

PLANNING SERVICES APPLICATION

Death with
23/11/99

CONSULTATION SHEET

APPLICANT:

The Royal Parks,
Project Manager,
The Old Police House,
Hyde Park, London
W2 2UH

8

B

APPLICATION NO: PP/99/02384/KO

APPLICATION DATED: 18/11/1999

DATE ACKNOWLEDGED: 23 November 1999

APPLICATION COMPLETE: 23/11/1999

DATE TO BE DECIDED BY: 18/01/2000

SITE: Kensington Gardens Royal Park

PROPOSAL: Development by the Royal Parks Agency concerning the playground as a memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales. (Circular 18/84 Construction)

ADDRESSES TO BE CONSULTED

28

- 1. Kensington Society
- 2. South Kensington + Queen's Gate Residents Association
- 3. Knightsbridge Association
- 4. Brompton Association
- 5. Victoria Road Area Residents Association
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

✓ 30/11/99.

1-15 (consec.) Kensington Palace Gardens

#8:- FLATS A-D, PENTHOUSE & PULLERS FLAT
#12 x 12A

CONSULT STATUTORILY

- HBMC Listed Buildings
- HBMC Setting of Buildings Grade I or II
- HBMC Demolition in Conservation Area
- Demolition Bodies
- DoT Trunk Road - Increased traffic
- DoT Westway etc., City of Westminster
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Strategic view authorities
- Kensington Palace
- Civil Aviation Authority (over 300')
- Theatres Trust
- National Rivers Authority
- Thames Water
- Crossrail
- LRT/Chelsea-Hackney Line

ADVERTISE

- Effect on CA
- Setting of Listed Building
- Works to Listed Building
- Departure from UDP
- Demolition in CA
- "Major Development"
- Environmental Assessment
- No Site Notice Required
- Notice Required other reason
- Police
- L.P.A.C
- British Waterways
- Environmental Health

1/2

✓ 30/11/99.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: FOR FILE USE ONLY

**From: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLANNING & CONSERVATION**

My Ref: PP/99/02384/KO

CODE 1B

Room No:

Date: 30 November 1999

DEVELOPMENT AT:

Kensington Gardens Royal Park

DEVELOPMENT:

Development by the Royal Parks Agency concerning the playground as a memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales. (Circular 18/84 Construction)

The above development is to be advertised under:-

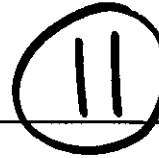
1. Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
(development affecting the character or appearance of a Conservation Area or adjoining Conservation Area)
2. Section 67 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
(development affecting the setting of a Listed building)

M.J. French

Executive Director, Planning & Conservation

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

THE TOWN HALL HORNTON STREET LONDON W8 7NX



**THE ROYAL
BOROUGH OF**

Executive Director M J FRENCH FRICS Dip TP MRTPI Cert TS

Mr. N. Arch,
Kensington Palace,
Kensington,
London,
W8 4PX

Switchboard: 0171-937-5464

Direct Line: 0171-361-2771

Extension: 2771

Facsimile: 0171-361-3463



**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**
November 1999

Date: 30 November 1999

My Ref: **DPS/DCC/PP/99/02384** Your ref: **GREG MCERLEAN** Please ask for: **K. Orme**

Dear Mr. Arch,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Proposed development at: Kensington Gardens Royal Park

I enclose a copy of an application, with relevant drawings and/or supporting information, and should be pleased to receive your observations on these proposals as soon as possible.

It is hoped to present this application to the Planning Services Committee prior to 18/01/2000. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future, in order that your comments may be reported to this Committee.

Should you require any further details in respect of this case, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Officer on the above extension.

Yours sincerely,

M.J. FRENCH

Executive Director, Planning and Conservation

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

THE TOWN HALL HORNTON STREET LONDON W8 7NX

Executive Director M J FRENCH FRICS Dip TP MRTPI Cert TS

12

**THE ROYAL
BOROUGH OF**



English Heritage
Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission
London & South East Region
23 Saville Row
London W1X 1AB

Switchboard: 0171-937-5464
Direct Line: 0171-361-2771
Extension: 2771
Facsimilie: 0171-361-3463

**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Date: 30 November 1999

My Ref: **DPS/DCC/PP/99/02384** Your ref: **GREG MCERLEAN** Please ask for: **K. Orme**

Dear Sir/Madam,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Proposed development at: Kensington Gardens Royal Park

I have recently received an application for development at the above address, which relates to a Circular 30/85 Listed building, and is also likely to affect the setting of a Grade I or II* Listed building.

I enclose a copy of the application, with any relevant drawings or documents, and will be pleased to receive your comments in due course.

It is hoped to present this application prior to 18/01/2000.

Yours faithfully,

M.J. FRENCH

Executive Director, Planning and Conservation

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

THE TOWN HALL, HORNTON STREET LONDON W8 7NX

13

**THE ROYAL
BOROUGH OF**

Executive Director M J FRENCH FRICS Dip TP MRTPI Cert TS

Department of Architecture & Planning,
City of Westminster,
P.O. Box 240, Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street,
London,
SW1E 6QP

Switchboard: 0171-937-5464
Direct Line: 0171-361-2771
Extension: 2771
Facsimile: 0171-361-3463



**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Date: 30 November 1999

My Ref: **DPS/DCC/PP/99/02384** Your ref: **GREG MCERLEAN** Please ask for: **K. Orme**

Dear Sir / Madam

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Yours faithfully,

M.J. FRENCH

Executive Director, Planning and Conservation

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

THE TOWN HALL HORNTON STREET LONDON W8 7NX

14

THE ROYAL
BOROUGH OF

Executive Director M J FRENCH FRICS Dip TP MRTPI Cert TS

Chief Superintendent,
Kensington Traffic/Architectural Liason,
72 Earls Court Road,
London,
W8

Switchboard: 0171-937-5464
Direct Line: 0171-361-2771
Extension: 2771
Facsimilie: 0171-361-3463



**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Date: 30 November 1999

My Ref: **DPS/DCC/PP/99/02384** Your ref: **GREG MCERLEAN** Please ask for: **K. Orme**

Dear Sir / Madam

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Proposed development at: Kensington Gardens Royal Park

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It is hoped to present this application to the Planning Services Committee prior to 18/01/2000. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future, in order that your comments may be reported to this Committee.

Should you require any further details in respect of this case, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Officer on the above extension.

Yours faithfully,

M.J. FRENCH

Executive Director, Planning and Conservation

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

THE TOWN HALL HORNTON STREET LONDON W8 7NX

15

**THE ROYAL
BOROUGH OF**



**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Executive Director M J FRENCH FRICS TP MRTPI Cert TS

FILE COPY

2771

0171-361- 2771

Switchboard: 0171-937-5464

Extension:

Direct Line:

Facsimile: 0171-361-3463

Date: 30 November 1999

My reference:

Your reference:

Please ask for:

My Ref: DPS/DCC/PP/99/02384/KO

Planning Information Office

Dear Sir/Madam,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Proposed development at: Kensington Gardens Royal Park

Brief details of the proposed development are set out below. Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans and any other documents submitted with it. The Council's Planning Services Committee, in considering the proposal, welcomes comments either for or against the scheme. Anyone who wishes to make representations about the application should write to the Council at the above address **within 21 days** of the date of this letter. Unfortunately, the Council does not have the resources to advise objectors of the Committee date, and you should telephone for further information.

Proposal for which permission is sought

Development by the Royal Parks Agency concerning the playground as a memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales. (Circular 18/84 Construction)

Applicant

**The Royal Parks, Project Manager, The Old Police House, Hyde Park, London
W2 2UH**

Yours faithfully,

M. J. FRENCH

Executive Director, Planning and Conservation

WHAT MATTERS CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

When dealing with a planning application the Council has to consider the policies of the Borough Plan, known as the Unitary Development Plan, and any other material considerations. The most common of these include (not necessarily in order of importance):

- * The scale and appearance of the proposal and impact upon the surrounding area or adjoining neighbours;
- * Effect upon the character or appearance of a Conservation Area;
- * Effect upon the special historic interest of a Listed Building, or its setting;
- * Effect upon traffic, access, and parking;
- * Amenity issues such as loss of Sunlight or daylight, Overlooking and loss of privacy, Noise and disturbance resulting from a use, Hours of operation

WHAT MATTERS CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

Often people may wish to object on grounds that, unfortunately, **cannot** be taken into account because they are not controlled by Planning Legislation. These include (again not in any order of importance):

- * Loss of property value;
- * Private issues between neighbours such as land covenants, party walls, land and boundary disputes, damage to property;
- * Problems associated with construction such as noise, dust, or vehicles (If you experience these problems Environmental Services have some control and you should contact them direct)
- * Smells (Also covered by Environmental Services)
- * Competition between firms;
- * Structural and fire precaution concerns; (These are Building Control matters)

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR LETTER

Planning applications where objections have been received are presented to the Planning Services Committee which is made up of elected Ward Councillors. Planning Officers write a report to the Committee with a recommendation as to whether the application should be granted or refused. Letters received are summarised in the report, and copies can be seen by Councillors and members of the public including the applicant. The Councillors make the decisions and are not bound by the Planning Officer's recommendation. All meetings of the Committee are open to the public.

If you would like further information, about the application itself or when it is likely to be decided, please contact the Planning Department on the telephone number overleaf.

WHERE TO SEE THE PLANS

Details of the application can be seen at the **Planning Information Office, 3rd floor, Town Hall, Hornton Street W.8.** It is open from 9am to 4.45pm Mondays to Thursdays (4pm Fridays). A Planning Officer will always be there to assist you.

In addition, copies of applications in the **Chelsea Area (SW1, SW3, SW10)** can be seen at **The Reference Library, Chelsea Old Town Hall, Kings Road SW3 (0171-361 4158)**, for the **Central Area (W8, W14, SW5, SW7)** can be viewed in the **Central Library, Town Hall, Hornton Street, W.8.** and applications for districts **W10, W11 and W2** in the **North** of the Borough can be seen at **The Information Centre, North Kensington Library, 108 Ladbroke Grove, London W11** (under the Westway near Ladbroke Grove Station **0171-727-6583**). Please telephone to check the opening times of these offices.

If you are a registered disabled person, it may be possible for an Officer to come to your home with the plans. Please contact the Planning Department and ask to speak to the Case Officer for the application.

PLEASE QUOTE THE APPLICATION REFERENCE NUMBER ON YOUR REPLY

DT

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

THE TOWN HALL HORNTON STREET LONDON W8 7NX

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**THE ROYAL
BOROUGH OF**

Executive Director M J FRENCH FRICS Dip TP MRTPI Cert TS



The Baroness Hanham CBE,
Leader of the Council,
Town Hall,
Hornton Street,
LONDON, W8 7NX.

Switchboard: 0171-937 5464
Extension: 2944
Direct Line: 0171-361-2944
Facsimile: 0171-361-3463

**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

23 November 1999

My reference: EDPC/MJF

Your reference:

Please ask for: Mr. French

Dear Lady Hanham,

Diana, Princess of Wales Playground

I have now received from the Royal Parks an application under Circular 18/84 for the proposed playground to the north of Kensington Palace which will form part of the memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales.

I am enclosing, for your information, a set of the submitted drawings and I would welcome any comments you may wish to make on these proposals.

