

The **PAVILION** Theatre **Glasgow**

20th April 2018

It has now been fully 4 weeks since the fire in Sauchiehall Street Glasgow. In terms of timescale, it does not feel long to some people but to us at the Pavilion Theatre, it has been one of the longest months we have ever had.

We have managed to reschedule 12 different shows, unfortunately had to cancel 8 shows and have announced 2 new ones. In doing this we have made contact to and updated regularly over 36,000 customers by direct telephone contact, direct mail, personal email, social media and our website. Hopefully we have carried this out acceptably and successfully and kept as many of our customers as up to date as possible and once again thank everyone for their loyal support and kind comments.

We now turn to 'the other side' that are becoming more and more frustrating with little or no updates from the Council powers that be. Raymond Barlow, Assistant Head of Building and Planning for Glasgow City Council, is to be honest little or no help continually refusing simple requests. Not just to us, but we would think that all affected businesses are in the same position.

We are not asking for much to be honest. Just a short window to be allowed to gain access to the theatre to make sure everything is still ok and there are no water leaks or damage that could get potentially worse if we just leave it as four weeks is a long time to leave a building of this age unattended.

Glasgow City Council may have a policy to let its own unoccupied buildings deteriorate, which is well documented, but we are not going to allow the Pavilion to get into a state of disrepair. We have spent so many years bringing this up to, what is, one of the best kept theatres in Glasgow and have done this without the help of funds or subsidies from the council or Scottish Government. Both we and the Council Officers have a duty of care to protect one of Glasgow's most important historic and cultural buildings and feel that it is currently irresponsible to just allow it to be left to potentially rot away as who knows what damage has happened inside and we call on Historic Scotland to get involved to help protect one of its Class A listed buildings as Glasgow simply cannot afford to lose another historic building.


Where are our Councillors? Where is the leader of the Council? They are all great at going on various news programmes with the usual political sound bites saying they are helping everyone. We have personally have heard very little from any of them, in fact who is the elected members for our area? We have just Goggled this, It is Lord Provost Eva Bolander. We can state for the record that we have heard nothing from her or from the Leader of the Council Susan Aitken and as for the other 3 local councillors for the area, we have a single email of communication from Councillor Ballie Mearns, Philip Braat and Kenny McLean but these were not constructive and were just an acknowledgment of emails sent to them.


Surely by this time, they should have contacted all the affected businesses to lend their support, given what we all pay in rates and how important that these businesses are to the people of Glasgow and visitors. We are not asking for any financial support. We are simply requesting to be updated on the time scale involved in getting access to the theatre. There must be someone in the council that has this knowledge and can communicate this. Just how can they justify keeping us all in the dark with little or no information? How can we communicate and update so many people easily with a very minimum of staff and the Council with all their facilities and staff fail miserably to communicate with the few affected businesses. It does not make sense.

Maybe it is because together with our customers we are only ones who seem to care about Glasgow's iconic Pavilion Theatre.

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We have had more support from MP'S and MSP'S, but clearly their hands are tied with issues relating to the City Council but welcome their continued support and encourage them to do whatever they can to at least get us updates.


What do we do next? The answer is that we need to wait until Raymond Barlow decides it is safe to get in to the theatre as it seems that he is the only person within the council that can do or say anything, but we feel that it is now time to question the legality of continually denying us access. He deems the theatre and the exclusion zone around the theatre to be unsafe under the Dangerous Building Act but has portable toilets and porta cabins outside our front doors in Renfield Street. They also have demolition workers private cars parked right up against our building in Renfrew Street, they have workers in the area with no protective clothing, no hard hats, no his viz vests or no protective footwear. These maybe sounds a bit trivial but either the theatre is unsafe or not and given simple health and safety legislation and common sense, why allow workers to park cars or use the toilet in an unsafe area?


What we need is the help of a good qualified legal expert in this area to assist us to gain access, so if there is anyone out there that can help bring life back into the theatre, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Once again, we hope this keeps everyone up to date on where we find ourselves at this moment in time and remind all our customers that they are not **demolishing us** and that we are still open for business and have set up a remote box office 0141 332 1846 which is open Monday to Saturday, from 10am till 6pm and also you can see and book online a full list of current shows at paviliontheatre.co.uk.

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