



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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www.yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk

Jennifer Booth
Kirklees Planning and Development

11 Caroline Close
York YO24 4EQ

07 March 2024

Dear Ms Booth

2024/62/90260/E: land off, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury, WF13 2LL: Erection of boundary fence, flood lights and speed humps

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee for proposed developments that could affect sites included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is a member organisation of GT, works in partnership with it in the protection and conservation of registered sites, and is authorised by GT to respond on GT's behalf in such consultations.

We are responding to this application only in relation to its possible impact upon Crow Nest Park, a Registered Park and Garden at grade II.

The application is for speed humps along an access road to the Dewsbury Celtic ARLFC ground, for signage, fencing to the pitch and for lights to illuminate the car parking area. The speed humps and signage can have no conceivable impact upon the setting of the Park.

It is possible that the fencing might be visible from the parts of the Park that adjoin the ground, and that this might be detrimental to views between Park and pitch, although the belt of deciduous trees that runs along the eastern boundary of the Park provides some mitigation. We recommend, however, that site-appropriate shrub planting is considered along the line of the trees to hide the view of the south-western and south-eastern runs of fence, including during winter months. We recommend also that an ecologist is consulted to check whether the fencing (the drawing is not clear enough to show detail) should have access and exit points for smaller mammals, especially hedgehogs: the flora and fauna of the Park are as important and as integral parts of the Park's characteristics and sustainability as are its built features and layout; and connectivity between green spaces is a key principle of nature recovery.

Similarly, we note that the lighting proposal does not consider the possibility of effects on nocturnal insects and animals, including bats and owls, which are likely to be present. An ecologist's advice will be important in determining and mitigating any impacts from spilled light. Finally, the height of the lights at 4m might impact on the character of some limited views from the Park, both in use and when not in use. We recommend that a site visit is made to determine if this will be a material consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Webb
Chair YGT

