

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/1984

23 November 2020

Adam Greenhalgh
Development Management
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
Judd Street
London
WC1H 9JE

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

Application: 2020/1753/P

Site: 25 Shelton Street London WC2H 9HW

Proposal: Erection of extension within rear courtyard at ground floor level; alterations and removal of existing canopy to the ground floor rear elevation, all in association with the existing basement and ground floor unit (Class A1/Sui-generis)

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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust regarding this latest application for development within the courtyard of 25 Shelton Street. The Trust has objected to two previous applications, the most recent in November 2019 (application 2019/4573/P), on the basis of it preventing access to the Cambridge Theatre for maintenance and repairs by enclosing the courtyard.

Whilst the design of this scheme is improved in that it no longer builds up to the wall of the theatre, there remains very limited room for access for the purposes of maintenance and repairs with just a 550mm access perimeter clearance. As per our previous responses, this could have a detrimental impact on the ability of the theatre and its operator to maintain the building, thereby risking its conservation as a cultural and heritage asset and in turn compromising the comfort and safety of audiences, performers and staff.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591 **E** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **W** theatrestrust.org.uk

Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Simon Ricketts, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

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As such we continue to object to this proposal and remain open to working with the applicant, the operator of Cambridge Theatre and the Council to find an appropriate way forward.

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

Yours sincerely,

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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