



Historic England

LONDON OFFICE

Mr Matthias Gentet
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
Argyle Street
London
WC1H 8ND

Direct Dial: 020 7973 3763

Our ref: P00547347

30 January 2017

Dear Mr Gentet

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015 &
T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
THE BROAD WALK, REGENTS PARK, OUTER CIRCLE, LONDON, NW1 4HJ
Application No 2016/0631/P**

Thank you for your letter of 10 January 2017 notifying us of the application for planning permission relating to the above site.

Historic England Advice

These proposals are for the installation of a new public drinking fountain in the Regent's Park, which is to be located near the Grade II listed Ready Money Drinking Fountain along the Broad Walk.

The Drinking Fountain, designed in the style of a gothic pavilion in granite and marble, was erected in 1869 as a gift to the public from the Indian philanthropist Sir Cowasji Jehangir. It remains to this day in public use. It is therefore of much aesthetic, historic and communal value. It is also a key feature of the Grade I Registered Regent's Park, and benefits from an open setting in important views along the Broad Walk - the widest and most significant route across the Park.

The submitted information states that the fountain is a health and safety risk due to its poor condition as exacerbated by plumbing leaks, and the apparent inaccessibility of the water spouts to children and small adults. It is therefore proposed to cut the water supply to the fountain, undertake the necessary repair work, and erect a modern drinking fountain immediately to the east within the circular paved area around the listed fountain.

Due to the proximity to the listed fountain and the visual impact in important and open views along the Broad Walk, we consider that the new fountain has the potential to cause some harm to the setting of the listed fountain and to the character of the Registered Park. Additionally, we are concerned that the listed fountain would become obsolete should these proposals be implemented, and this would harm its communal value as a public drinking fountain. We are also concerned about the



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precedent that this might set for further street clutter in this location.

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, any harm requires clear and convincing justification (Paragraph 132). We can accept the principle of a new drinking fountain, and recognise the public benefits of providing easily accessible drinking water in this celebrated public park. However, we feel that it has not been demonstrated why the new fountain could not be located in a more discrete location away from the main axis along the Broad Walk. We also consider that it has not been fully demonstrated why the water supply to the listed fountain could not be retained as part of this scheme, whilst undertaking the necessary repairs.

Recommendation

We would therefore recommend that the new drinking fountain is moved further away from the listed fountain and the Broad Walk axis. However, should your Council be minded to approve the scheme as currently proposed, we would strongly recommend that safeguards are put in place to ensure that the listed fountain would be repaired and would remain in public use. Not only would this prevent causing harm to its communal value, but it would also secure its long term future use as an important public facility and key asset within the Registered Park.

Please note that this response relates to historic building and historic area matters only. If there are any archaeological implications to the proposals it is recommended that you contact the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service for further advice (Tel: 020 7973 3712).

Yours sincerely



Alasdair Young

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas
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cc Antonia Powell, London Borough of Camden



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