Finally, I do intend to consult widely with local associations who have been closely involved in the memorial proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

M. J. French,
Executive Director, Planning and Conservation.

*To note please
MJE*

TRANSPORTATION COMMENTS

18

TP Number PP/99 /2384	Address Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground, Kensington Gardens, Royal Park	Date of Obs 2/12/99	
Description children's' playground		Objection no	
File Number TF/202/K	Obs full	Transportation Officer Gillian Palmer	D C Officer KO
Other information			

1. The proposal comprises a children's' adventure playground measuring approx. 60m x 120m. with ancillary toilet facilities and café. The proposal would replace an existing playground, toilets and café.
2. there are 3 vehicular access gates proposed for maintenance and emergency vehicles.
3. in my opinion the proposal is unlikely to cause any problems for traffic or parking in the immediate area.

NOTICE OF A PLANNING APPLICATION



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Notice is hereby given the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council **KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA** an application:

- (a) for development of land in or adjacent to a Conservation Area.
- (b) for a grant of planning permission affecting the setting of a Listed building.

Details are set out below.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans and other documents submitted with it at:

NOTICE OF A PLANNING APPLICATION

The Planning Information Office, 3rd floor, The Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX between the hours of 9.15 and 4.45 Mondays to Thursdays and 9.15 to 4.30 Fridays;

For applications in the Chelsea area: The Reference Library, Chelsea Old Town Hall, Tel. 0171-361-4158.

For postal areas W10, W11 and W2: The 1st floor, North Kensington Library, 108 Ladbrooke Grove, W11, Tel. 0171-727-6583.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Executive Director of Planning and Conservation at the Town Hall (Dept. 705) within 21 days of the date of this notice.

NOTICE OF A PLANNING APPLICATION

SCHEDULE

Reference: PP/99/02384/KO

Date: 03/12/1999

AUS
ratings at
chance to
playground

Kensington Gardens Royal Park

Development by the Royal Parks Agency concerning the playground as a memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales. (Circular 18/84 Construction)

APPLICANT The Royal Parks,

NOTICE OF A PLANNING APPLICATION



✓

RBKC
District Plan Observations
CONSERVATION AND DESIGN

Address Kensington Gardens Royal Park	Appl. No. 99/2384/KO	L.B. ✓	C.A.	N C S
Description Refurbishment of Playground, new toilets	Code M	20		

This appears to be an imaginative and innovative improvement scheme and should enhance the play facilities at the park. The proposed toilet block will be mainly hidden by a landscaped mound and will itself be an interesting structure with unusual projecting concrete rooflights.

Overall I consider the ~~proposal~~ proposal to be an enhancement of the Royal Park and the conservation area. (I would like to see the archaeological report when submitted).

DMcD 8/12/99.

Note Tree and shrub removal plan (no. 1762/06T) shows a toilet extension to the existing shelter rather than the new structure. Assume that this is an earlier plan now superseded.

43 Chalton Street
 London NW1 1JD
 Tel: 0171-383 5784
 Fax: 0171-383 4798
 Email: luc@london.landuse.co.uk

DI / KO (21)

AW/jb/1762/01/PRO

13 December, 1999

Mr. Michael French
 Executive Director Planning & Conservation
 The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
 Kensington Town Hall
 Hornton Street
 LONDON W8 7NX

RECEIVED BY PLANNING SERVICES									
DIR	HDC	N	C	SW	SE	ENF	AO	ACK	
(B)		15 DEC 1999							
APPS	IC	REV	AMS	FWD	CON	DES	FEE		

Dear Mr. French,

**DOE CIRCULAR 18/84: CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT
 NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT BY THE ROYAL PARKS AGENCY - KENSINGTON
 GARDENS - THE PLAYGROUND AS A MEMORIAL TO DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES**

With reference to a letter sent to you by Mr. Greg McErlean of The Royal Parks Agency dated November 18th, please find enclosed four copies of our written summary of the design proposal for this project.

Our archaeologists mitigation strategy for the site will be forwarded to you within the next few weeks.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Wikeley
 for Land Use Consultants

cc: Greg McErlean RPA

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DOE CIRCULAR 18/84

CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT

THE PLAYGROUND AS A MEMORIAL

TO

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

BY

THE ROYAL PARKS AGENCY

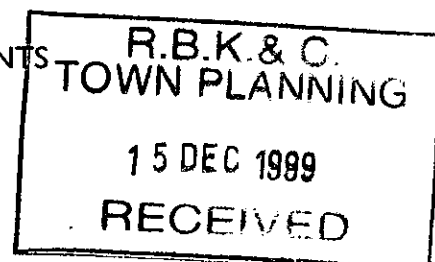
KENSINGTON GARDENS

SUMMARY OF THE DESIGN

PROPOSALS

LAND USE CONSULTANTS

DECEMBER 1999



PLAYGROUND DEDICATED TO DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Summary of the Design Proposal

Land Use Consultants (LUC) were appointed by the Royal Parks Agency (RPA) in July as lead consultants on the design and implementation of a new playground dedicated to the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, in Kensington Gardens, London.

LOCATION, SITE LAYOUT AND HISTORY

The playground will replace an existing playground near Black Lion Gate (north/east of Kensington Palace) which was established in 1909 in response to public requests, with the help of donations from J.M. Barrie (the author of Peter Pan) and others. The playground is situated on a part of the park which was formally gravel pits but which were laid out c. 1704-05 by Wise, as the Old Wilderness. The features of these gardens have largely disappeared on the surface, although recent archaeological investigations have shown the area surrounding the existing playground (which the new playground will extend into) have below ground features, and will influence where excavations can be made.

Therefore main play features are to be placed within the existing playground footprint an area which is considered to have no archaeological merit. An archaeological mitigation strategy is in production and will be ready by the end of December. An archaeological assessment of the site was produced by the AOC Archaeological Group in May 1999 and an archaeological evaluation was produced by the Museum Of London Archaeological Service in August 1999.

Kensington Gardens are designated as a Grade I historical landscape in the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. The park is also included within two conservation areas.

GENERAL PROJECT BRIEF

The development of this play area is intended to provide a creative, innovative facility which will be a fitting tribute to the Princess. It will reflect her interests in children (particularly those with disabilities), the family and the environment. The setting and aesthetics of the new scheme, and buildings or structures within it, will however, strike an appropriate balance between the utility of the playground and its visual and environmental impact upon the park.

The objectives of the project are listed below:

Social and cultural

- To create an area where disabled and able-bodied children can play together, with no segregation.
- To meet children's play needs
- To create a fitting memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales
- To provide a creative, innovative facility

- To allow the ideas and principles adopted from the designs developed for the playground to be used as a best practice example for improving play facilities around the country
- To provide a playground that contributes positively to the historic landscape

Operational needs

- The playground should be capable of single person supervision

Energy and maintenance

- The project should respect RPA 'Green Housekeeping policy', with choice of materials selected for their lifetime costs and environmental value
- The playground should not attract significantly increased revenue costs

Time scale

- To have the project fully complete and operational from 1st July 2000, but also to have it practically complete by the end of March 2000.

CURRENT PLAYGROUND PROVISION

The present playground is a popular and well maintained facility. At the main entrance to the site, but outside the fenced play area are two points of architectural interest; the Elfin Oak (a trunk of an old oak tree which has been carved to create a variety of painted figures) and the Time Flies drinking fountain. A café is located to the side of this with a seating area. An existing Edwardian shelter within the playground is to be retained. New toilets will be incorporated into the new scheme, near to the existing cafe.

PLAY BRIEF

The overall concept of the scheme is to create a design which is as natural as possible with a strong preference to use of high quality products (with the main play structures in timber). It was considered by the client group that there is great scope for the use of a variety of forms, scales, textures and colours in the playground environment, but the use of such variety should be in a controlled fashion so as not to adversely impact upon the historic landscape.

The brief asked that the following be considered in the overall playground design:

- A water feature
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Planted areas which make dens and hiding places
- Strategically placed acrylic 'fairground' mirrors
- Musical paths
- Adult picnic tables and benches, small scale picnic tables and benches
- Wooden houses inside which are items such as opening shutters, wall games, tables and chairs, cupboards etc.
- Differing height talk tubes
- Scented paths

- Wind tunnel area
- A sonic area which includes fixed musical instruments such as pipes and bells
- Paths with different textures
- Periscopes at different heights which provide views of the vegetation, gardens and skyline
- Sculptures using natural material which children can touch and play with
- Caves and tunnels

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

Within the proposed layout of the new playground we have developed the ideas within the brief and taken the theme of Peter Pan as a basis for our design. The following notes should be read in conjunction with the enclosed masterplan drawing.

The site lies to the west of the Broad Walk and south of the Bayswater Road, close to Black Lion Gate. The fenced boundary of the site follows the alignment of the surrounding footpaths but is set back to avoid interference with the Broad Walk avenue trees and existing shrubberies.

There is **only one public entrance and exit to the site** which is positioned close to the existing entrance just west of the existing café building which remains. The intention is to enforce a policy of access "for adults only accompanied by children", for this reason the Elfin Oak and Time Flies clock tower are outside the proposed fenced enclosure.

Within the gate is a **hard paved area** which will accommodate the existing café seating and forms the beginning of the designated route through the playground. This area is surfaced with macadam with a tarspray and chip surface, as are most of the paths through the site. To the north is **the park supervisor and toilets building** and to the west of this the entrance into the playground proper.

The **park supervisor and toilets building** is covered by a grassed 'green' roof and is designed to fit in with the nature and setting of the surrounding playground facilities. It accommodates a girls side [5 toilets) and boys side (urinals, and 1 toilet) along with the attendants office, and a single adults toilet with disabled facilities.

The path into the playground runs around the west side of the grass roofed building into the first area of the playground which is entitled **The High Seas**. The centrepiece of this area is the Pirate Ship, which is designed to a high quality, with many interactive facilities, in European oak. The ship is surrounded by sand with smaller play-boats, sand diggers and boulders with sub-tropical planting. Ground modelling surrounds the ship restricting views of it from the Gardens outside.

The **existing pavilion** to the north is retained, however the toilet block attached to it is demolished to reveal the open-sided pavilion as it was originally designed.

The **Tree House Encampment** has been carefully designed to incorporate the three existing mature trees with platforms and connecting rope bridges. To the west the path enters **The Movement and Musical Garden** where blocks of

colourful herbaceous planting conceal a variety of musical and movement play features.

To the south the **Wigwam Camp** features three tepees and totem poles on the theme of the Peter Pan 'Red Skins Camp'.

The **Mermaids Fountain** is an area of water play with water jets and fountains and non-slip paving. The mermaid will be subtly sculptured into the rockwork with diverse opportunities for play activity.

