

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2029

31 October 2022

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Development Management
London Borough of Camden
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By e-mail: planning@camden.gov.uk

Application: 2022/3616/L

Site: The Shaftesbury Theatre 210 Shaftesbury Avenue London WC2H 8DP

Proposal: Details of Condition 4 (Auditorium Seating) of planning reference 2017/7073/L dated 29/10/18 for refurbishment of GII listed theatre involving various internal and external alterations including internal demolition, basement extensions, creation of new entrance fronting Princes Circus, partial layout changes at all floors, replacement auditorium seating, installation of accessible lift, replacement facade lighting as well as internal, roof and facade repairs.

Remit:

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 the Trust regarding this application for approval of condition 4(i) of permission 2017/7073/ in relation to auditorium seating at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

The condition required detailed drawings or material samples including details of finishes of all new auditorium seating with a report detailing the new seating based compared to original design and layout.

The application has been submitted with a detailed report describing the significance of the building with descriptions, historic plans and current and historic images of its seating. This is accompanied by proposed seating plans and specifications for future layout.



Chair Dave Moutrey Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Paul Cartwright, James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Lucy Osborne, 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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There is to be general upgrading of seating as part of the overall refurbishment project which has been undertaken at the theatre. In particular DDA-accessible seating positions will be located around the stalls further necessitating some change. Improvement of accessible provision is to be welcomed and better inclusivity constitutes a public benefit which can mitigate any less-than-substantial harm which could arise through alteration. Nonetheless sample photos and specifications of the new seating has been provided which in any case we consider to be compatible with and sensitive to the current appearance and significance of the auditorium.

Therefore we can support the discharge of this condition.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments further.



Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser



Chair Dave Moutrey **Director** Jon Morgan

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