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Dear Lucy

Marble Hill Revived

Following English Heritage's decision to withdraw its original planning application in February 2018 and to start on a new community consultation programme, I am writing to update you on the Marble Hill Revived project.

You may recall there was opposition to some elements of the proposals, notably the café extension, the restoration of the landscape, and the new children's play area.

Over the past six months we have listened very carefully to local people, and as a result we will be making changes to some of our proposals. We know we cannot please everyone, but we have tried to respond in a positive way to the issues raised by local people.

The Café - The original café scheme was an extension at the rear of the Stable Block. We have now changed the design to keep the café within the ground floor of the existing building. No changes are proposed to the listed wall. External seating will be on the park side and not in the courtyard to minimise sound transfer to the neighbouring residential properties. The design of the new café takes its inspiration from a community proposal submitted during the consultation process and drawn up by a local architect who has worked with us to ensure that our final designs reflect the original design intentions of the community proposal.

Play Area – Our consultation identified that people generally support the retention of the existing fenced grassed area with nothing else in it and if we do create an additional play space, they want no large structures in it. As a result of the consultation, we will retain the existing grassed baby area, and create an additional low level, nature-themed play area adjacent to the existing

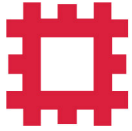
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grassed area for toddlers. We will also be creating an ecologically themed play trail around the perimeter of the park.

Landscape - After listening to local people, we have amended the original designs. The key features of the landscape proposals are:

- Developing more diverse habitats in the woodland quarters to encourage a greater range of wildlife.
- Thinning the woodland by removing overcrowded saplings and poor-quality trees to provide more light for selected trees and new planting to flourish.
- Planting new trees, shrubs and woodland margin perennials.
- Slowing down the delivery of the works to the southern Woodland Quarters to reduce the impact on existing wildlife.
- Retaining deadwood habitats to encourage mini-beasts and the whole food chain.
- Maintaining the Woodland Quarters as dog free, to reduce disturbance to wildlife.
- Restoration of the small 9 pin bowling alley.
- Restoration of the main Avenue of trees, between the house and the Thames, however with greater spacing between the trees to retain the East – West views which we understand are so important to local people.

We have also been collaborating with the 'Love Marble Hill' group who have passed us helpful information they have uncovered to help us be more precise about the date of a plan showing the design of the 18th Century Garden.

The revised proposals will:

- Conserve and re-present Marble Hill House and open the House to the public, for free, five days a week for seven months a year.
- Restore significant elements of the lost 18th-century garden and, open up and replant overgrown areas to create new spaces and habitats, improving biodiversity.
- Improve the condition of sports pitches and changing facilities.
- Modernise and improve the existing café in the Stable Block.
- Create a new play area for children.

We know there is strong support for the proposals from many local people and organisations.



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We have consulted the Heritage Lottery Fund who will be funding a large part of the proposed improvements and they are supportive of the revised proposals

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the discussions over the past six months through the expanded Community Steering Group monthly meetings, at the three Consultation Workshops, two Open Days and other meetings.

We believe that, together, we now have general community agreement on how best to revive Marble Hill House and Park.

We have updated the Marble Hill Revived webpage with the latest information at www.english-heritage.org.uk/marblehillrevived.

Finally, we have sought to make the application documentation as comprehensive as possible and are happy to work with the LPA to ensure that the application is determined by the end of the year.



Yours sincerely

Alex Sydney

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