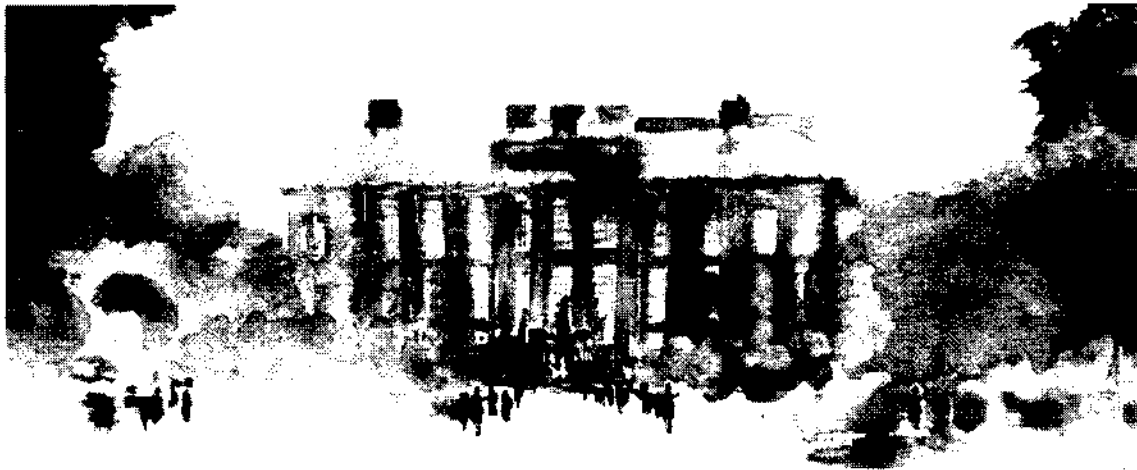
Finally close to the exit the **Oak Tree Village** provides an enclosed, safe environment for quiet play and role playing, with the adjacent **under 3's play area**, it is aimed at younger visitors to the site.

TREATMENT OF EXISTING TREES [refer to dwg. 1762/01/06]

Within the boundary of the new playground there are a total of 18 trees each has been inspected and it was established that a total of 3 mature trees and 5 semi-mature trees should be removed for arboricultural reasons.

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**A GARDEN TO COMMEMORATE
DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES**



© Colin and Maggs Architects

**PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION
ON BEHALF OF
THE DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**



**PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION
ON THE PROPOSALS FOR A GARDEN
TO COMMEMORATE DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES**

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This document is designed to inform residents, the relevant authorities and the wider public about the proposals for a garden to commemorate Diana, Princess of Wales in Kensington Gardens and to help them to put forward their views on these proposals as part of the preliminary consultation exercise which the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are conducting on behalf of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Committee.



Copyright Arcotfilms

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Committee, chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is advising HM Government as to how the life of Diana, Princess of Wales can best be commemorated.
- 1.2 The Memorial Committee support, in principle, the proposal for a garden to commemorate Diana, Princess of Wales in Kensington Gardens and it was among the proposals set out in the Memorial Committee's Preliminary Advice to Government published on 24 June 1998.
- 1.3 Of over 10,000 proposals the Memorial Committee received, gardens and fountains were amongst the most popular and appropriate ways in which the public wanted to remember Diana, Princess of Wales.
- 1.4 Kensington Palace was the Princess's home, and she sought recreation in the gardens around it. People have chosen Kensington Gardens as the place to go to pay their respects. In the days following her death, an enormous number of flowers and tributes were placed in front of the Palace, entirely spontaneously. And, ever since, more than 100 bouquets have been left there every week.
- 1.5 People will continue to visit Kensington Gardens to remember Diana, Princess of Wales and the Memorial Committee feel that, in response to this, the Gardens should be enhanced in a simple, elegant and dignified way, as a place of remembrance.
- 1.6 A memorial garden in Kensington Gardens could encompass: to the south of Kensington Palace, a garden respecting the historic setting; to the north, a children's garden; and, linking the two, a fountain in the Round Pond. This would allow Kensington Gardens to be enhanced in a simple and sympathetic way for visitors arriving from the north, south or east.
- 1.7 Many people visiting Kensington Gardens to remember Diana, Princess of Wales have chosen to walk from there to Westminster. The Memorial Committee feel that there is potential for recognising people's wish to walk from Kensington Gardens and encouraging it, by creating a memorial walking route from Kensington through the Royal Parks to St James's Park. Establishing this route by the use of markers on the paths and widely available maps might make this an enjoyable option for visitors.
- 1.8 The Memorial Committee feel that it is essential and right that residents, the relevant authorities and the wider public should have an early opportunity to put forward their views on the proposals for Kensington Gardens, before any final decisions are taken. That is why the Chancellor has asked the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to take forward a preliminary consultation exercise.

1.9 This document is intended to inform that exercise, which was launched on 10 July 1998, and sets out:

Section 2 The details of the preliminary consultation exercise - how to put forward views on the proposals and what will happen next.

Section 3 A plan of the site and some illustrative ideas about how each of the different areas could be enhanced in a simple, elegant and dignified way, sympathetic to the surroundings, but which would acknowledge that Kensington Gardens and the Royal Parks extending to Westminster are a principal place that people will visit to remember Diana, Princess of Wales and celebrate her life.

Section 4 The principles which should govern changes in Kensington Gardens, as advised jointly by the Royal Parks Agency, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces.

Section 5 The immediate environmental issues.

Section 6 A brief history of Kensington Gardens.

Section 7 The membership and terms of reference of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Committee.

2 PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION: THE PROCESS

2.1 This preliminary consultation exercise provides an opportunity for people to give their views about the proposals for a garden to commemorate Diana, Princess of Wales in Kensington Gardens. The Chancellor asked the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to carry out the exercise because of their responsibility for the Royal Parks, including Kensington Gardens. The process of initial consultation is as follows:

an exhibition based on this document will be open in the Albert Memorial Visitor Centre from 10 July 1998. It will remain open daily from 10am to 6pm and 10am to 8pm Tuesday and Thursday until it closes on 31 July 1998;

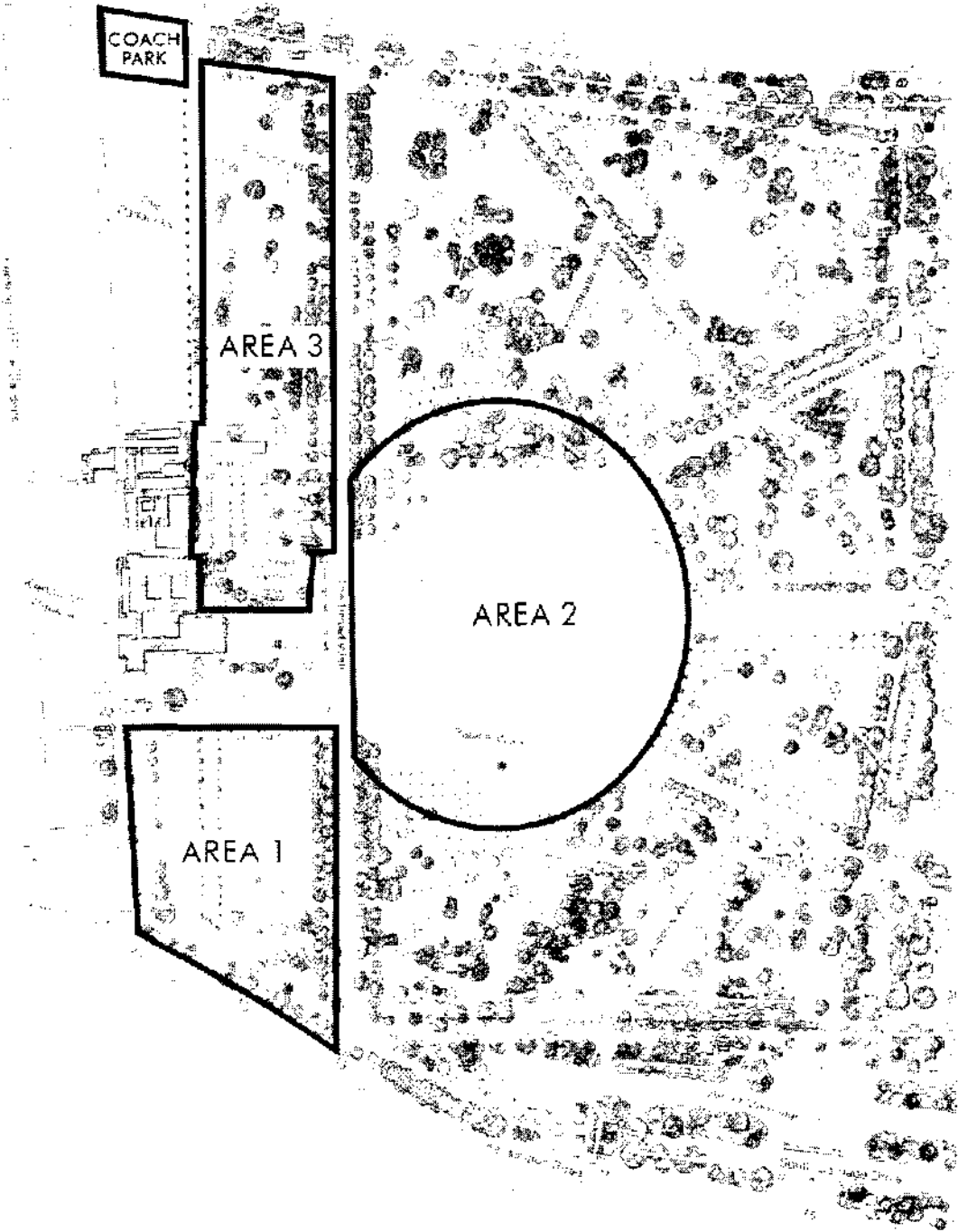
questionnaires will be available at the exhibition to allow the public to comment on these broad proposals;

details of the exhibition and a summary of the proposals, with the questionnaire, will be distributed to local residents.

2.2 The public response will be analysed and the results reported to the Memorial Committee.

2.3 In parallel, an Environmental Impact Assessment is being commissioned to inform the Memorial Committee's further consideration of the proposals.

- 2.4 There has been much speculation about the design and cost of the proposals for Kensington Gardens. No final recommendations have been made by the Memorial Committee beyond their support, in principle, for the ideas set out in this document.
- 2.5 Following this preliminary consultation, if the Memorial Committee continue to support the proposals in principle, the process of commissioning designs would begin, taking account of the views expressed by the public.
- 2.6 The designer of the gardens would be appointed through an international competition between designers working to a tightly-drawn brief setting out the constraints and opportunities of the site. The Memorial Committee would be responsible for approving all the key stages, including the design brief, the choice of designer, and the final design, drawing on expert advice as necessary.
- 2.7 Any preferred design would in due course be subject to the formal consultation processes which apply to developments on Crown land and which parallel the planning process: these are set out in Department of the Environment circular 18/84.
- 2.8 The two local planning authorities, English Heritage and other statutory consultees would be formally consulted and members of the public would also have an opportunity to comment on the detailed proposals. In the event of any strong objections being received, it would be open to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions to convene a non-statutory public inquiry.



THE PROPOSAL
PLAN ONE

THE CONCEPT (see Plan One)

3.1 The proposal for a memorial garden at Kensington Gardens is only one of the proposals recommended to HM Government by the Memorial Committee and of those, in particular, the proposal for specialist community children's nursing teams would have significant ongoing costs. The Memorial Committee are therefore keen to ensure that the costs of the proposal for a memorial garden are limited to making improvements that would be simple, elegant and dignified and which enhance the area as a place for people to remember Diana, Princess of Wales.

