



HOLLAND PARK OPERA CANOPY – URGENT ACTION!

The Friends of Holland Park Committee is seriously concerned about an addition to Opera Holland Park's annual planning application for the canopy in front of Holland House in 2013. For the first time, they have also applied for permission to leave the canopy in place over the winter, 2013/14. It would become a permanent fixture.

Our concern is:

- The location is very special as the focal point of Holland Park, enjoyed by many for the view of the house and its historical associations. Holland House is Grade 1 listed, and of national importance, so deserves to be seen to best advantage for the majority of the year, a requirement recognised by previous planning consents.
This clear view of the House would no longer be seen at any time in the year.
- Previous planning permission was restricted to a limited period each summer *'to ensure sufficient periods for this heritage asset to be enjoyed without interruption from the theatre and to allow the Local Planning Authority to assess the development in the light of changing circumstances and in recognition of the open character of the Park and the setting of the Listed Building'*. Confirmed strategy and policies are in place to protect the open character of the site and its designation as an historic park, and the setting of the Grade 1 Listed building.
Extending the period would infringe policy and strategy agreements.
- The Friends spent 13 years persuading the Royal Borough of the need to conserve the House and of the added value of opening up the Terrace to the general public. The Council invested substantial funds (well in excess of £100,000) in conserving the Holland House frontage, landscaping the terrace and creating a wonderful, tranquil space for residents and visitors, which has been universally enjoyed and appreciated.
This money will have been spent in vain; visitors' access to the terrace and views of the House will be seriously compromised at all times.
- A permanent canopy would require continuous maintenance and cleaning. Being exposed to the elements for 12 months of the year could also reduce its lifespan.
This will reduce any savings the Council hopes to make through no longer erecting and dismantling the canopy annually.

Please take urgent action – public consultation ends on 11 Jan 2013.

If you share our concern, please take immediate action by:

1. Stating your objection in an email to the RBKC planning department at planning@rbkc.gov.uk, reference planning application PP/12/04854.

Or,

2. Writing to Claire Shearing, Planning and Borough Development Department, RBKC, Ground Floor, Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX, quoting reference PP/12/04854.