

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: Mrs Jill Jones

Address: 20 Montpelier Row Twickenham TW1 2NQ

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: In my general comments I said that I believe that it is time that English Heritage got on with renovating the Park, and I support the restoration of the house. However I do have some serious reservations in relation to the park.

The Chinese Pavilion. This was originally built with a copper roof which was beautiful, and rapidly stripped by thieves. It has been allowed to decay badly, but is a most welcome place to shelter from the rain, and sit in in the sunshine. Surely the roof could be tiled and restored. It should not be removed.

The Café. English Heritage have stated that they hope that this will contribute a large part of the revenue to support the park. Sadly although they have turned the seating area round to a much more welcoming aspect, they have badly missed a trick by failing to fully follow the really innovative design by a local architect who glassed in the arch thus joining the two parts of the coach house. Also housing the shop within the café which would make so much sense, attracting shop buyers to the café, and café patrons to buy in the shop. The staff parking in the courtyard behind could be easily accessed by the service road.

The Garden. The Park has evolved over the years, particularly with subsequent owners, particularly Jonathan Peel who created the Sweet Walk and built the coach house and created an Italianate garden. English Heritage seem to be fixated on creating a 'Georgian' garden for which they have not produced any definitive provenence. Surely English Heritage have a duty to be absolutely historically accurate. It is within the name! It will also not only be expensive to implement, but the maintenance will take a great deal of money.

The sweeping view across the park from east to west should not be overplanted. From the contemporary Heckel print the aspect from the river was wide and open.

Marble Hill Park is a much loved and used park which has evolved over the years, and now in the 21st Century still fulfils an important part of the view from Richmond Hill, and the Arcadian landscape. The vistas are still there. The way the park is used and enjoyed has changed, providing sport, play and recreation, and an important green space. English Heritage should be applauded for at last investing some money in the Park and the House. The Heritage Grant should be used to maintain the park as it is, and unnecessary additions of dubious provenence ditched.