3.2 The Memorial Committee recognise the sensitivity of changes in Kensington Gardens. They will want designers to have an opportunity to offer imaginative responses to the design brief, but, bearing in mind the environmental issues, including the principles identified by English Heritage, the Royal Parks Agency and Historic Royal Palaces (see section 4), they feel that an appropriate design could reflect the following aspects:

• **AREA 1: South Garden**

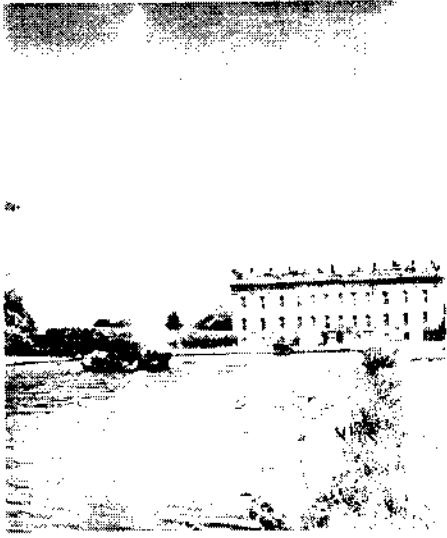
3.3 Any changes to this area need to respect the setting of the Palace and minimise the impact on current patterns of use. A simple, elegant design could be created around the structure and form of the existing space, to enhance the feeling of dignity and calm in a way which will be respected by visitors.

3.4 These objectives might be achieved, for example, by:

- perhaps providing a new gateway on the axis from Kensington Road;
- retaining the central axis with new or additional tree, shrub and flower planting;
- re-establishing the former woodland Wilderness at the south end to create a dense planted area alongside Kensington Road as a traffic screen and as an area of informality and quiet contemplation within the garden;
- re-establishing the existing raised embankment to the Broad Walk and improving the entrance from Kensington Road;
- respecting those parts of the area where the archaeology has not been disturbed.



The area to the south of Kensington Palace covered in the tributes laid immediately after the Princess's death



The Emperor Fountain at Chatsworth

• **Area 2: The Round Pond**

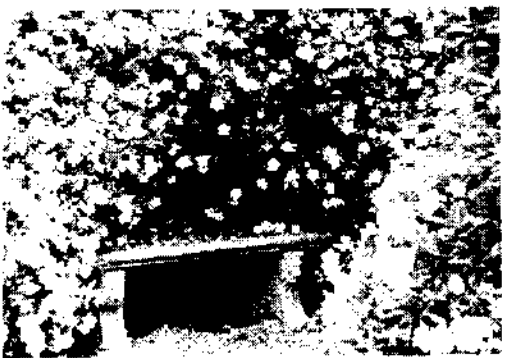
3.5 Between the north and south areas the Round Pond could be improved by the addition of a large central *jet d'eau* or fountain which could provide a popular focal point from which the entire landscape radiates. At fixed times the fountain could be switched off to allow traditional uses of the pond such as model boating.

3.6 The surroundings of the pond might also be quietly improved by the reinstatement of the edges, sympathetic planting and discreet lighting of the new fountain at night.

• **Area 3: North Garden**

3.7 This area is not constrained by the historical framework, except in the area between the Orangery and the Palace, and could therefore offer wide scope for a garden design, with a central theme of a children's garden underpinning the treatment of the entire area. The emphasis would be on an exciting and imaginative play area for children and on involving the community in environmental education projects and other uses of the area.

It could:



- be romantic, informal, natural and diverse with different areas reflecting the different aspects of the Princess's life, work and particular interests;
- be the opportunity for community groups to help lay out some areas in the overall plan, reflecting the Princess's interest in supporting community activity and involvement;

- include elements designed particularly for those with disabilities, reflecting another key concern of the Princess - for example, a 'touch and smell' garden for blind and partially sighted people;
- have a strong emphasis on creating a magical children's garden replacing the existing tarmac play area and incorporating the Elfin Oak and children's play pavilion;



- develop specific childhood themes eg. a secret garden, an enchanted garden:
- provide an opportunity for public art and sculpture in the design of play equipment:
- be an opportunity for special planting highlighting the Princess's favourite colours, flowers, plants etc. over the four seasons - and which might be replicated by others wishing to create gardens to commemorate her:
- have a strong emphasis on wildlife, wild flowers and ecology.



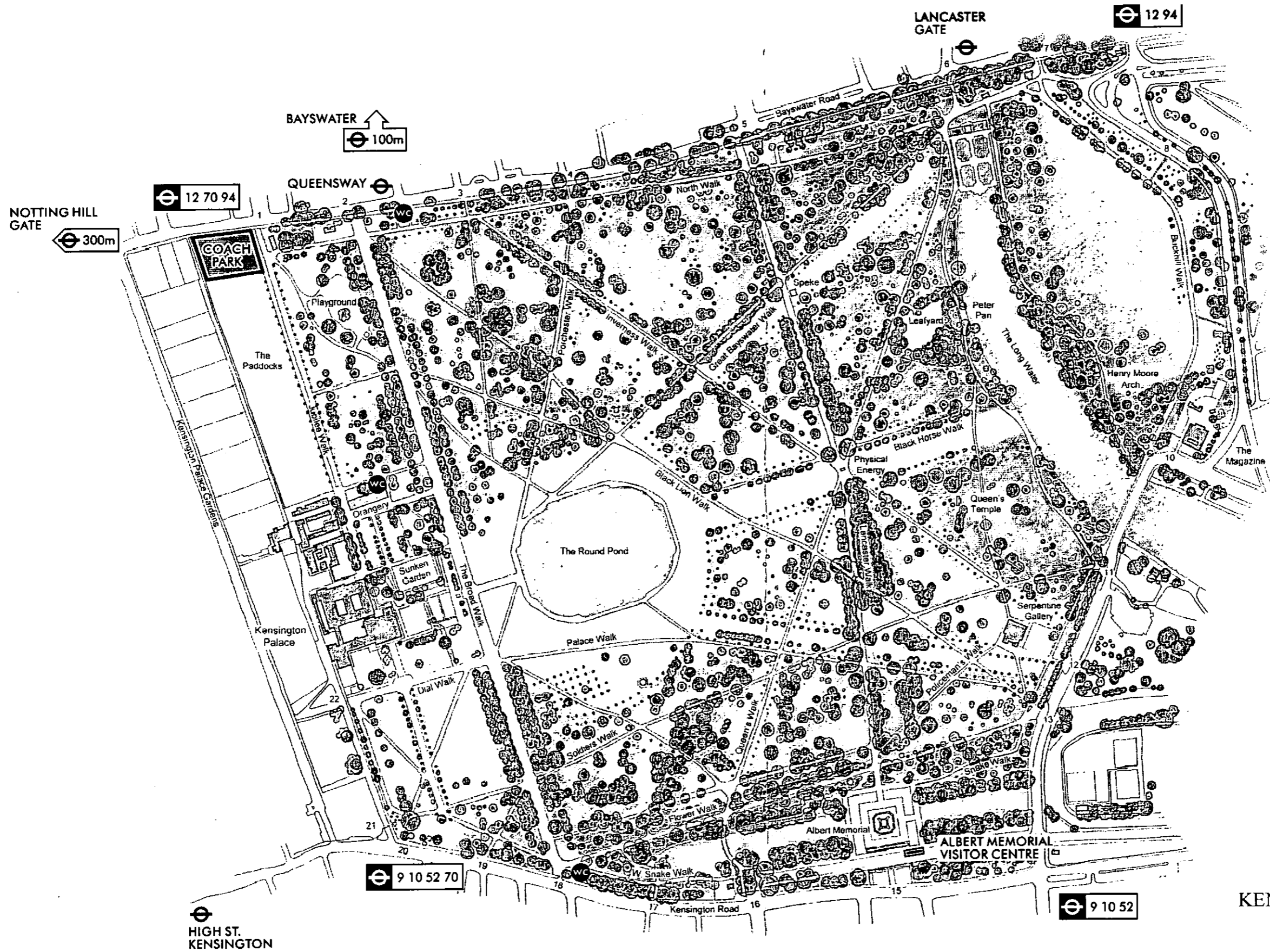
A Walk to Westminster

- 3.8 Since Diana, Princess of Wales's death, many people visiting Kensington Gardens to pay their respects have chosen to walk from there to Westminster Abbey. The Memorial Committee feel that there is potential for recognising people's wish to walk from Kensington Gardens and encouraging it, perhaps by creating a memorial walking route from Kensington through the Royal Parks to St James's Park.
- 3.9 Establishing this route by the use of discreet waymarkers and widely available maps might make this an enjoyable option.

4 PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 The Royal Parks Agency, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces were formally asked jointly to advise on the principles that should govern the creation of a memorial garden in Kensington Gardens. Their joint advice is set out in this Section 4.
- 4.2 The location is of outstanding heritage importance. Kensington Palace is a Grade 1 listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Other structures within Kensington Gardens are listed, either in their own right or because they lie within the curtilage of the listed Palace. Kensington Gardens is a Royal Park which is included at Grade 1 in the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest*. The Gardens are divided by the boundary between the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster and thus are covered by two complementary conservation areas. They are also an area of archaeological sensitivity. Both local authorities, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster, have policies in their unitary development plans to protect historic buildings and conservation areas.
- 4.3 The Kensington Gardens Management Plan was published in March 1996 following recommendations made by the Royal Parks Review Group. It provides a clear framework within which future change should take place. Five key points stress the need:
- (i) to respect the disparate characters of Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park;
 - (ii) to conserve and strengthen the main formal geometric lines of Bridgeman's 18th century layout;
 - (iii) to conserve later features of interest and consider the appropriate restoration of some of the earlier self-contained features;
 - (iv) to establish closer visual and physical links between the Palace and gardens;
 - (v) to ensure the protection of views from the gardens.
- 4.4 These are all firmly endorsed. The following additional principles were also recommended to guide proposals for a memorial garden:
- (i) the historical and visual setting of the Palace must be treated as a whole as part of a phased, long-term landscape strategy;
 - (ii) views of, and from, the Palace need to be carefully considered;
 - (iii) the underlying archaeology requires careful analysis and consideration;
 - (iv) current patterns of use of the Palace, the gardens and the pond area should be respected;
 - (v) the basic structural framework of the Bridgeman landscape should be respected;
 - (vi) the selected design should be low maintenance, durable and capable of accommodating the large numbers of visitors;
 - (vii) the garden should provide full access for the elderly and those with disabilities.

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KENSINGTON GARDENS
PLAN TWO

5 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (see Plan Two)

5.1 A full Environmental Impact Assessment will be commissioned by the Royal Parks Agency in addition to work already done for the Memorial Committee on environmental issues.

5.2 A 1995 survey showed 2.8 million visitors annually to Kensington Gardens. Since the Princess's death numbers have increased significantly. An updated visitors survey was carried out on sample days in March 1998 and the position will continue to be monitored. The March survey highlighted the following points:

- * The monthly visitor total for March is estimated at 340,000, but numbers vary throughout the year depending on the season and the weather;
- * One in four said the link with the Princess was important in their decision to visit Kensington Gardens;
- * 83% of visitors thought the area south of the Palace appropriate for a memorial. 78% of local visitors considered it appropriate;
- * 71% of visitors said they would visit a memorial garden if it was provided;
- * 53% said they would be likely to visit Kensington Gardens if it was opened later in the evening;
- * When asked to choose items for a memorial garden, 62% favoured flowers, 45% trees, shrubs, herbs or fountains, but only 27% an area to lay tributes.

5.3 There would be considerable drawbacks in seeking to rebuild a formal historic garden. It would be very expensive to build and extremely costly to maintain. It would also completely alter the established pattern of public use and enclose a hitherto public area. A completely informal flower garden south of the Palace would also be unsatisfactory as it would not relate to the visual and historical setting of the Palace.

5.4 Bearing these factors in mind, three major environmental considerations support the idea of reducing the current focus on the south side of the Palace, where visitors naturally gathered immediately after the Princess's death and which continues to be the most-visited area, and extending the areas of improvement to the north and east of the Palace also.

