



LOVE MARBLE HILL PARK

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

MARBLE HILL HOUSE

The Love Marble Hill Park proposals would see the house refurbished and restored to its former glory. We agree with English Heritage that the house has been neglected for too long.



Our vision is for a house full of living history in a beautiful parkland setting.

We would like to see Henrietta's life celebrated whilst allowing the house to be opened up and used,

The house proposals include the addition of a small catering kitchen within the house to allow for small weddings and private venue hire outside park opening times.



Something similar has already been done at other English Heritage properties including Kenwood House. We envisage that these weddings would be particularly attractive during the winter months when the park closes early due to lack of light.

The car park could then be utilised and the sweeping drive could be lit by oil flamed lanterns. The woods could be lit with tiny LED fairy lights and the terrace that already exists at the side of the house could be improved and used.

There are also proposals for cream teas in the house and on its terrace for locals and visitors in the summer months. This would complement the food service in the coach house.



THE COACH HOUSE CAFE

The proposals see the cafe extension reduced with focus on the use of existing buildings in order to remove the direct impact on South End House and Montpelier Row and the indirect impact on local small businesses.

The toilets would be moved from their current position to open up both sides of the coach house. The two sides could then be linked by a glass walkway.

The raised lawns to the front of the cafe would be removed to open up this area as summer terraces with views over the park and house.

The emphasis in the cafe would be on good quality food, locally sourced where possible. We would suggest that dogs are allowed into the cafe (as in Petersham Nurseries, Richmond Hill Bakery and more recently, Ham House) as this would maximise use of the cafe by regular park users.

This cafe in Kenwood House gives an idea of what could be achieved by unifying the two parts of the coach house and adding attractive terraces.



ECOLOGY CENTRE, RECYCLING AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The ecology and biodiversity of the park would be preserved and enhanced by the introduction on an Ecology Centre on the sport changing / office site adjacent to the existing play-centres. This would provide opportunities for outdoor educational programmes together with community projects and involvement. Such projects could include pond building, bee hives, the establishment of a butterfly garden and bat and woodland walks to teach about local biodiversity.



We have received support for this idea from SWLEN and outdoor education providers as well as many local residents



The Ecology Centre would be housed in the existing sports building. The space would be shared with the sports changing facilities but each facility would have a separate access. A new access would be created for the Ecology Centre as shown above and additional eco features and cladding could be applied to the whole building.

We have discussed our ideas with several similar organisations including the Holland Park Ecology Centre and the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery. The latter have offered volunteer training and other advice. We hope to visit their Park to see what can be done and they have extended the invitation to anyone else wishing to attend. A similar visit will be made to the Holland Park Ecology Centre.

The existing vegetable plot would remain and be extended to combine with the ecology centre.



We envisage various recycling community projects to run alongside the Ecology Centre with workshops and education for all.



THE LANDSCAPE AND VOLUNTEERING

We want to see the park remain a cohesive public space and would resist the fragmentation of the park and its subdivision into a house and formal garden fenced off and sitting in playing fields.

The park landscape would remain largely unchanged although there would be important improvements. There would be a focus on the woodland management that has been so lacking together with meadow creation along the natural wetlands. There would also be a tree replanting programme to restore some of the trees that have been lost in recent years. To fund some of this, we propose using carbon offsetting companies such as E-Forest which provide free trees. Generally the focus would be on natural, low maintenance planting with community involvement.



We envisage the park manned and maintained by a local army of volunteers and are advised by Ham House that such volunteers form the backbone of their historic house and gardens and are its lifeblood. They run a successful programme with more than enough volunteers and we hope that this would be repeated on the Twickenham side of the river.



We hope that the proposals would attract corporate support as well as community involvement. Proposals include the introduction of a corporate social responsibility programme and we are advised that corporate sector volunteering in local parks can contribute upwards of £30,000 pa.



SPORT

Sport in the park would continue to be encouraged but not to the exclusion of free play and exploration by local children and residents. The 8 team changing rooms proposed (which would allow for four pitches to be used simultaneously) would be reduced to 6 team changing rooms to ensure free play areas and ease potential parking and highway pressures.

A timber fitness trail would also be introduced together with a community sports notice board letting people know about all the activities in the park. We would also introduce some much needed covered bicycle parking for those arriving on two wheels!



The existing playcentres would remain and we would hope that investment in the adventure playground would be encouraged. These are important community facilities rarely found and should be maintained and supported. (Note that these are run under a separate lease by their own committee)



ARTS IN THE PARK

We hope that an arts programme could be introduced to the park which would run alongside that in Orleans House and Gallery. The park focus would be on local, amateur artists with a rotating cafe and some sculpture space. There would be an annual nature competition run by the Ecology Centre and children's park courses could be offered.



display in the outdoor in the park. also be an photography from the for both adults and we hope photography



