



# Sussex Gardens Trust

Encouraging the protection,  
conservation and evolution of  
the local garden heritage

47 Denmans Lane  
Lindfield  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH16 2JN

30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

District Planning Officer  
Mid Sussex District Council  
Oaklands, Oaklands Road,  
Haywards Heath, West Sussex. RH16 1SS

For the attention of Andrew Watt

Dear Sir,

**Re: DM/19/0787 DM/19/0792. PLANNING APPLICATION Change of use and extension of the Riding House to a cafe etc. Alterations to Welcome Area cafe; relocate WC's and rebuild existing toilet block with a new kitchen block. Nymans, Staplefield Road, Handcross, Haywards Heath.**

The Gardens Trust (GT) is the statutory consultee on matters concerning registered parks and gardens, and is now working closely with County Garden Trusts such as Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT) regarding commenting on planning policy and planning applications. Representatives of SGT have read the submitted plans and supporting documents with care and our comments are shown below.

There are two parts to this application. The first concerns changes to the Riding House and associated buildings. Of particular relevance to Sussex Gardens Trust is the extension to the Riding House to create a new café. The context for this extension is one of simple agricultural buildings within a wooded parkland setting. However, the solution chosen is distinctly modernistic and utilitarian. While this is not sympathetic to the context, the site appears to be reasonably well screened from the axial path which runs NW/SE and by trees from the eastern parkland beyond. Nevertheless, there is a risk that glimpsed views of the new extension will be visible from the path and parkland, particularly at twilight when light pollution could be an issue. The Planning Authority should ensure that the structure will indeed be well screened with effective blinds and new planting if necessary, to assist in minimising its impact on the parkland and wider landscape.

The second part concerns changes to the Welcome Area. Here SGT has no comment and neither supports nor objects to this part of the application.

Yours sincerely

Jim Stockwell.

On behalf of the Sussex Garden Trust.

CC: The Gardens Trust

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