5.5 Only by enhancing a wider area of Kensington Gardens can people be dispersed, the environmental impact minimised and public access points increased. This would substantially mitigate the impact on the local transport infrastructure and provide better access to the gardens from many more directions. The north side of the park is better served by bus and underground services (see Plan Two). There is a temporary NCP coach park adjacent to the gardens in Bayswater Road. In order that people may approach the gardens from as many directions as possible, unattractive spiked railings which separate Hyde Park from Kensington Gardens could be removed. This would be highly symbolic of the open informality of the Princess's character and encourage full public access to the gardens from the east, which might also be emphasised by the creation of a walking route through the Royal Parks to St James's Park.

- 5.6 The emphasis should be very much on access via public transport and pedestrian movement from the north and east. No additional car parking facilities are anticipated, to complement the existing coach park. However, these issues will be further examined in the Environmental Impact Assessment.
- 5.7 There are existing WC's in Bayswater Road, Kensington Road and adjacent to the historic Orangery, where Historic Royal Palaces run catering facilities. Additional WC's might be provided, for example in the coach park.

6 HISTORY

- 6.1 In 1689 William III bought Nottingham House as a convenient retreat from Westminster. He commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to enlarge the house and over a period of years it was transformed into Kensington Palace.
- 6.2 Between 1689 and 1727, during which the gardens were developed, there was a rapid change in English garden style. Kensington Gardens underwent several transformations. There were two early formal gardens in Dial Walk and to the north of the Palace, the first designed by Daniel Marot and Jacob Roman for William and Mary, and the second designed by London and Wise for Queen Anne. The latter only lasted for about 30 years and little trace has been left of either.
- 6.3 In 1734 the Queen Anne gardens by London and Wise were replaced by Charles Bridgeman as part of a wider scheme for the entire park. The Dial Walk area was left mainly as open grass sward with a small woodland and wilderness at the south end on Kensington Road. The central axis, focused on the south front of the Palace, remained a constant in all the schemes and survives to this day. The underlying structure of the gardens to the south of the Palace remains primarily that created by Bridgeman.
- 6.4 Of the area to the north, the sunken garden and mound by London and Wise fell into decay and they have long since disappeared, although the topography of the former can still be discerned. They were replaced by open grass, random tree planting and a small wilderness area. Around 1906 a children's play area became established near the Elfin Oak.
- 6.5 In 1851 the present arrangements for managing Kensington Gardens came into existence. In 1993 the Royal Parks Agency was established to undertake the Secretary of State's management responsibilities for Kensington Gardens and the other Royal Parks. Since 1989 Historic Royal Palaces have been responsible for managing the State Apartments and part of the landscape adjoining the north east side of Kensington Palace.

7 THE DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

7.1 Following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Prime Minister asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to chair a Committee with the following terms of reference:

To advise HM Government as to how the life of Diana, Princess of Wales can best be commemorated, complementing the work of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. In taking forward this work, the Committee will take into account the views of members of the public and have regard to the charities and causes which the Princess supported.

7.2 The members are:

The Lord Chamberlain, Lord Camoys, representing the Royal Household

Lady Sarah McCorquodale, representing Earl Spencer (who also attends Memorial Committee meetings when he is in the country) and the Spencer family

Lord Attenborough

Paul Burrell

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey

Diane Louise Jordan

Anthony Julius

The Hon Rosa Monckton

Jane Tewson

7.3 The Memorial Committee's preliminary advice to the Government was published on 24 June 1998.

* FILE COPY *

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

THE TOWN HALL HORNTON STREET LONDON W8 7NX

42

**THE ROYAL
BOROUGH OF**

Executive Director M J FRENCH FRICS Dip TP MRTPI Cert TS



Department of Architecture & Planning,
City of Westminster,
P.O. Box 240, Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street,
London,
SW1E 6QP

Switchboard: 0171-937-5464
Direct Line: 0171-361-2771
Extension: 2771
Facsimilie: 0171-361-3463

**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Date: 23 December 1999

My Ref: **DPS/DCC/PP/99/02384** Your ref: GREG MCERLEAN Please ask for: K. Orme

Dear Sir / Madam

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Proposed development at: Kensington Gardens Royal Park

I enclose a copy of an application, with relevant drawings and/or supporting information, and should be pleased to receive your observations on these proposals as soon as possible.

It is hoped to present this application to the Planning Services Committee prior to 18/02/2000. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future, in order that your comments may be reported to this Committee.

Should you require any further details in respect of this case, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Officer on the above extension.

Yours faithfully,

M.J. FRENCH

Executive Director, Planning and Conservation



LAND USE CONSULTANTS

ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNING, DESIGN AND
MANAGEMENT

DT

43

43 Chalton Street
London NW1 1JD
Tel: 0171-383 5784
Fax: 0171-383 4798
Email: luc@london.landuse.co.uk

Our ref.: 1762/01

23rd December 1999

Mr. Michael French
Executive Director Planning & Conservation
The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
Kensington Town Hall
Hornton Street
LONDON W8 7NX

RECEIVED BY PLANNING SERVICES							
EX DIR	HDC	N	C	SW	SE	ENF	AO ACK
31				29 DEC 1999			
APPEALS	IO	REC	ARB	FWD PLN	CON DES	FEES	

Dear Mr. French,

DOE CIRCULAR 18/84: CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY THE ROYAL PARKS – KENSINGTON GARDENS – THE PLAYGROUND AS A MEMORIAL TO DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Please find enclosed 4No. copies of the Archaeological Impact Assessment and Mitigation Report for the above scheme, sent under separate cover from our previous correspondence of 18th November and 13th December 1999.

We would be grateful to receive your Authority's comments on this aspect as soon as possible, given our proposed start date on site in mid January 2000.

If you require any further information, or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me, or my colleague Adrian Wikeley.

Yours sincerely,

Jennette Emery - Wallis

Jennette Emery-Wallis
for Land Use Consultants

Personal e-mail: emery_wallis_j@london.landuse.co.uk

Enc.

Cc	Greg McErlean	RPA
	Chris Sumner	English Heritage

KENSINGTON GARDENS:
PLAYGROUND DEDICATED TO DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Archaeological Impact Assessment and Mitigation

BACKGROUND

The Royal Parks Agency has previously commissioned a series of archaeological studies in order to determine the historical significance of the playground site and to assess the impact of its development upon any associated archaeological remains (Pontin 1999, Rauxloh 1999, Steele 1999).

The new playground enlarges the recreation area into the grass currently surrounding the existing children's playground, which was created in 1909. The site has been altered several times since then, most recently being reformed to comply with modern safety and construction standards. In addition to the damage and destruction which this has caused, there has been other loss of underlying remains due to the former presence of air-raid shelters (Pontin 1999, fig. 13). The wider topography appears also to have been disturbed by cultivation and re-grassing associated with routine maintenance. The modern features have removed between 50% and 75% in site plan (cf. Pontin 1999, 13).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACTS

The playground site lies within an area that was incorporated into the formal gardens of Kensington Palace in 1704-05. The change that the landscape has undergone since then is well documented (Pontin 1999. Cf. English Heritage 1998). However, archaeological trial excavation in the least damaged area outside the existing playground shows that there is only limited survival of early features (Steele 1999). They include a possible prehistoric ditch in addition to eighteenth-century remains, comprising part of a boundary, quarry-pits and a serpentine path which can be identified with that delineated in a map of 1787.

On the basis of the recorded observations, the *minimum* depth of soil above the surviving archaeological deposits around the present playground can be identified as follows (Steele 1999. Cf. Land Use Consultants [LUC] Drawing No. 1762/04):

Zone 1 (trench 2)	160mm-200mm
Zone 2 (trench 1)	350mm-400mm
Zone 3 (trench 3)	200mm
Zone 4 (trench 4)	360mm-400mm

The top of the subsequent underlying soils within zones 1 and 2 appears to be mixed brickearth (Steele 1999: trenches 1 and 2, layer 4), which may owe some of its disturbed nature to the actions of roots and maintenance associated with former tree-planting. A similar deposit may also extend over part of Zone 3, where the ground has been further disturbed by the building of modern lavatories (Zone 3A).

GENERAL MITIGATION STRATEGY

The new playground scheme has been carefully designed to have the minimum possible archaeological impact. All potentially damaging ground disturbance works will be carried out under archaeological supervision, in accordance with detailed building specifications and prescribed working methods that should avoid unnecessary damage to significant remains, as well as safeguard the wider setting.

DETAILED MEASURES

Design

Large-scale items, which require deep foundations, are all placed within the area of existing disturbance caused by the present children's playground (LUC Drawing Nos. 1762/08 and /18). Where features are located in the surrounding zones of individual archaeological constraint, their foundation details have been adjusted in order to avoid the disturbance of significant archaeological deposits (cf. LUC Drawing No. 1762/108). In the few instances where they might impact upon potentially sensitive levels, as in crossing the projected line of the eighteenth-century serpentine path, the foundation depth has been reduced to the minimum structural dimension compliant with safety requirements (LUC Drawing Nos. 1762/119 and /120). Similarly, the laying of pipework/construction installation will be restricted to the shallowest permissible depth in sensitive areas (LUC Drawing No. 1762/13. Construction Specification section S)

Archaeological control, protection and supervision

All such ground disturbance will be carried out under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist, with provision for excavation and related recording, analysis and subsequent publication if significant archaeological remains are revealed. Any remains will be investigated only in so far that the construction works affect them, but otherwise they will be left intact and preserved *in situ*.

Special protective measures will be used to safeguard other parts of the underlying historic landscape from damage (cf. Construction Specification clauses C10/6 and /90A). A cordon around the line of the late eighteenth-century serpentine path found by previous excavation (Steele 1999: trench 3) will be fenced off throughout the contract-period, with specific vehicle access points made using road plates (LUC Drawing Nos. 1762/04 and /05. Construction Specification clauses A36/330 and /345). Traffic movement and the use of equipment and machinery will be controlled to avoid operation in conditions or in a manner that could result in unnecessary ground compaction or other disturbance (cf. LUC Drawing No. 1762/02. Construction Specification clauses A34/435, C10/50 and D20/842).

An archaeological watching brief will be maintained during site clearance works, construction and cultivation as appropriate in order to ensure that the working methods do not have a direct impact on below-ground features. Where existing structures are to be demolished, their foundations will be left in the ground (cf. LUC

Drawing Nos. 1762/03 and /07. Construction Specification clause C10/10). Manual methods will be used in the most sensitive archaeological areas to avoid undue disturbance; elsewhere, postholes for fencing, stays, etc. will be dug using a fly-auger to reduce archaeological impact (cf. LUC Drawing Nos. 1762/06, /15-/17, /128 and /129. Construction Specification clauses D20/170, Q31/112, Q40/340).

Planting

Shrub and herbaceous planting has been designed to be contained wholly within the existing depth of topsoil and related earth, or to be placed in built-up ground. All areas of new tree-planting within the zones of archaeological constraint will be placed on top of new mounds, where their root structure should not penetrate deep below the current ground level.

