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Katy Grieves
Chair of Trustees
Marble Hill Play Centres
Marble Hill Park
Richmond Road
Twickenham
TW1 2NL

06 March 2019

Dear Katy,

Marble House – Play Centre

I write on behalf of the English Heritage Trust, further to our correspondence concerning Marble Hill Playcentres, and your subsequent meetings with the local authority planning department.

I can confirm that we have no objection in principle to the removal of the existing play-centre buildings. Twickenham Riverside Conservation Area Study describes the appearance of the Marble Hill Playcentre as 'stark and unattractive'. The buildings are thought to date to the 1970s and are not heritage assets of architectural or historic significance, nor do they make a positive contribution to the setting of Marble Hill or the conservation area.

The age of the buildings and is reflected in their current poor condition and the fact that they do not meet modern sustainability standards, lacking insulation and being known to use significant amounts of energy to run. These buildings are thought to have originally been designed for storage purposes, and would now require a complete overhaul to put them in a condition where they would be fit for their current use. In their current condition long-term maintenance is unsustainable.

As previously outlined, English Heritage consider the Play Centre to be a key partner in our future plans for Marble Hill, and recognise that it is not only held in high regard and affection by the local community, but also provides a real opportunity to open up our space to new audiences and be a catalyst for positive change.

Whilst unable to fund the charity directly, we did agree to suspend rental payments from the Playcentres for a period of 9 months from October 2017. This was not an easy decision to take – the income we derive from our tenant directly helps toward



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our own funding gap in running Marble Hill as a public amenity. Nevertheless, having examined their accounts we recognised it was necessary to provide some economic assistance to ensure the Playcentres remained solvent.

We are supportive in the attempts which the Playcentres are making to ensure they remain a viable proposition, and continue to provide a facility for local families for many years to come.

Kind regards,

John Stevens
Head of Commercial Estates
English Heritage