

# Sussex Gardens Trust

Encouraging the protection, conservation and evolution of the local garden heritage

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To Hastings Borough Council
Via website

**Hastings Local Plan Consultation Draft (Regulation 18)**

The Gardens Trust (GT) is the statutory consultee on matters concerning registered parks and gardens, and is now working closely with County Garden Trusts such as Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT) regarding commenting on planning policy and planning applications.

Representatives of SGT have studied the documents associated with the above consultation. Sussex Gardens Trust welcomes the inclusion of Strategic Policy 6 (SP6): Enhancing the Historic Environment. The strategic policies do appear to cover the issues for designed landscapes but the devil will be in the detail of how these are applied.

As statutory consultee, the national Gardens Trust has published a guidance leaflet, *The Planning System in England and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens*, to explain the place of historic designed landscapes in the planning system, the importance of assessing significance, and the statutory consultation obligations. This can be found on the GT website here . There is a statutory requirement for LPAs to include in their Local Plans all Historic Parks and Gardens including both those on the national Register maintained by Historic England and those on Local Lists.

Sussex Gardens Trust welcomes the fact that the draft Local Plan largely reflects all Registered and Locally Listed Gardens. However, it remains the case that there are many gardens which are worthy of being included on the Local List, but have not as yet been added. Please ensure Sussex Gardens Trust is consulted on future planning applications affecting any park or garden in the Hastings area (ie Registered, Locally listed **and** those not yet locally listed) where the proposals may affect the significance of the park or garden.

**Detailed Points**

**Bohemia Site:** On the map in the Strategic Open and Play Space Assessment showing the Open Space typologies (and accompanying list of named sites), the Bohemia site is categorised under 'Natural and semi-natural Green Space'; it is however, included on HBC's local heritage asset list and on the ESHER as a historic designed landscape – the Bohemia Estate. SGT would like to see the designation as an historic designed landscape correctly acknowledged in all supporting documents in the plan.

**Marwick Garden:** this is a private garden to the NE of Gensing Gardens, and is referred to in the text but is not shown on the maps. SGT would like to see this garden reflected on maps.

**Holmhurst St Mary:** The area of open space around the house at Holmhurst St Mary is also a designed landscape – containing the listed statue of Queen Anne. It is the garden to the now-converted house (to flats) originally laid out by the writer Augustus Hare. This is an example of a garden that should be included on the Local List, but as yet has not been included. Please ensure Sussex Gardens Trust is consulted on future planning applications affecting this area.

Kind regards

Jim Stockwell.
On behalf of the Sussex Garden Trust.

CC: The Gardens Trust