Where the ground is built up, a marker layer will be introduced to distinguish between the existing ground level and the added material (cf. LUC Drawing Nos. 1762/12, /16 and /111). Where this is not the case (LUC Drawing Nos. 1762/04 and 08: Zone 2 - tree spiral in the Movement/Musical Garden; boundary between Zone 2 and the existing playground [Zone 6] - semi-mature tree to be located within Wigwam Camp; Zone 6 - semi-mature tree to be located in the Entrance Area), the trees will be placed in a trench of 'Metrosand' growing medium, which will contain the roots and prevent them from spreading downwards and laterally. A root barrier will be added to the base of the trench for the tree spiral in Zone 2 in order to provide extra protection (cf. LUC Drawing No. 1762/16 and Construction Specification clause D20/166). The associated excavation work will be carried out under direct archaeological control.

REFERENCES

- English Heritage 1998. *Kensington Gardens: A desk-top assessment of the proposed Garden of Remembrance in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales*
- Pontin, L. 1999. *The Children's Playground, Kensington Gardens - Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. An archaeological assessment*, AOC Archaeology Group
- Rauxloh, P. 1999. *Kensington Gardens Playground, London W8: a micro-topographic survey*, Museum of London Archaeology Service
- Steele, A. 1999. *The Children's Playground, Kensington Gardens, London W8. An archaeological evaluation*, Museum of London Archaeology Service

Brian Dix, BA FSA
Consultant Garden Archaeologist

December 1999

~~Mike~~

(47)

Diana Memorial Gardens

I spoke to Royal Parks last night —
the info. in 'Guardian' is correct, and they
are planning to start work in the 3rd
week of January to co-incide with the
8 week date for their 18/84 application.

I can either (a) do a late report for
19th Jan. Cmtee, (b) do a Members
Panel (but we do have objections)

Whatever way we do it — I can do
the report next week

Doreen 24/12

Diana remembered in a Peter Pan park

Princess's love of children inspires playground near her former home

by PETER GRUNER and SABA SALMAN

THE Evening Standard reveals today the spectacular £1.25 million memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales, which will be created on the doorstep of her former home in Kensington Gardens. Despite early indications that the tribute would involve only minor improvements to Kensington Gardens and a small playground for disabled children, the final scheme is far bigger and grander than expected. The Diana, Princess of Wales memorial committee has agreed to overhaul the existing children's play area off the Broad Walk in favour of a magnificent two-acre Peter Pan adventure playground.

Work is to start in less than a month and the playground will open by March, well before the third anniversary of Diana's death on 31 August. The Royal Parks Agency and memorial committee chose the Peter Pan theme because of the Princess's love of children and because J M Barrie, the creator of the children's fantasy story, funded the original playground built in 1909.

There has been much speculation about the designs — but the plan, by architects Land Use Consultants, which is published here, is the final version, complete with last-minute alterations based on residents' concerns.

Six themed areas will dominate the playground, outside which will be a small drinking fountain and clock tower. On entering the area, children come across the Oak Tree Village shelter, complete with a hand-carved flock of sheep, a rocking horse, play houses, a model tractor and sand pit.

Connected to the Village by a winding, cobbled path is the Mermaid's Fountain — which will boast a model crocodile, a "mermaid rock" and water play area. Directly next to the fountain, surrounded by sand and accessed via a series of stepping stones, lies the centrepiece of the playground: a 14-metre by four-metre pirate ship with a mast towering 11 metres above the ground.

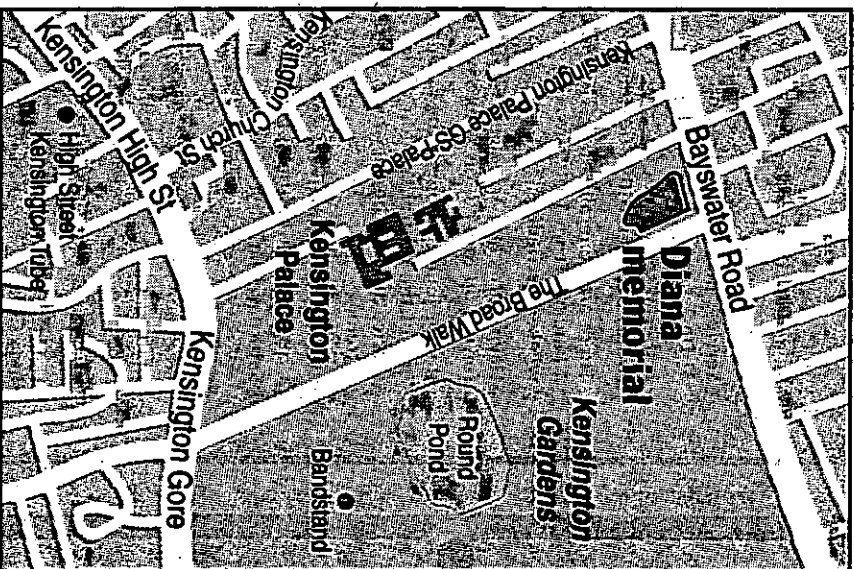
Next to that, via more stepping stones, architects have created a Wigwam Camp with totem poles and a cluster of mini-wigwams.

Beyond that will be the Tree Houses Encampment where children will clamber up raised timber platforms to get into the tree houses.

Finally, in the north-west corner is a Movement and Musical Garden with chimneys, a water-feature piano and xylophone.

Surrounding the fantasy garden will be trees, shrubs, timber benches, cobble paths and stepping stones.

(conts...)



Calls for compensation after sex abuse claims

A RAFT of compensation claims could be launched against the Royal Borough after a report revealed it sent children to a foster home where they were physically and sexually abused.

In the damning report released last week the town hall was found to be seriously defective in its supervision of placements at Barlavington Manor children's home in West Sussex.

The Royal Borough sent 19 children to Barlavington Manor from 1966 until its closure in 1984. But it was only in February 1997 that a formal complaint was made.

Now solicitors acting for former residents said they intended to pursue compensation.

Former residents said home owners John and Anna Ellis - both now dead - used cruel

punishments and used children as slave labour to support their own affluent lifestyle. They also spent money meant for the children on themselves.

Four female residents were indecently assaulted by the husband of a member of staff approved as a 'social uncle'.

It was also said girls as young as nine or 10 were given the contraceptive pill.

In the report childcare consultant Keith Bilton concluded the allegations were "in all probability substantially true".

A police investigation was dropped in December last year following the owners' deaths.

The Royal Borough then commissioned an independent inquiry into the allegations.

Deputy leader Cllr Richard Walker-Arnott

(Con) said: "Claims for compensation will be considered individually."

"The Royal Borough accepts the Keith Bilton report and its conclusions. I would like to take this opportunity - on behalf of the council - to express my profound regret that people suffered as they did during their stay at Barlavington Manor".

Death leads to road signs

NEW SAFETY signs have been put up outside a Chelsea primary school following the death of a pupil in a road accident.

Seven-year-old Ziad Ragheb of Marlborough Primary School died outside the school in Draycott Avenue when he was involved in an accident with a courier van.

Ziad, who was about to go on a half-term trip, died from head injuries.

After the accident in October council officers met with headteacher Angela Rawlinson and the police to take action on road safety improvements.

Now there are larger school warning signs in Draycott Avenue and Denyer Street and the council has replaced a pay-and-display parking machine outside the school with a "School - Keep Clear" marking.

Parents and members of the local businesses community had previously expressed concern at the lack of safety measures and the number of speeding cars.

The council had been handed a 369-signature petition in early December by the chairman of the highways and traffic committee Councillor Adrian FitzGerald (Con) voicing their concerns.

One resident said: "It's a calamity it's taken the death of a small child to prompt the council into doing something for us."

The school did not wish to comment on the benefits of the changes until after the inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court on January 12.

The firm of couriers involved in the accident, Associated Air Services in Feltham also refused to comment until after the inquest.

1990s

KENSINGTON Palace was awash with thousands of floral tributes following the tragic death of Diana Princess of Wales on August 31, 1997.

The mass outpouring of grief led to calls for a permanent memorial. A memorial committee was formed and drew up plans for a 330ft tall fountain in the Round Pond, Kensington Gardens. Residents objected to the plans so much they were eventually dropped.

Proposals were submitted to Kensington and Chelsea Council this month for an alternative memorial playground but residents were unhappy with the Peter Pan style design, likening it to an amusement park.

Kensington & Chelsea News

23.12.99

The project, although welcomed as an inspiring facility for children, has led to concerns that not all residents and interested parties were consulted. However, such criticism has always been associated with the Diana Memorial. Chancellor Gordon Brown's memorial committee's plans for a £10 million, 32-acre "modern-classical" memorial garden had to be ditched last year after months of protest from residents, led by Kensington and Chelsea council leader Joan Hanham.

Residents, promised Lady Hanham, would "fight every inch of the way to have this garden stopped" with "opposition at every stage".

There was an uproar among residents when the Government said that the "majority" of people who wrote in with ideas for a Diana memorial suggested a garden, since the real figure was estimated to be nearer 2,000.

There were also fears that Mr Brown would railroad through the garden at any price.

In the end, however, it was proposed that the garden be ditched and there be small improvements to Kensington Gardens, a £3 million walkway between the Royal Parks and the refurbishment of the existing children's playground, dedicated to the Princess.

Today's announcement goes well beyond that, but concerns remain that the decision-making process has been far too narrow. Indeed, before deciding on the new playground the Royal Parks

Agency consulted only 21 residents' groups and representatives of disabled groups (it does not need council planning permission for which consultation is obligatory). Nevertheless, the agency says that it received 95 per cent support for the scheme from these groups.

Kensington Society secretary Ethne Rudd said: "We are not against a playground. It is just the design that is utterly ridiculous. We thought it was going to be for disabled children. It seems they have changed their mind. There is water, sand and boats with a Peter Pan theme, but it could end up looking like an amusement park."

"We are concerned that it is 35-40 per cent bigger than the existing playground in an area where green space is scarce. Mature trees may have to be felled. We are also worried about supervision and controls around it. It could be prone to vandals."

But Brian Levitt, chairman of Kensington and Chelsea's environment and leisure committee, said: "The scheme may appear too jazzy for some local people, but I really like it. There is an appalling lack of children's facilities in the gardens already and this scheme really fits the bill."

"I think it's excellent and should be an example of what can be done to celebrate Diana's memory in other parts of the country."

Others are worried about the removal of eight trees — one London plane, two horse chestnut, two maple, one oak and one cherry. However,

they will all be replaced by similar semi-mature trees. John Zamit, committee member of the South East Bayswater Residents Association, said that in principle the scheme was good but there was concern about the trees: "I think we'll want to keep an eye on it. We want to ensure that if trees are being removed they are being done so because there is no other way and that they will be replaced."

However, members of the Knightsbridge Society are in full support of the plan, according to chairman Michael Wright. "We look forward to seeing a playground that will be popular with all children and become an attractive addition to the gardens," he said.

Robert Buxton, chairman of the disbanded Princess Diana Memorial Action Group — which pressed the Government to ditch the memorial garden plans in favour of a playground — said: "This is what we always wanted. Originally, remember, we would have had a huge park scheme which would have been entirely inappropriate."

A Royal Parks Agency spokesman said: "By no means is it an amusement park. The idea is to provide a creative, innovative facility which is a fitting tribute to the Princess."

"It will reflect her interest in children, particularly those who are disabled. We consulted disabled children's groups and they have been perfectly happy with the scheme."

London Evening Standard 22.12.99

Even the fiercest critic approves

EVENING STANDARD art critic Brian Sewell, at the forefront of those campaigning against plans for any grandiose memorial in Kensington Gardens, is pleasantly surprised at the new proposal — although he likened its design to a pregnant woman.

