

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/3115

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Laura Hazleton
Regeneration & Planning
Development Management
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
Judd Street
London
WC1H 9JE

By e-mail: planning@camden.gov.uk

Application: 2018/6045/P & 2018/6047/L

Site: Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) 16-18 Cheries Street London WC1E 7PA

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) and condition 4 (green roof details) of planning permission 2015/5759/P dated 14/08/2018 for the "demolition of part of rear of 16 and 18 Cheries Street; alterations, extensions (including at basement level) and general refurbishment to 16-18 Cheries Street to create Richard Attenborough Theatre, new refectory, bar and kitchen, library, exhibition space, ancillary offices and student accommodation"; namely, reduction in the number of theatre seats, reduction in student rooms, relocation of green roof, creation of basement extensions, access ramp and associated internal and external alterations; & Part demolition of stage block to Drill Hall. Erection of rear extensions, alterations and general refurbishment to 16 Cheries Street to create 268 seat Richard Attenborough Theatre and library including new mezzanine floor and basement excavation and new access ramp.

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:

The Trust welcomed and supported the original application (2015/5759/P) although we noted some recommendations for the applicant to refine the proposal and help ensure the theatre is sustainable.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591

F 020 7836 3302

E info@theatrestrust.org.uk

W theatrestrust.org.uk

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The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

As set out within the applicant's supporting documentation, we were engaged to provide advice on the theatre element of these revisions as part of the pre-application process. We were supportive of the applicant's plans for the site, which overall we consider will deliver a more flexible and functional theatre space that respects and celebrates the special architectural and historic significance of this heritage asset.

We therefore recommend the granting of **planning permission and listed building consent**.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss this representation further.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser