

Planning - Development Control  
Camden Council  
Camden Town Hall  
London  
WC1H 8ND

21 March 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

## **FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR A TEMPORARY USE THE BRITISH LIBRARY, 96 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, NW1 2DB**

A Full planning application has been prepared and submitted via the planning portal (Reference: PP-07719153) on behalf of The British Library. The application seeks Full planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, at The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB for the following:

*“Erection of a marquee structure to provide temporary event space within the British Library’s piazza for a period of 7 weeks.”*

The Applicant has acknowledged that The British Library is Grade I listed, in accordance with Historic England’s listing records, so has therefore cautiously considered national and local planning policy to ensure no substantial harm will be caused to the listed building.

### Proposal

Due to the success of the temporary marquee in May last year and the increased level of public interest in the work and cultural programme of the British Library, it is proposed for a marquee to be erected within the piazza to provide temporary event space. The proposed marquee will be exactly the same as the marquee which was approved and erected for a temporary period of 8 weeks, in May 2018 (LPA Reference: 2018/1316/P). The scale, location and materials of the marquee, as well as methods of fixing and installation will replicate the application which was approved last year, as detailed below.

The piazza is located within the central area of the British Library surrounded by the main building, as shown on the Location Plan (Drawing No. BL/000/200/SP/A1/01). The piazza comprises an area of open space which is used for the enjoyment of visitors to the Library and as a cut through for members of the public, to get to surrounding locations.

The proposal will enhance the service offer of the Library, providing an opportunity for visitors to engage in talks and small performances about the collections of the Library. The proposal provides a positive opportunity to enhance the usability and enjoyment of the open space.

The marquee will be erected for a total of 7 weeks, with an anticipated time period of the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019-20<sup>th</sup> June 2019. During this time, the marquee will operate during licencing hours, with maximum planned hours of

operation during the hours of 09:00-22:00 on any given day. As this proposal is for temporary use for more than 28 days the need to apply for planning permission is acknowledged.

#### Structure Specification

The positioning and size of the marquee have been carefully considered, given the sites designation and surrounding heritage assets. The marquee will be positioned on the edge of the piazza on the boundary opposite the main entrance point to the Library, north of the entrance point from Poet's Circle, as shown on the Proposal Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/201/GF/A1/12).

The marquee will comprise a 9x9 marquee with additional 3x3 cube pods, to cover a total area of 135sqm, as shown on the Proposal Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/201/GF/A1/12). The elevation of the marquee will be 4.5m at its highest point, as shown on the Elevation Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/986/GF/A3).

Images and additional details of the design and layout of the marquee is provided within the Design and Access Statement which forms part of this submission.

#### Heritage

The proposed development is compliant with both National and Local Planning Policy, as set out below and within the detailed Heritage Statement which has been submitted in support of this application.

Section 16 of the NPPF (2018) sets out the approach to be taken for the consideration of Listed Buildings, of particular relevance are Paragraphs 189 -194 which seek to protect heritage assets (inclusive of Grade I listed buildings) by resisting the approval of planning applications which will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of an asset. In line with these requirements, substantial weight has been given to the conservation of The British Library and it is considered that the erection of this marquee will have no substantial impact on or loss of the significance of the heritage asset. The marquee will not be fixed to any part of the piazza.

Policy D2 (Heritage and Conservation) of Camden's New Local Plan (adopted 03 July 2017) seeks to preserve and enhance Camden's heritage assets and their settings. In accordance with the policy requirements, this temporary proposed use and nature of the facility, which fully supports the function of the Library, will not result in the loss of, or substantial harm to the designated heritage asset, affect the preservation and will not cause harm to the special architectural or historic interest of the listed building.

#### Open Space Designation

It is acknowledged that the Piazza is an allocated area of open space within Camden's Local Plan (adopted July 2017) and therefore subject to Policy A2 (Open Space). The policy states that the Council will seek to protect, all designated public and private open spaces and resist development which would be detrimental to the setting of designated open spaces. However, *"exceptionally, and where it meets a demonstrable need, support small scale development which is associated with the use of the land as open space and contributes to its use and enjoyment by the public."* In addition, to protect open spaces the Council will conserve and enhance the heritage value of the designated open space and other elements of open space which contribute to the character and appearance to the setting of the heritage assets.

On this basis, the proposed temporary use is considered to fully accord with the requirements of Policy A2, as it will enhance the service provision at the Library and contribute significantly to the use of the open space and enjoyment it can offer to members of the public. The marquee which was erected last year was well attended and enjoyed by members of the public and considered to be a great success by the British Library.

#### Schedule of works

As identified on the submitted Proposals Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/201/GF/A1/12) the poles which support the marquee structure will be anchored to a wooden floor, which means there will be no requirement for the structure to be physically fixed to the ground or any other part of the Listed Building.

Given the minor works required to construct the marquee, there are considered to be no impacts at all on the fabric of the Listed Building or its surroundings.

Listed Building Consent Validation Requirements

In accordance with Camden Council's validation requirements, the following documents have been submitted in support of the application:

- Application and CIL Forms;
- Site Location Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/200/SP/A1/01);
- Site Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/200/SP/A3/01);
- Marquee Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/986/GF Sh1);
- Ground Floor Proposed Plan (Drawing No. BL/0000/201/GF/A1/12);
- Proposed Elevation - View A and D (Drawing No. BL/0000/986/GF Sh3);
- Proposed Elevation - Views B and C (Drawing No. BL/0000/986/GF Sh2);
- Photographs (included within the DAS);
- Design and Access Statement, prepared by Carter Jonas;
- Heritage Statement, prepared by Carter Jonas;
- Installation note, prepared by Hector's Haus Marquee Hire; and
- Schedule of Works (included within this covering letter).

In respect of the planning application fee, payment of £944 (Inc. £20 service charge) has been made via the planning portal. In accordance with the temporary marquee application last year, a CIL form has been completed and submitted to meet the validation requirements, however, given that the application is for a temporary use, the proposal is not required to pay CIL.

I trust that the enclosed information is sufficient for the application to be promptly validated. However, should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Ruby Wilkinson ([ruby.wilkinson@carterjonas.co.uk](mailto:ruby.wilkinson@carterjonas.co.uk)) at the above office.

Yours Sincerely



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