



# LEONARDSLEE LAKES & GARDENS

## **Statement of Business Intent**

Over the past eight years, our family-run business has breathed new life into Leonardslee, reopening the gardens to the public, allowing the local community to continue enjoying the magnificent and renowned Grade I Registered Gardens.

As a business, we have invested heavily in reopening and maintaining the 230 Acre site, with numerous improvements made for both the visitor experience and behind-the-scenes infrastructure. Leonardslee employs around 80 staff members across the garden and café team, the Leonardslee House Hotel team and the administration team, together with over 100 active volunteers. The business contributes to the local economy directly through our supply chain, and indirectly via visitors who come to Horsham and the surrounding areas specifically to visit Leonardslee.

As the current custodian of the Gardens, I have been touched by the feedback from members who visited as children, who now bring their children and grandchildren. The rich history of Leonardslee continually surprises and delights me, and the proposals set out in this planning application submission will allow the Estate to take a step closer to financial independence, securing the sustainable future of the Estate for generations to come.

Since reopening in 2019, membership has grown to over 18000, with over 250,000 visits to Leonardslee in 2024. We acknowledge that visitor numbers impact the gardens during peak periods, and so we have put in place policies to manage this. The business is seeking carefully managed future growth through an increased focus on quality of visitor experience, together with a more balanced stream of income throughout the year. All the proposals prepared by our excellent design team have been developed with this core principle in mind.

Over the past two years we have engaged for the first time with local stakeholders, and as we enter this next chapter for Leonardslee we hope to continue this dialogue with the local community. The Gardens are not just an attraction in their own right - they are the backdrop to our hotel, a source of ingredients for our Michelin starred Restaurant Interlude, where my family and I live, and as a piece of living history which needs to be preserved and sensitively enhanced.

Adam Streeter  
*Managing Director of Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens.*

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### **Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens**

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