



21 August 2024

Matthew Burns
Planning Section
Directorate for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services
Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices
Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU
<mailto:matthew.burns@reading.gov.uk>

Sent by email from BerksGTplanning@gmail.com:

Dear Matthew

Planning Application: PL/24/0846 Napier Court Napier Road Reading

Demolition of existing buildings and erection of new buildings of 11 and 12 storeys, with amenity space at roof level (part indoor and set back), to provide 576 build to rent residential dwellings (Class C3) with residential amenity space, parking, landscaping and associated engineering works.

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to proposed development which might affect a site listed by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens. The Berkshire Gardens Trust (BGT) is a member organisation of the GT and works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of registered sites, and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

The application site is some distance from the nearest Registered Park and Garden (RPG) at the Grade II Forbury Gardens and it is unlikely that there would be views to the development from the RPG due to intervening buildings. Kings Meadow is not an RPG nor is it listed as a non-designated heritage asset. However, the Meadow includes Thames Lido, a Grade II listed building, to which Kings Meadow forms an important setting. In this respect NPPF 135c); 200; 201; and 206 all apply. We ask

that full consideration be given to the impact on the Thames Lido, an important historic, cultural and recreational asset to Reading.

Furthermore, we believe that, with the increasing number of residents proposed for this part of Reading, it is important that the increased pressure for access to attractive open green space to serve these new residents should not adversely impact on the historic gardens at Forbury Gardens. Adequate provision of green open space is therefore essential to serve the new flats at Napier Road. We ask that the council carefully consider whether the on-site open space design is adequate and that you are satisfied that Kings Meadow will serve local needs without detriment to that valuable open space or the RPG.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'B Kirkham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bettina Kirkham DipTP BLD CMLI (retired), Chair
Planning Advisor of the Berkshire Gardens Trust

cc: The Gardens Trust; Reading Civic Society