



## CROWN ESTATE PAVING COMMISSION

12 Park Square East, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LH

[www.cepc.org.uk](http://www.cepc.org.uk)

### To all Chester Terrace Ratepayers/Residents

On behalf of the Commissioners, I am delighted to be able to send you your personal copy of the Chester Terrace Garden Management Vision which has just now been published. This is the work of the renowned Heritage Landscape Architect, Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, whom the CEPC commissioned to review the ornamental terrace gardens around Regent's Park which it is responsible for managing and maintaining. This is the first of the individual Garden Management Visions and sits alongside the already published Planting Principles and Design and the Tree Management Strategy, both of which you can find on our website [www.cepc.org.uk](http://www.cepc.org.uk)

As the CEPC nears the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its inception, it is evident that much has changed both in the gardens and the outside world. In light of this, the Commissioners decided it was time to relook at a strategic plan for the management of the gardens today and in the future. To do so, we deemed it important in the first instance to understand the vision that created the magnificent landscape that is Regent's Park which remains one of the largest and greatest set pieces of urban planning that has ever been achieved in the UK. The aim was and is not to replicate history but rather to learn from it, use the best ideas that are still applicable today, while adapting and embracing others that reflect the needs of the estate going forward.

Using Todd's work to engender a better understanding of the estate, its current condition and needs has helped the Commissioners decide to adopt the following principles in respect of the Chester Terrace Garden.

The garden, in common with others around the estate, will remain ornamental in nature; it will be for the quiet enjoyment of those who have access to it and to provide a picturesque landscape for those who overlook it.

As clearly imagined and indicated by John Nash, it will – again in common with others around the estate – continue to provide a level of privacy.

Its hard landscaping (balustrade, walls and paths) will be renewed where necessary and re-planned where appropriate to provide garden users with the ability to comfortably move around the garden.

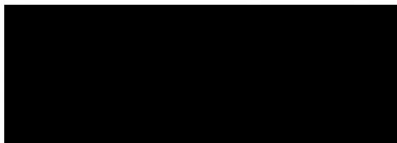
Planting will be in accordance with our principles and trees will be managed in accordance with our strategy. In general, trees will only be removed if diseased, dangerous or at the end of their lives at which point if and how they will be replaced will be decided on a case by case basis.

Trees, plants and shrubs that need to be removed to facilitate work on hard landscaping such as the balustrade and western wall will be replaced in accordance with our principles and so that any replacement does not cause damage to the structure of the wall in the way that some of the current trees, plants and shrubs have.

In order to commence the implementation of this strategic plan it is, as indicated when you received your latest rate demand, necessary to have the funds in place to do so. Thus our first step has been to raise the funds with a view to re-starting the process of instructing professionals to work on the project when these are at an appropriate level. We have over the years twice consulted professionals on the state of the balustrade, which you will know has been propped up with metal supports for some time now and we have been loath to spend more of ratepayers' money consulting professionals again, until such time as we are in a position to then move forward with the project. This time is now approaching and we would welcome the input of an appropriate qualified or experienced Chester Terrace ratepayer or resident as we take the next steps. Please contact our Director, Linda Lennon, should you wish to take part in the process.

The balustrade remains the first part of the strategy we would intend to address, followed by the western wall and then the pathways. Soft landscaping will follow in due course. There is also a long-term aim to replace the modern railings along the western wall with ones that embrace the style of the original railings, similar to those that can be seen today on the Outer Circle at the north end of the terrace. These better reflect the quality and style of your houses in Chester Terrace and are more in keeping with those around the majority of the Outer Circle.

We commend this publication, as well as those already on line, to you and look forward to being in a position to bring the Chester Terrace Garden up to the standard that you and your houses deserve.



Loretta Balfour  
Commissioner & Chairman

September 2019