

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 Michael Symes

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Comments

Type of comment: Support the proposal

Comment: I write in support of English Heritage's proposals to restore and enhance the riverside landscape at Marble Hill, a landscape that is gradually deteriorating. The proposals should not be seen in isolation but in the context of the character of riverside Twickenham as a whole. The historical views of the Marble Hill lawn down to the river are all from the river or the other (Ham) side of it, and thus any improvement will register just as strongly from there as from within the Marble Hill grounds. It would, accordingly, add to the lustre of the Borough's presentation of that stretch of the river, in terms of both appearance and history, and if the planning application is turned down it is the Borough which will be the loser.

I understand that there is a local group which objects on grounds of historical accuracy. In fact no garden restoration has been, or can ever be, 100% accurate, and there are many factors that compromise any attempt to reinstate a historic garden, such as the necessity of replacing an original species of tree by another for practical reasons, or lack of known detail. But English Heritage's proposals, which amount to reinstatement generally based on historical evidence, are not dependent on minutiae of detail which might be challenged. In any case, as has often happened with other garden restorations, if new evidence comes up which significantly alters works, changes can be made accordingly. All restorations are flexible and change over the years.

It seems that this is a golden opportunity to enhance a property that is open to the public and for which funds have been made available.