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Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 2JN

Liz Hobden
Head of Planning, Brighton and Hove City Council
Hove Town Hall, Norton Road
Hove BN3 3BQ

3rd August, 2017

Dear Madam,

Planning application BH2017/02299: Installation of temporary ice rink Brighton Royal Pavilion

Thank you for notifying the Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT) of the above planning application. The Gardens Trust, (a statutory consultee), has also brought this application to the SGT's attention.

The Grade I listed Royal Pavilion and the Grade II Registered Park form an internationally significant historic site. Whilst the documents submitted with the application include a Statement of Significance for the Royal Pavilion itself, no such a statement for the Registered Park was included. However a Statement of Significance for the Registered Park (commissioned some years ago by the Royal Pavilion) is shown at the Annex to this document.

The Trust has reservations about the use of the ornamental gardens of the Royal Pavilion for unrelated events which cause visual harm and physical damage to this heritage asset. Nevertheless it accepts that giving over part of the garden to the setting up of an ice rink, its operation and repair of the grounds following the dismantling, all during the quieter months of Mid October - early March, could be a reasonable price to pay for the continued high quality repair and maintenance and preservation of the gardens, and their enjoyment by visitors during the spring, autumn and summer months. However, given that 6 year consent is sought, it is important the applicant demonstrates that any harm caused by the larger scale of the installation, as compared with earlier years, is balanced by other benefits.

On this basis the Trust does neither supports nor objects to the application in its present form but asks the Planning Authority to ensure the points above are addressed.

Yours faithfully

Jim Stockwell

On behalf of the Sussex Gardens Trust.

CC: The Gardens Trust

Statement of Significance for the Royal Pavilion Gardens

Note: This Statement of Significance for the Pavilion estate was commissioned from an historic landscape consultant by the Royal Pavilion as part of the on-going development of a management plan for the Pavilion estate (originally prepared in 2009 and updated in 2015).

3.1 The Royal Pavilion and its garden is the only surviving example of site designed as a unity in a picturesque style by John Nash and in which the original layout of paths and planting beds, as shown on the plan in Nash's *Views of the Royal Pavilion,* can be seen, through their restoration, largely as they were designed.

3.2 The garden is the only surviving example of a fully-restored picturesque, Regency period garden in England demonstrating the palette of species available up to 1825 and including the newest introductions, such as tiger lilies, available from Kew to George IV.

3.3 In its design, the garden demonstrates the application of Nash's approach to metropolitan landscape improvements previously used in Regents Park, these being based on the ideas of landscape writers of national significance such as The Reverend William Gilpin, Uvedale Price, J C Loudon and the poet William Mason. The garden also demonstrates the influence of other leading contemporary designers and scenic artists such as Humphry Repton (Nash' former business partner) S P Cockerell (the architect of Sezincote) and William Daniell whose folios of accurate drawings of Hindoo architecture and landscapes were so admired by George IV.

3.4. The role of the garden as restored is significant in re-uniting (as originally conceived) physically and visually *all* the late Georgian historic structures around it – the Stables and Riding house (Dome and corn-exchange) and the North gate.

3.5 The garden retains, with largely minor alterations, its boundaries as set after the final land purchases to complete the estate in 1826/7.

3.6 The garden is a rare demonstration of the character and development over time of picturesque, ornamental, flowery shrubberies and therefore a working example of their management techniques. It presents a unique opportunity for both amateur and professional horticultural study.

3.7. The garden has strong associations with royalty, both its original instigator George 1V who was the imaginative power behind it and later, Queen Victoria, who disposed of it to the town commissioners.

3.8 The shrubberies are a live interpretation of the written advice on laying out Georgian shrubberies of Henry Phillips, an important local horticultural writer and landscape gardener who laid out Lewes Crescent

3.9. The garden has an extensive archive of historical material, much of it newly discovered through the restoration process and now available for study. Recent new publications such as Mike Jones' 'Set for a King' have made this information readily available to the general reader and visitor, thus increasing their understanding of the garden as a heritage asset'.

3.11. The garden is the setting for the City's most internationally-recognised icon; its eastern and northern lawns form part of the London Road 'green mile' scenery and as such, with Victoria gardens, St Peter's church land and The Level, contributes to a designed chain of historic open space of potentially high quality within the central Cityscape.

3.11 The west boundary balustrading of the garden along the east lawn is an example of the extensive early C20 improvements to the town's open spaces by the Mayor Herbert Carden and the parks superintendent BH MacLaren.

3.12 The café is an example of the occasional involvement of Brighton Art College in town activity as it was established following a design competition. It was built in 1950 in the Art Deco-style

3.13 The garden contains a rare survival of several mature elm trees, plus new species which can only be seen in Brighton today and which are testament to the City Council's high quality tree-care

3.14 The garden contains a wide range of elm varieties, significant as representing BHCC's holding of the National Collection of elms, many of which may not be seen elsewhere in public parks in England and therefore have an educational as well as arboricultural value.

3.15 The garden is the only public open space in the City centre with minimal interface with main traffic routes and therefore is highly valued for its peaceful and relatively quiet ambience.

3.16 The informal 'mixed and mingled' character of the planting and its all-season interest (berries, flowers, fruits etc.) lends the garden to developing a range of interesting and valuable wildlife habitats especially for an inner-city location.

3.17 The garden is of very high community value as a meeting place and for a great range of cultural activities.

3.18 The garden volunteers are highly valued for their physical care of the site and their contribution to public information and to being a 'benign influence' on behaviour when working on site.

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