"This is what we all asked for — a development of the existing playground in Kensington Gardens. But we should have something like this in every park in the country; that would be a more fitting memorial. It might bring life back to some very deserted and neglected little parks."

He was concerned about the safety

The Evening Standard's **BRIAN SEWELL** gives his verdict on the proposed Diana memorial playground

of the scheme, however: "Although I think it looks exciting and will occupy a child for a whole afternoon if they do everything, how can they be certain that everyone is safe?"

"If it gets full of parents it's going to be very crowded. There's almost no room left for the people who are supposed to enjoy it."

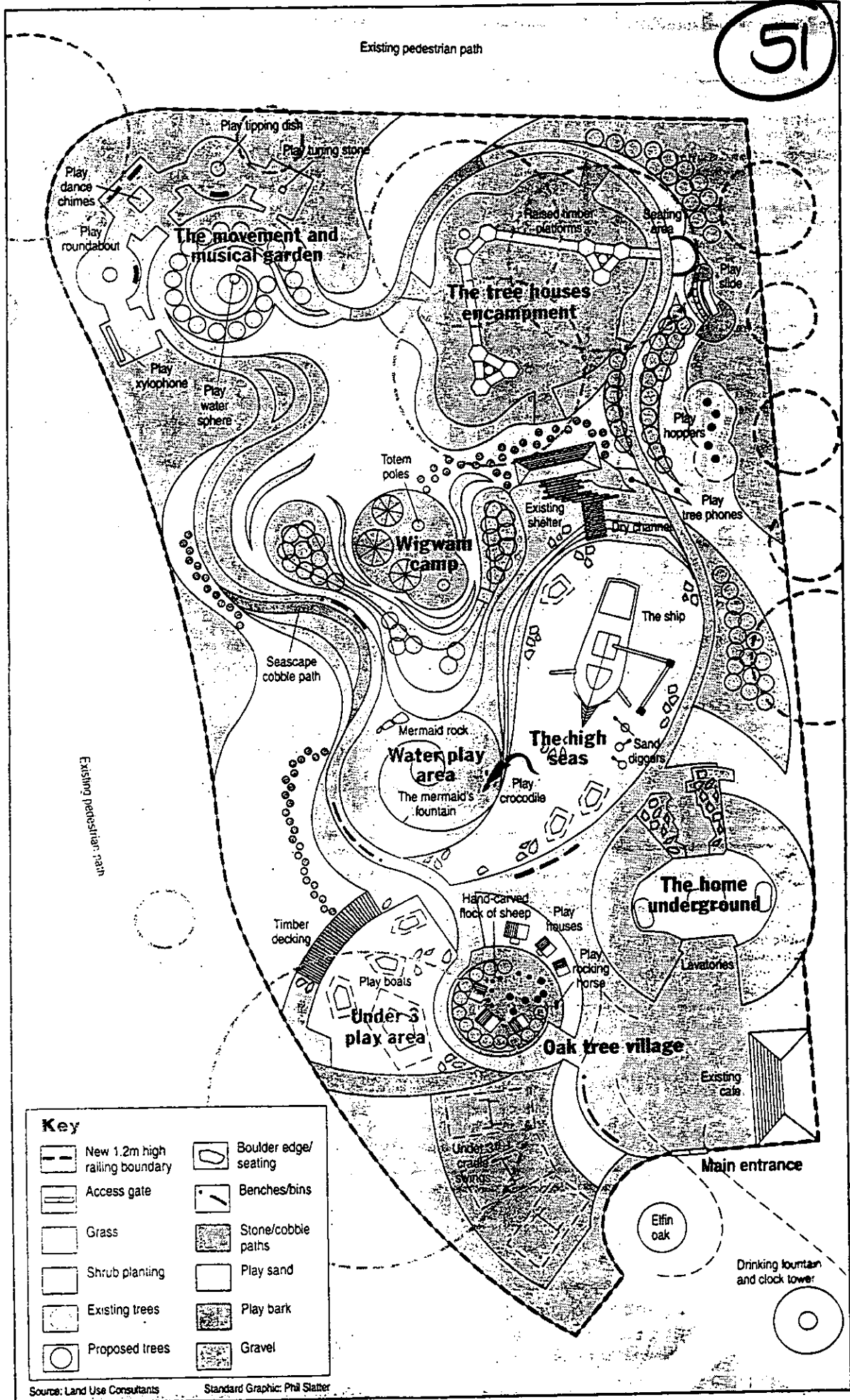
"Ideally, you should be able to take your child and leave it, but who is

going to pay for the supervision?" On the aesthetics of the design, he was more guarded. "Is it meant, in outline, to look like a pregnant woman?"

"It looks like a painting by Chris Ofili — it's a woman facing left with a very pregnant belly and smoking a cigarette."

Overall, however, Sewell is relieved. "It is difficult for adults to assess this sort of thing — we are 6ft tall, and children are tinier and have a different concept of space."

"The thing that I am most relieved about is that it conforms to the current area. It could have been so much worse."



Key

	New 1.2m high railing boundary		Boulder edge/seating
	Access gate		Benches/bins
	Grass		Stone/cobble paths
	Shrub planting		Play sand
	Existing trees		Play bark
	Proposed trees		Gravel

Source: Land Use Consultants Standard Graphic: Phil Slater

Diana park is Peter Pan treat for children

By Caroline Davies

WORK is to begin in the New Year on a two-acre £1.25 million adventure playground, London's first official memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales.

With a Peter Pan theme and set in Kensington Gardens it will be created on the site of an existing play area near Kensington Palace, her former home.

It replaces the rejected proposals for a £10 million garden and is expected to be completed by March.

The Royal Parks Agency and memorial committee chose a "loose" Peter Pan theme because J M Barrie, the creator of the children's favourite, funded the original playground that was built in 1906, and also because of the Princess's love for children.

The centrepiece will be a 50ft by 13ft pirate ship complete with a 35ft mast.

It is one of six themed areas. The first is the Oak Tree Village, with hand-carved sheep, a rocking horse, playhouses, a model tractor and sand pit.

This will be connected by a path to the Mermaid's Fountain, with a model crocodile, a "mermaid rock" and a water play area. More stepping stones lead from the pirate ship to a Wigwam Camp with totem poles and mini wigwams.

In the Tree Houses Encampment children can clamber on timber platforms. The last area will be a Movement and Musical Garden with chimes, a water feature piano and xylophone.

"It is not an amusement park, it is a creative, innovative facility which is a fitting tribute to the Princess," said a spokesman for the Royal Parks Agency.

Some critics have expressed worries that the



The Princess: tribute

nature of the playground, with cobbled paths, stepping stones and sand pits, may put it out of bounds for disabled youngsters.

The playground has also received a mixed reception from some residents, who are concerned that it has bypassed normal planning controls because it is being built in a royal park.

The spokesman said: "It's for both able-bodied and disabled children. There is 95 per cent support for it. We consulted 21 organisations and the two MPs for the area."

Plans for a 32-acre "modern-classical" memorial garden were shelved after months of protests by local residents, including the art critic Brian Sewell. Yesterday he said he was "pleasantly surprised" by the new proposal.

"This is what we asked for — a development of the existing playground in Kensington Gardens.

"But we should have something like this in every park in the country. That would be a more fitting memorial.

"It might bring back life to some very deserted and neglected little parks."

Princess's playground

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Inspired by Peter
Pan, the £1.25m
tribute to Diana

By TOM RAWSTORNE

PRINCESS Diana is to be remembered with a £1.25million adventure playground near her Kensington Palace home.

Details of the attraction, which takes its inspiration from Peter Pan, were revealed yesterday. Work will start in Kensington Gardens next month and should be completed in time for an official opening on Diana's birthday, July 1.

The design is a watered-down version of an idea put forward after her death two years ago and which angered those near the royal park in West London.

Then, the Princess of Wales Memorial Committee published plans for a £10million 'modern classical' garden covering 32 acres. Residents feared the proposals would cause a major influx of visitors, wrecking the character of the gardens and surrounding areas.

The new memorial, built partly on the site of an existing playground, will cover only two acres but some local residents are still concerned about its size. They are also worried that, because it boasts a number of water features, it could be dangerous for children.

Its designers, however, are confident there will be no problems and claim the playground will provide a 'creative,

'It will reflect her
love of children'

innovative facility which is a fitting tribute to the Princess'.

The Peter Pan theme was chosen because of the Princess's love of children and because its author J M Barrie funded the original playground in 1909. The area it covers will be doubled in size to incorporate six themed zones including a wigwam camp and a pirate ship.

A spokesman for the Royal Parks Agency said: 'It will reflect Diana's interest in children, particularly those who are disabled.'

'We consulted with disabled children's groups and they have been perfectly happy with the scheme.'

Ethne Rudd, secretary of the Kensington Society, said: 'Although we were in favour of a garden as a memorial, this is far bigger than we hoped for. I am also concerned about the design, which we thought was going to just be for disabled children.'

Art critic and local resident Brian Sewell said: 'Although I think it looks exciting and will occupy a child for a whole afternoon if they do everything, how can they be certain that everyone is safe? If it gets full of parents it's going to be very crowded.'

Daily Mail 23.12.99

Memory of Diana will live on here

BY IAN GALLAGHER

PRINCESS Diana is to be honoured with a Peter Pan adventure playground close to her former home. Work will begin on the £1.25million memorial in less than a month and it will open in March.

But despite claims that the scheme has the "95 per cent support" of residents' organisations, one group said it could end up looking like an "amusement park."

Plans for a £10million garden in the Princess's name were dropped after a public backlash. It was then decided that the tribute should be much smaller, involving only minor improvements to Kensington Gardens and a small playground for disabled children.

But the new two-acre playground is far more ambitious than expected. The Diana, Princess of Wales memorial committee and The Royal Parks

Agency chose the Peter Pan theme because of the Princess's love of children. JM Barrie, who wrote the fantasy story, funded the original playground in Kensington Gardens in 1909.

Six themed areas will dominate the playground. Children entering the area will come across the Oak Tree Village shelter, complete with a hand-carved flock of sheep, a rocking horse, play houses, a model tractor and sand pit.

