



Sussex Gardens Trust

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

47 Denmans Lane
Lindfield
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 2JN

31st August 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/19/0792. 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 studied the revised plans relating to the Riding House.

It would appear that the proposed extension has been reduced in its forward projection from the existing building but not in its height or outward appearance. This reduction in footprint may help with the health and future longevity of an adjoining mature beech tree: a tree that presumably helps with the screening of these outbuildings from wider parkland view, so this is to be welcomed. Reducing the forward projection may well reduce its visibility in near oblique garden views, but probably not in longer views. So, the Trust reiterates the concerns expressed in our earlier letter of 30th April regarding the beacon of light that this cafe may shine during twilight hours.

The Trust notes that the application has been approved with a conditions (No 3) which requires " ...details, including a sample panel of the louvres proposed to clad the Riding School, shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval." The Planning Authority should ensure that the design of the louvres will minimise this risk of light pollution affecting the parkland and wider landscape.

Yours sincerely

Jim Stockwell.

On behalf of the Sussex Garden Trust.

CC: The Gardens Trust

information@sussexgardenstrust.org.uk

www.sussexgardenstrust.org.uk