



Ms Stephanie Malik
Planning and Borough Development
Kensington Town Hall
Hornton Street
London, W8 7NX

7th April 2017

Dear Ms Malik

Planning Application Reference PP/17/01413

“Demolition of existing structures to the rear of The Orangery, construction of new extension comprising two levels of basement and single storey above ground. Alterations to The Orangery , including provision of two new internal links to the extension. New landscaping of The Orangery Lawn to the south, including new gardener’s store. Provision of temporary marquee to The Orangery during period of construction. Associated works and landscaping”.

The Royal Parks broadly supports the Historic Royal Palaces plans detailed in the above application to make alterations to The Orangery including the restoration of the Orangery garden and other associated works. These proposals will bring important benefits to the operations of Historic Royal Palaces and further improve the visitor experience of Kensington Palace.

The Royal Parks have a clear interest in this development noting that the site abuts onto the area of Kensington Gardens managed by The Royal Parks. Land managed by The Royal Parks is included within the red line of the proposed development.

In respect of the application submitted The Royal Parks make the following observations:

- We are pleased to see that landscape improvements at the site include improvements to both Kensington Gardens to the the immediate east of the Orangery and to the Orangery garden which appear to be in accordance with the latest Masterplan document prepared by Land Use Consultants on behalf of The Royal Parks. The Royal Parks are broadly in agreement with these details and note these form an important element of Historic Royal Palace BREEAM proposals. The materiality of paths in this area will need further discussion as loose gravel will not be permissible.
- The Royal Parks are in discussion with Historic Royal Palaces regarding opportunities for landscape improvements to Kensington Gardens to the north of the Orangery and west of the Broadwalk. Given the important context this section of the historic “Wilderness” provides to the proposed Orangery, both organisations have identified the potential to make various



improvements in the landscape of this area and The Royal Parks is arranging to discuss these with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

- The land to the north of the Orangery will be used in association with various construction activities for approximately 2 years to assist in the delivery of the proposed scheme. There is a potential to improve this land, which is also within the defined red line site area which could be achieved by collaboration between Historic Royal Palaces and The Royal Parks. This improvement could be secured through a planning condition or a planning contribution.
- The Royal Parks will be involved in the agreement for the management and arrangement of the work sites and access based within Kensington Gardens for the construction period and for the subsequent park restoration. A Works Licence will need to be agreed by The Royal Parks to formalise access arrangements through those areas of Kensington Gardens managed by The Royal Parks and to ensure the safety of visitors to Kensington Gardens.
- It is important that construction activity is effectively managed and controlled so as not to have an adverse impact on the operations and functionality of Kensington Gardens and the Broad Walk as well as on its amenity, environmental and landscape qualities. For example the site working hours in the documents are listed as
 - *Monday-Friday 0800 – 1800hrs*
 - *Saturday 0800 – 1300hrs*
 - *No noisy working on Sunday or Bank Holidays.*

The Royal Parks normally permitted working hours for such proposals are Monday – Friday from 0800 – 1700hrs excluding Bank and Public Holidays. As weekends, Bank and Public Holidays are our busiest times for visitors exceptions to our permitted hours need to be agreed by The Royal Parks

Should you wish to follow up on any of the matters raised in this letter then please make contact with Jane Arthur, Estates Manager for The Royal Parks in the first instance.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Williams
Park Manager for Kensington Gardens and Brompton Cemetery