



47 Denmans Lane
Lindfield
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 2JN

To: Crawley BC

Submitted via online planning system

23rd December, 2017

Dear Sir,

**Crawley BC: Phase II Regeneration of Queensway
and Memorial Gardens Crawley: CR/2017/0910/RG3**

We are grateful for the opportunity to comment on this application. You have also consulted the Gardens Trust (GT), which 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) to comment on planning applications. For further information, we refer you to the GT publication *The Planning System in England and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens* (2016), which is available online at [GT Planning Guide](#).

The proposals will have an impact on the significance of Memorial Gardens, a locally designated heritage asset. The inclusion of this site on the local list is a material consideration in the planning system.

Summary

Representatives of SGT have reviewed the documentation submitted with this application. It is to be welcomed that Crawley BC are willing to invest in the regeneration of this area, but the Trust has some concerns regarding some details of the proposals.

Removal of shrubs and hedges

The plans envisage removal of hedges on the boundary of Memorial Gardens and Queensway. Currently these shrubs and hedges enclose and frame the Gardens and conceal from view the adjacent trafficked street and built up street scene, thus providing a positive contribution to the setting of the Gardens. Their removal will have an adverse impact.

The Trust is not persuaded that the shrub / hedge clearance is the only way of addressing the concerns over poor surveillance and vermin raised in the application as a justification.

Removal of Mature Trees

The plans also envisage removing well developed maple trees in Queensway and replacing with Liquidamber (Worpleston). The existing trees are said to have "*outgrown their environment and lifted pavements*" However it will take many years for the replacement trees to mature and the Trust is not convinced the removal of existing trees and replacement with younger trees would be beneficial.

Planting Plans

The Trust would welcome the planting plan proposed, provided the Council allocates sufficient funds for maintenance. Whilst the plants proposed are chosen to be drought tolerant and relatively low maintenance, they will undoubtedly be higher maintenance than the shrubs currently planted. Like most local authorities, Crawley BC is likely to have limited financial resources in the years ahead and without good maintenance the new planting could quite quickly become untidy and overgrown.

Conclusion

The Trust has reservations about some details of the proposals as set out above and therefore for objects to the application as currently framed.

Yours faithfully

Jim Stockwell

On behalf of the Sussex Gardens Trust.
CC: The Gardens Trust