



Wakefield Council

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Dear Grant Johnson,

26/01182/PRE Replacement of 10no. existing shipping/storage containers, and addition of 1no. container to front of clubhouse: Thornes Park Stadium Thornes Park Horbury Road Wakefield, WF2 8TY

Thank you for consulting the Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee for planning applications on the above pre-application which would have a material impact on the significance of Thornes Park, an historic designed landscape of particular significance which is included by Historic England on the Register of Parks and Gardens (RPG) of Special Historic Interest Grade II.

The Register describes Thornes Park as a public park consisting of three historically distinct areas of landscaping, the earliest dating from the later C18. The public park was opened in 1891, with additions in 1919 and 1924. The park was designated in 2011 for the following principal reasons:

- * Survival: It is a good example of an urban municipal park of the late C19 and early C20 where the layout survives almost intact
- * Historic Interest: it has added interest in the incorporation of a late C18 landscape possibly designed by John Carr, as well as a scheduled medieval motte and bailey castle earthwork

We have liaised with our colleagues in Yorkshire Gardens Trust for their local knowledge and the following comments are made on behalf of both our organisations.

Thornes Park Stadium is located immediately south of the principal approach, which was a tree lined avenue to the former Thornes House from Horbury Road. Whilst Thornes House itself has been lost and replaced by later educational buildings, now occupied by the Penny Appeal charity, the line of the avenue with some tree planting remains and is still one of the main access points to the park. The stadium is very prominent in views from the Horbury Road entrance and along the western section of the approach.

We understand that this is a request for pre-application advice for the proposed replacement of ten existing storage containers, with the addition of one further unit for cycle storage, all located between Thornes Park Stadium and the athletics track. A study of StreetView imagery taken from Horbury Road in 2009 suggests that at least some of the existing container units have now been in situ for a period of over 17 years.

Whilst the temporary use of industrial-style storage containers in a Registered Park and Garden might be considered a reasonable option, such as during the refurbishment works to the stadium building, the GT and YGT would not consider them appropriate as a permanent solution. With the request for an additional unit, there is clearly a growing need for storage, and we consider that a permanent solution, in the form of a building sympathetic to the Registered Parkland should now be considered. Although the stadium building screens the containers from the wider parkland, as noted above, they are visually intrusive along the access road. Screening of the stadium and containers

along Horbury Road is largely effective, particularly over the summer months, due to the well-established perimeter planting. We would further advise that replacement of at least some the avenue trees along the south side of the approach road from the entrance is also considered, to reduce the visual impact in these views.

We look forward to receiving the full application in due course but in its current form, this is a proposal which unfortunately the Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust would be unable to support.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Allighan BSc (Hons) MSc CMLI
Conservation Officer

cc Yorkshire Gardens Trust