

## 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 Robert Youngs

**Address:** 15 Spencer Road Twickenham TW2 5TH

### Comments

**Type of comment:** Support the proposal

**Comment:** Marble Hill is an important part of the rich history of 18th century Twickenham. Henrietta Howard's friendship with Alexander Pope, Jonathan Swift, John Gay and Horace Walpole places the house in the centre of a nationally-important literary circle. The house itself, from which Pope, Gay and Swift reportedly stole wine in her absence, is the most perfectly preserved Palladian villa in the area. Its garden, for which there exists irrefutable evidence of Alexander Pope's influence, was one of the first examples of an English Landscape Garden and therefore represents an important step in the development of the Landscape Garden Movement, started by Pope in his own garden one mile upstream and which eventually resulted in the towering achievements of Capability Brown, Humphry Repton and others.

The house and its context has sadly been allowed become degraded over the last 30 years. English Heritage, by means of thorough research and consultation with internationally-acknowledged historians and landscape architects, has produced a plan which is supported by documentary evidence, archaeological surveys and consensus among experts.

Thus, this planning application presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore the house and its gardens to the state in which they were in the mid-18th century when Henrietta Howard was living there. Together with the improvements to the café and other public facilities, the restoration of the house and the re-creation of the garden will enhance Twickenham's position as home to some of the most important houses and gardens of fashionable 18th-century society and will be admired by historians, gardeners and, of course, by local people.

I fully support this application.