



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

Vice-presidents: Lady Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Mr Nick Hirst
Planning Officer
Kirklees MBC

Manor House
Skeeby
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 5DX

conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

DC.Admin@kirklees.gov.uk

26th October 2021

Dear Mr Hirst

2021/93674 Partial redevelopment of Greenhead college including demolition and making good, erection of 2 and 4 storey buildings, reconfiguration of parking and access arrangements, reconfiguration of sports provision and other associated external works (Within a Conservation Area), Greenhead College, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4ES

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.

Greenhead Park is the significant public park in the centre of Huddersfield formally opened in 1884. Greenhead College, covering a fairly large area, (the former Greenhead High School for Girls), lies on rising ground immediately south east of the park on Park Drive South, part of the park's perimeter road constructed in 1882.

We were pleased to be consulted and offer advice on the proposals in our letter of 2nd September to Ms Anne Hargreaves, Director of Avison Young:

Our point 1: regarding a landscape plan. We are pleased to see the planting strategy plan including retention of existing trees, proposed ornamental planting, woodland planting, wildflower planting, green roof and new trees round the student hub. Our concern would be with the maintenance of these areas; which although they are commendable, will require a considerable degree of maintenance both for the first three to five years until the areas are established, and then a schedule of monitoring and maintenance thereafter with commensurate funding allocated specifically for these areas. This is particularly so for all the herbaceous planting ie ornamental planting shade, ornamental planting sun, and woodland herb layer. A flowering lawn can be quite difficult to establish and maintain; eg needing mowing only after flowering (say late July into August depending on flowering species in the mix), to allow seed to fall. It maybe that monitoring and maintenance by students overseen by interested staff could be part of the approach. The green roof, presumably a wildflower biodiverse roof, will be a beneficial addition but some maintenance will be required to keep it in good condition. This includes cutting it back in about July, depending on the season, to reduce

the vigour of the grasses and allow sufficient light for the flowering plants to compete with the grasses again the following spring. Allowing flower seed to be shed is also important.

Regarding the impact of the proposed development on Greenhead Park and the Conservation Area, the existing boundary trees are important and we trust that there will be a tree replacement strategy for any that fail.

We are pleased to note the permeable elements of the hard landscaping and support the introduction of permeable and green surfaces as much as possible, and also the retention of vegetation and additional buffer planting.

Our point 2: regarding provision for cycling and security for cycles on the College site. We are pleased to note that there is some provision but query whether 30 cycle spaces for 2600 students and a commensurate large number of staff will be anything approaching a sufficient number.

Our point 3: there is likely to be an increasing need for electric charging points.

Due to the location of Greenhead College, there will inevitably be some impact on the Registered Park and Garden and its listed buildings particularly the grade II listed Conservatory (c. 1930-31) and also the grade II listed Boer War Memorial and the recent Sikh Memorial that are sited at the eastern end of the park, to the north of the proposed development. However, we are pleased to note that the new building is proposed to be four storey, and will sit one storey below the former school building which will minimise the visual impact on the Park. The student hub will also act as a green buffer between the building and Greenhead Park.

We have no objection to the redevelopment of Greenhead College and are pleased to note the pre-application discussions, and overall, the considerations that have been taken into account.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee and Chairman Conservation and Planning

Cc John Stonard, Team Leader Development Advice, Yorkshire and the Northeast Historic England;
Margie Hoffnung, the Gardens Trust