

FRIENDS OF GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM
25 Hartington Road London W4 3TL

020 8994 4231

Gemma Bassett,
Planning Dept,
Civic Centre,
Lampton Park,
Hounslow TW3 4DN

13 January 2016

Dear Gemma Bassett

Thank you for copying me into your reply to Marie Rabouhans.

I am still perplexed by this part of your reply:

“The materials have been proposed with specific consideration of the proposed use and location of the building. The resultant design is considered to use the architectural palette of materials from around the park, with the use of timber referencing traditional agricultural buildings, and the use of gabions being a durable ground level material that would also correspond with the recently approved toilet block.”

The Park does indeed have a rich architectural palette of materials, such as the 17th dark plum bricks of the estate wall, which may have come from the estate’s own brickearth, through the fine red brick used in the 18th century Temple, to the ubiquitous yellow stock bricks of the 19th and 20th centuries, along with stucco and stone and even artificial Pulhamite rock. Given the richness of the materials, I find it hard to understand how the architect could have chosen three elements which have the weakest connection to the Park – black from agricultural timber framed barns which are not present in the Conservation area, metal plates to which I cannot find any visual reference and gabions which will soon be demolished. I simply cannot believe anyone will look up at the black planks of the upper floor and make any connection with an agricultural building.

On 17th March 2015 Hounslow gave permission for the demolition of the toilet block constructed with gabions, as part of the approval of the new café nearby (see P/2015/0150 00885/C/S3). The *Design and Access Statement* for this proposal says: “The existing toilet block will be removed following the establishment of the proposed sports facilities in the near future”. (paragraph 2.2.3). The sports hall gabions will not correspond with anything, as the toilet block will have gone before the sports hall is built.

I also wish to resist the implication of the new information included in your email, that there is a deadline for the application of essential lottery funds and that we have to accept the scheme and try to ameliorate it with conditions. The project team announced in a public consultation on 31st March that the planning application would be in Summer 2015. The effect of combining a deadline with their very long delay is to create the feeling that we are being bounced into accepting what we have already described as an unacceptable building and a damaging pitch layout.

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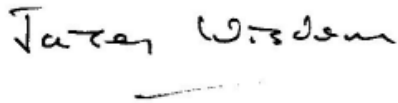
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The funding body is unlikely to be the Heritage Lottery Fund, more likely it is £2m from Sport England's Strategic Facilities Fund. This Fund does not appear to work to deadlines in the way the HLF does. Its papers state: "*Sport England (in consultation with the local authority/lead organisation) will identify when, in a project's overall delivery programme, a Lottery application will be submitted and a date for a funding decision to be considered.*"

This is a planning application for a project which will affect the Park for decades. It is for a facility that everyone wants, especially Sport England. But it must be something that our generation can be proud of adding to the estate, and at present the scheme does not do that.

I would be very grateful if you would include this email in your discussions on Thursday evening, which I am sorry not to be able to attend.

Yours sincerely,



James Wisdom
Chair, Friends of Gunnersbury Park & Museum

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