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FAO Alice Johnson

13 October 2025

Dear Sirs

**Re DC/25/1146 Leonardslee Gardens Masterplan**

Thank you for consulting Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT) on this application. SGT is a member organisation of the Gardens Trust (GT) and works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of registered sites. However, given Leonardslee is a Grade I Registered Park, you should also consult the GT in its role as Statutory Consultee.

Representatives of SGT met the applicant and consultancy team preparing this application in June 2024. The main points on the draft proposals discussed then are shown in italics below, followed by our comments on the present application:

- *SGT was content with the proposals at that stage, including the landscape and external works, to repair, restore and/or convert to new use the Stable Courtyard, former Generator Halls, cottages, new garden entrance kiosk, engine house and revised circulation routes. Including the rock garden within the non-pay zone may put more pressure on the Pulhamite and therefore we would ask for a specific conservation programme to be prepared for managing its (in parts) poor condition*

Most of the plan in this Masterplan application are broadly the same, but the rock garden is no longer to be included in the no pay zone, which is a welcome change since it helps reduce visitor pressures in this area.

- *SGT asked Leonardslee specifically that LUC's brief should be extended to include a further review and development of the Conservation Garden Management Plan (CMP).*

The applicant has responded positively to these comments by commissioning the preparation of an Addendum to the GCMP. SGT welcomes the greater in-depth approach to the understanding and conservation of the site provided by this Addendum. How the comments SGT (and HE) will be addressed is clearly set out in table 1.2. Of particular value is the provision of supplementary baseline information (about the Park and Garden's cultural and natural heritage assets) and the detailed contextual reference to Historic England's Conservation Principles in establishing an overall Vision Statement. SGT approves the Vision Statement and

additionally comments that this approach offers a valuable explanation to all parties involved of how such a statement is achieved – the client team, staff, volunteers and the LPA.

SGT had previously commented on the considerable areas of knowledge requiring expert survey and analysis and welcomes these now being addressed, likewise the issue of identifying landscape sensitivity in the gazetteer.

SGT welcomes the logical progression from Vision Statement through analysis of current management aspects/forces for change/identification of gaps in baseline data to the development of the additional policies and actions (complementary to the GCMP) set out in chapter 5. SGT is content with the Addendum policies, highlighting particularly policy IM1 – that the GCMP and Addendum and Building CMPs are to be jointly adopted by the Client Team and the Local Planning Authority with all plans being reviewed after 5 years.

If we have additional comments after further study of the extensive documents associated with this application we will send an additional letter.

Yours faithfully

Jim Stockwell.

On behalf of the Sussex Garden Trust

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