

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 18/2977/FUL

Address: Marble Hill HouseMarble Hill ParkRichmond RoadTwickenhamTW1 2NL

Proposal: 1. Marble Hill House: External decoration and repair work (if a window is substantially rotten, partial or full replacement of joinery) and replacement rooflight. 2. Stable Block: External alterations, installation of mechanical plant, timber plant enclosure to the rear and front landscaping (creating an outdoor seating area) to facilitate the refurbishment of the existing café.3. Service Yard: new pedestrian access and associated refuse storage facilities.4. Landscaping: new soft and hard landscaping including restoration of gardens, upgrade of sports pitches and facilities, replacement of seating and new play areas.5. Sports Centre: External ramp for improved access.

Comments Made By

Name: Mr T. Phillips

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Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: The proposals for Marble Hill House itself appear to be practicable and relevant.

However, I would comment as follows on the landscape proposals:

1. There will be a real loss of usable open space between the house and the river. This is a visual amenity to and from the river as well as a physically beneficial area for walking, etc.
2. The drawings imply more sports usage hence reducing the usable open space for others at weekends, etc., if the landscaping down to the river is planted as shown. Another loss of amenity for the locals?
3. What is the function of the 'orchard'? Is it fruit growing, implying high maintenance and possible chemical sprays?
4. The 'wild areas' should be maintained without general public access through them which will disturb and drive away wildlife which is already under general threat. Much improved maintenance of the existing by English Heritage would be a much better option.
5. The 'ninepin alley' is no more than an anachronism and is likely to be a poorly used folly requiring high maintenance.
6. The 'Chinese style' shelter should be repaired and improved, not demolished as proposed. There is a shortage of shelter within the parkland already.
7. There appears to be very little sensitivity shown by English Heritage to the way the parkland is presently used and enjoyed by the local community.
8. There appears to be only 3 unisex lavatories for the café/park generally. A totally inadequate provision in the 21st Century.

In summary, the landscape proposals are a 'backwards' approach to the use of the parkland in the modern day. English Heritage should follow the principles of William Morris and the Society of Ancient Buildings to protect the entire history of the area and its development through the years and not live in the past.

I would therefore ask the Planning Committee of the Council to reject these landscape proposals.