



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Mr Neil Bearcroft
Planning Officer
Kirklees MBC

Manor House
Skeeby
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 5DX

DC.Admin@kirklees.gov.uk

conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

18th July 2020

Dear Mr Bearcroft

Ref: 2020/ 91591 Erection of extensions, demolition and refurbishment of existing vacant care home and coach house to create care facility (class C2), external and internal alterations and erection of activities cabin (Class C2) (within a Conservation Area). Green View House, 34, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4EZ.

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to proposed development affecting Greenhead Park, a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens, as per the above application, at grade II. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is a member organisation of the GT and works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of registered sites, and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

34 Greenhead Road is a large prominent three storey unlisted Victorian villa with its rear elevation facing north over Park Drive South and Greenhead Park. Greenhead Park is the significant public park in the centre of Huddersfield formally opened in 1884 and set in a contemporary estate development of which 34 Greenhead Road forms a part. The property overlooks the monumental two-sided promenade terrace and War Memorial. We understand that 34 Greenhead Road was originally called 'Longdenholme', and was built in 1890/1 for Joseph Woodhead, founder of The Huddersfield Examiner and later mayor of Huddersfield and MP for Spen Valley. It is considered to be a non-designated heritage asset and is set within the Greenhead Park/ New Road Conservation Area.

Unfortunately, 34 Greenhead Road has been subject to some unsympathetic alterations during the 20th century. In addition, the site has been left vacant since 2012 and has fallen into a poor state of repair. This quality application should bring the buildings and grounds into good use whilst respecting the heritage assets. The existing trees should visually shield the proposed nine new parking spaces – we trust that the trees and their root plates will be carefully managed.

The only aspect about which we have concerns is the design and finish of the replacement and prominent fire escape on the west elevation which is visible from Greenhead Park. We note that your Authority's Conservation Officer and Huddersfield Civic Society also have concerns about this and trust that a better solution can be found.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust support this planning application subject to the external structure of the proposed fire escape being changed from “perforated metal sheets” to one that is sympathetic to the style of this property in a conservation area and its visibility from the registered Greenhead Park.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee and Chairman Conservation and Planning

Cc Historic England (e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk); Margie Hoffnung, the Gardens Trust