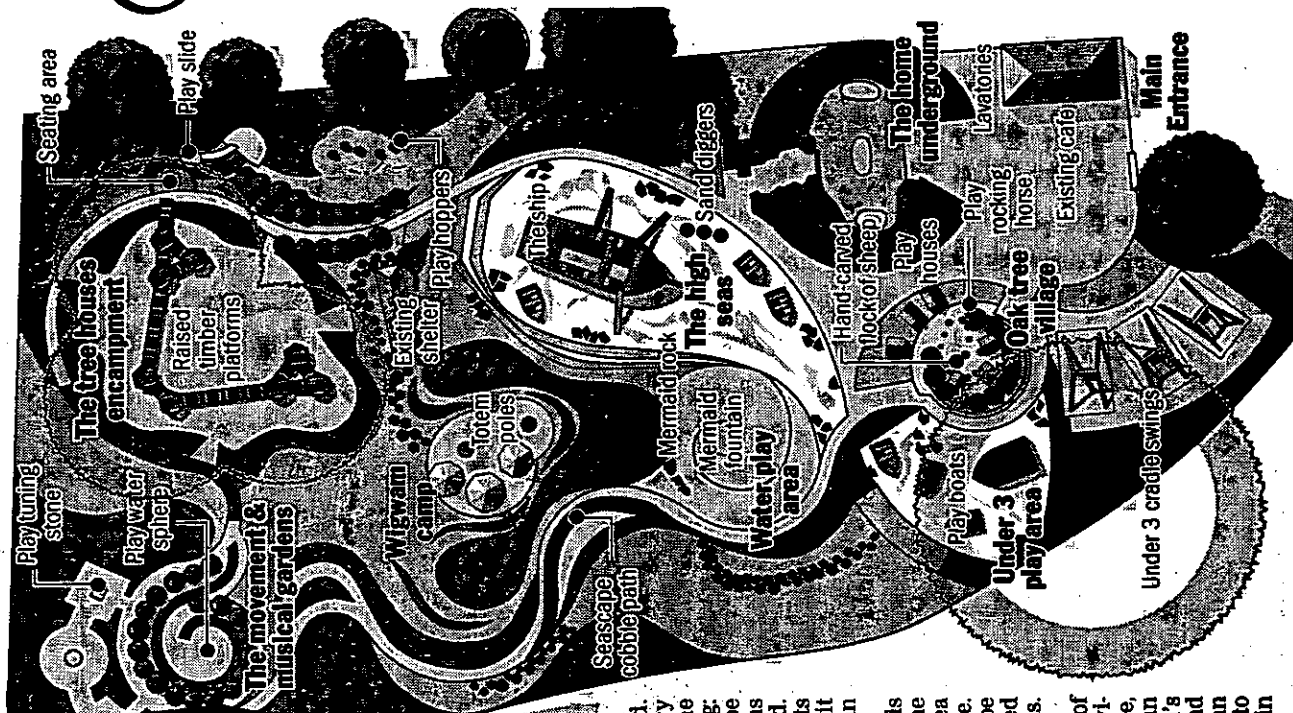
A winding path connects the village to the next attraction, the Mermaid's Fountain, which boasts a model crocodile and water play area. Next to that, accessed via a series of stepping stones, is the centrepiece of the playground - a pirate ship with an 11-metre mast.

There will also be a wigwam camp, tree houses and a music garden with chimes, a piano and xylophone. Despite the broad support there have been concerns that not all interested

parties were consulted. Kensington Society secretary Ethne Rudd described the design as "ridiculous," adding: "We thought it was going to be for disabled children. It seems they have changed their mind. There is water, sand and boats with a Peter Pan theme, but it could end up looking like an amusement park."

"We are concerned that it is 35-40 per cent bigger than the existing playground in an area where green space is scarce. Mature trees may have to be felled. We are also worried about supervision and controls. It could be prone to vandals."

But Brian Levitt, chairman of Kensington and Chelsea environment and leisure committee, said: "I really like it. There is an appalling lack of children's facilities in the gardens and this fits the bill. It should be an example of what can be done to celebrate Diana's memory in other parts of the country."



County spending less on schools red tape



Shropshire spends less on schools red tape that most other parts of the country, figures reveal today.

The county education authority, described as "lean and mean" by its acting director Dennis Jones, spends just £29 per pupil on administration costs.

But in wealthy Kensington and Chelsea the amount is £167. Other big spenders include Greenwich at £127 and Manchester at £126.

By Dave Morris

Education Secretary David Blunkett has told LEAs that he wants a cut in central administration costs, a minimum increase of 5p in the pound in funding per pupil and at least 80 per cent of the schools budget actually given to schools.

And he has warned that he will not hesitate to use his powers to make sure authorities comply with his demands.

Today Mr Jones said: "Our spending on management puts us very much at the bottom of the league and that is very good news. It shows that we are an efficient authority putting as much as possible into schools and not holding back at the centre for what could be red tape and bureaucracy."

He said that a report by the local government watchdog, the Audit Commission, had showed that the Shropshire authority did well across a whole range of performance indicators.

"Not only are we among the top 10 per cent of GCSE performers but we also keep a tight control on such things like surplus school places which can waste money," said Mr Jones.

"Shropshire education authority is offering very good value for money. The Telford and Wrekin authority is also cutting administration spending and is meeting spending targets on pupils.

Shropshire Star 02.12.99

Reservoir court battle

By RICK SENLEY

THE ROYAL Borough has decided to take the Government to court over a controversial development rejected by Kensington and Chelsea Council.

The development of Campden Hill reservoir into flats and houses was imposed by the Government in October after company St James Homes Ltd won a planning appeal.

But now the Royal Borough will contest the decision at the High Court claiming the Government broke its own regulations.

Royal Borough councillors rejected

the development on the grounds it would break regulations preventing open spaces from being built upon.

However the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) gave permission to the development claiming it did not class the reservoir as an open space.

Campden ward councillor Christopher Buckmaster (Con) said: "I'm delighted with this news and I'm sure it's going to be in the best interest of the residents and the council."

St James Homes made an application in November last year to redevelop the site which houses the 110-year-old Campden Hill Tennis Club.

The proposals include building 19 houses and a mansion block of 43 flats around a square.

Some of the homes would be used as affordable housing.

The existing tennis courts would be replaced by two levels of six indoor and six outdoor courts.

Campden Hill Square Gardens committee chairman George Thomas said: "We don't usually get involved with political issues but we felt strongly enough about the reservoir scheme to break our rule."

"We have been against the scheme from the start and we are grateful to the council for taking it to court."

"The choice of inspector appointed by the Government was surprising and the decision to grant permission was most definitely a shock."

St James Homes Ltd was unavailable for comment.



Cllr Christopher Buckmaster

Fulham Chronicle 09.12.99

National Roundup

Abused jail officer wins settlement

An Irish prison officer, who was called a "thick paddy" and a "spud chucker" by colleagues won an out of court settlement of £22,000 yesterday.

Richard Lowles, from Ulster, claimed his life had been made unbearable during five years of racist abuse at Wandsworth jail backed by managers and even the governor. The final humiliation came when his wife, Wendy, was also insulted.

The settlement comes days after the release of a damning home office report on racism and conditions at the south London prison.

An industrial tribunal had heard that Mr Lowles, 33, was called "bog trotter" and a member of the "paddy nostra", by colleagues. The prison service was accused of his racially motivated constructive dismissal.

The two sides in the case, which ran for 10 days in November, reached a settlement moments before the tribunal was to resume yesterday.

Mr Lowles, who resigned in March, said: "I am very happy with the results. It was the prison officers that got me the result, because they were prepared to come forward."

At the hearing Mrs Lowles had told the tribunal how the case had affected her family's health.

She and her husband were both on medication and she took tranquillisers.

Yesterday, the prison service said: "There is no admission of liability. The area manager will commission an investigation into the allegations."

Peter Pan air to Diana memorial

Work will start next month on a £1.2m children's adventure playground in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, it was confirmed yesterday.

The capital's first official memorial is being created on a two acre site in Kensington Gardens, close to her former Kensington palace home.

The garden, which will have six Peter Pan areas, with trees, benches, cobbled paths

scheduled to open in March, well before the third anniversary of Diana's death on August 31.

The site will include an oak tree village with hand-carved sheep, a water play area with a crocodile, a pirate ship and a wigwam camp.

The Peter Pan theme was chosen because of the princess's love of children and because JM Barrie, the creator of the children's fantasy story, paid for the original playground, built in Kensington Gardens in 1909, which will be transformed.

A spokesman for the royal parks agency, which administers Kensington gardens, said that while the site was designed to reflect Diana's interest in children, it was not just a playground.

Some critics have said that the playground, with cobbled paths and stepping stones may be out of bounds for disabled youngsters. But the spokesman said the play areas would be for all children.

Doctors 'fail to discuss' cancer care

Cancer patients often leave a consultation in a state of confusion and uncertainty because of the poor communication skills of their doctor, according to a report from the Cancer Research Campaign.

The inability of some doctors to have a frank discussion with the patient can be very damaging, according to the paper published in the European Journal of Cancer. An uncertain patient is less likely to stick to the necessary routine of drugs and diets and may fail to tell the doctor about symptoms.

Unfortunately few cancer specialists or nurses have received adequate training in talking to patients or communicating with each other, according to Lesley Fallowfield and Val Jenkins from the department of oncology at University College London medical school.

Doctors may not realise how little the patient understands of what they are being told, particularly when they are receiving an upsetting diagnosis. Studies have shown hospital patients can remember about half (54%) of the information they are given

Influenza

Public night a nurse pensioner and late in break.

Between

and four men, aged between 69 and 91, died and at least six of the deaths were being linked to a flu-like infection. Five pensioners had shown flu-like symptoms and the other six were believed to have died from a viral chest infection.

All lived at the Bupa-run Netherton Green nursing home, in Dudley, West Midlands, where 16 residents had fallen ill with the common A-strain of influenza this month.

Dudley health authority officers said tests on residents were still being carried out, and the full spread of the virus was unknown. But Dan Killalea, consultant in communicable diseases, said: "There have been a number of cases of respiratory viral illnesses at this one home and possibly six deaths and it's likely that part of that picture is due to influenza or other common respiratory viruses." Paul Baldwin

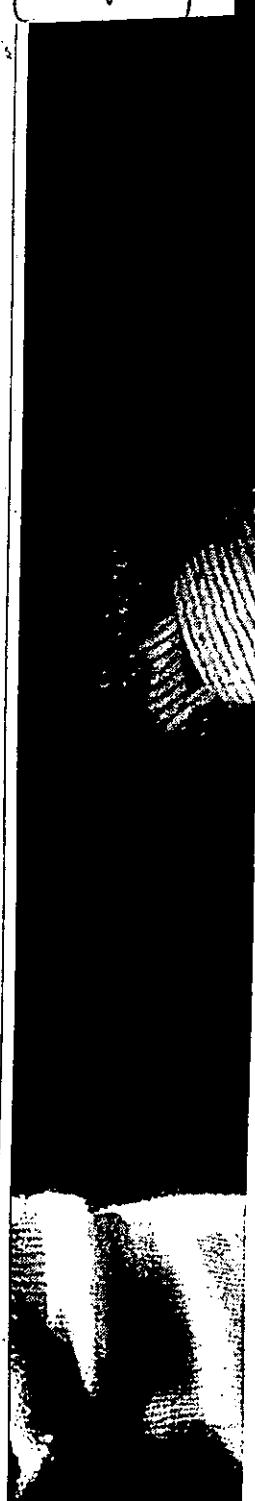
Medical tests for Pinochet

General Augusto Pinochet, 84, will undergo medical tests to assess whether he is fit to be extradited on January 5, the home office confirmed yesterday.

The former Chilean dictator will be examined by an independent doctor after claims that he is too ill to be sent to Spain to face charges of torture. Supporters say his health is deteriorating under the strain of legal proceedings.

He is said to have suffered a series of strokes at the house on the Wentworth estate in Surrey where he is being held. The tests were ordered by the home secretary, Jack Straw, after the Chilean government asked for the gen-

DT
John will we get
to Utter - if
they start in Jan
23/12



Draft sent to
chairman 24/12

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Press Release

Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground

The Council has formally been consulted under Circular 18/84 by the Royal Parks over its proposal to extend the existing playground on the north side of Kensington Palace to provide a Memorial Playground to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Widespread local consultation has been carried out by the Council, including a site notice and newspaper advertisement, and it is likely that a decision on the proposal will be made by the Planning Services Committee at its meeting on 19 January.

Development by Crown bodies including the Royal Parks, does not require planning permission; however, Circular 18/84 allows it to consult with the local planning authority before proceeding with the development. Should the local planning authority raise objection, the matter is referred by Crown body to the Secretary of State for his decision.