas
2024/0993/P	Sarah Hartshorn	16/05/2024 19:04:58	PETITNSUP P	Please keep the garden it's such a beautiful place
2024/0993/P	Sheila Hayman	16/05/2024 11:11:21	OBJ	This proposal is unnecessary - nobody needs any more luxury hotels in the West End - and destructive; the new structure will loom over the Phoenix Garden, a rare and precious haven of nature in a noisy and crowded neighbourhood, kept in existence by the passion, dedication and volunteer labour of many people. It is a carbon crime: demolition and rebuilding emits many times the carbon of normal refurbishment. It will not enhance the quality of life of local residents or business owners - quite the reverse. The existing theatre could easily be refurbished with much lower emissions, if refurbishment is needed. Adding the extra floors serves no positive end apart from enriching the developers, Yoo Capital, a company registered offshore with no loyalty to London and no objectives beyond profit. I object to this in the strongest possible terms.

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2024/0993/P	Richard Friedhoff	16/05/2024 11:17:14	INT	<p>Since the 1970s, there has been a war between developers who care nothing about the special historical qualities of the Covent Garden, West-End theatre and cultural district, and those who recognize that the economic well-being of this area depends entirely upon preserving its special character. The ambitious, know-nothing developers who wanted to level the entire district, and replace it with a concrete landscape, worthy of devastated Eastern-European cities, would have condemned it in perpetuity to ignominy, and economic privation.</p> <p>Fortunately, those short-sighted destroyers of economic value were stopped, and Covent Garden and the theatre district has consequently thrived. Nonetheless, visionless, and conscienceless, contemporary developers still try to sabotage, wherever and whenever they can, that which was preserved. As with their perfidious progenitors, they hope to make a short-term profit, by damaging the engine that drives economic prosperity for the long run. Essentially they are robbing the community of its precious resources, for private gain. This is in contrast to ethical developers who seek to add to the longterm economic vitality of an area with their projects.</p> <p>Sadder still than this bleak picture, is the fact that the community thought this matter had been decisively litigated just a short time ago, when citizens from all walks of life united to work tirelessly against the desecration of this treasure--and thought they had succeeded. Yet, here we are again, with developers attempting to wear the community down, by simply refashioning elements of the proposal, but still proposing to annihilate this historical structure that is an essential part of what makes this area what it is. Put simply, there are a limited number of surviving theaters-- this is one of them. It is precious.</p> <p>Other puzzling happenings in this district, where developers have been given free-license to do as they please, are beginning to suggest that the supposed protectors of the historical character of our area are entirely in the thrall of commercial developers. The appearance is that they have abandoned their responsibilities to the residents and current business owners who wish to protect our area because it is unique in the world. Increasingly, friends and neighbors I have spoken to, are wondering why those who are paid by the community to protect this area, seem to favor the interests of those who obviously do not care about it. I have heard very suspicious and cynical claims.</p> <p>I would like to refer all involved to a recent book written by a friend of mine, Karen Brooks Hopkins, who was the President of the famed Brooklyn Academy of Music for several decades called "BAM: And Then it Hit Me!" This book tells you everything you need to know about why this theatre should be protected.</p> <p>Among other things, her book documents in detail how how the Brooklyn Academy of Music, played a key role in the transformation of Brooklyn from a has-been borough of New York City, to the hippest, most prosperous cultural center in America, and one of the most important in the world. The cultural activities of BAM, let to, literally, hundreds of billions of dollars in economic benefits to the borough.</p> <p>No one is suggesting that this theatre is the equivalent to the Brooklyn Academy of Music. However, what Karen's book proves categorically, something we all know from living here, is that culture, the presence of our theatres, is essential to our economic prosperity-- every one of them.</p> <p>Our Council, in recent years, whatever drives the motivations of the individuals involved, has apparently abandoned this principle, and has either adopted, or uses as an excuse, the false dichotomy, that we need to</p>

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surrender old, cultural buildings, to modern business, and to practicality.

Karen's book demonstrates concretely the folly of this view. It is a lie promoted by commercial interests who do not care about our future or the economic vitality of our community. It is the same lie told in the 70s, which would have enriched a few developers while destroying an essential center for the economic prosperity of the United Kingdom, as the unique theatrical district is. The current project of a smaller version of the old lie, and it is especially troubling at a time when our country is economically struggling, and we need to protect like a lioness our remaining engines of prosperity.

With few industries succeeding domestically and internationally like our theater and film, selling out the heritage of the West End is a disgrace. If anyone involved has divided loyalty, as scuttlebutt has it, they are betraying not only our community but the country.

This is a precious building. It is a wondrous survivors of the long list of developers who have sought to destroy the West End. Given the short-sightedness, avarice, diabolical creativity, and plain old corruption of all those who have been willing, for personal enrichment, to make our community poorer by robbing our heritage and economic engine, we are very lucky to have this treasure.

This building must be preserved as a theatre. There is literally no place on earth like our community. People come by the millions from all over the world to be here, because of our heritage. There is can be no economic justification for our community for turning a precious theatre, an astonishing miracle of survival, into yet another hotel when there are perfectly fine buildings that can be made into hotels with no loss of what is most precious to us.

It is time to settle this matter once and for all to repudiate forever this vulgarian and plainly dishonest plan to rip-off the community. Those given the responsibility of protecting the precious assets of our area, and the country as a whole, whatever the enticements that accrue to their positions, need to remember who they work for and to whom their loyalty belongs.

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2024/0993/P	Howard Panter	16/05/2024 14:54:57	SUPPRT	Dear Alex,

I am writing to express my strong support for the redevelopment proposal of the Saville Theatre, 135 Shaftesbury Avenue (2024/0993/P) .

This project will restore live performance to this iconic theatreland building, bringing world-class entertainment from Cirque du Soleil to London in a permanent setting for the first time. This is a fantastic vote of confidence in London's cultural development and will bring benefits to the community and Borough, through Cirque's extensive outreach programme as set out below.

- Free and discounted Cirque du Soleil tickets for local people and organisations
- Programmes of engagement with young people and schools
- Performances outside of the theatre, in hospitals and schools
- Partnerships with schools to upskill teachers and educational providers

Thank you for considering my letter of support, and I encourage you to grant this application. Best wishes,

Kind Regards,

Sir Howard Panter
