

# Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity

Registered Charity no 211756  
15 High Street  
Hampton, Middlesex  
TW12 2SA

Tel 020 8941 7866  
6 March 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

## Re Marble Hill Playcentres (Charity No: 1110616) & Development Plans

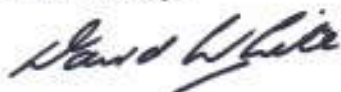
Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity has a permanent endowment fund and a 200-year-old history. Our Charity tackles need through its grant-making, supporting a range of charities and community groups to support people living in our communities in the Hamptons, Teddington, Twickenham and Whitton.

We have supported Marble Hill Playcentres (MHP) over many years. Our Trustees recognise that MHP is a long-established and important facility, providing recreational play and opportunities for local families and beyond. It's the fabric that strengthens our local communities. MHP also promotes access to families on low income and exclusive sessions for families who have a child or children with a disability.

Over recent years I have been acutely aware of MHP's financial difficulties. In December 2017 both our Charity and Richmond Parish Lands Charity provided emergency funding to ensure that this service provision is not lost. A new Board of Trustees is in place with an ambitious but realistic vision for the future. The current buildings are not fit for purpose and do not allow adequate all year-round provision. This is vital to ensure the financial viability of MHP.

The new building will not only benefit MHP but two other local charities – Otakar Kraus Music Trust and Me Too and Co. The first provides music therapy and music school for children with disabilities; the second supports families who have a child with a disability. The Music Trust is under pressure to find new premises. The pressure on our voluntary sector, with the lack of affordable facilities and office space, is well documented. This is exacerbated with the combination of increasing high rents and the conversion of office space to flats. Our Trustees and others are aware of the need to safeguard our community buildings for generations now and the future. The proposed new building, with its established location and wonderful outdoor space, will provide these charities with a center of excellence. It is a collaborative approach that is essential for the health of our voluntary sector moving forward. We support this initiative.

Yours sincerely,



David White, Director