

- 7 OCT 2010



**Sent:** 06 October 2010 14:54

**To:** Planning


**Subject:** FAO Ms. Lisa Hughes re. support for S6/2010/1710/FP (George's Field) and S6/2010/1711/FP (Viaduct car park)

Dear Ms. Hughes,

I would like to express my support for the changes proposed by Gascoyne Cecil Estates regarding Hatfield House and Park in planning applications S6/2010/1710/FP and S6/2010/1711/FP. I believe a house and estate of such historic significance and national interest has a duty to make that history as accessible as possible whilst fulfilling its responsibility for the preservation and maintenance of the preeminent buildings and grounds in its care. As a Hertfordshire native, my family and I have enjoyed visiting Hatfield House since I was a child, and as a resident, a visitor and an employee of the Estate, I appreciate its educational, social and economic benefits. As a heritage professional I also understand what it takes to provide these benefits whilst ensuring the viability and protection of such an important historic asset for future generations.

Aside from its obvious educational and historic importance, the Estate also provides significant employment within the area and has a relationship with and a duty to its immediate local community. I believe the proposed plans are an exciting opportunity to ensure the continued viability of making Hatfield House accessible to the public whilst offering significant benefits to the surrounding community, in particular providing improved facilities and leisure activities which can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. There is also the important issue of safety surrounding the point of access to the Estate being opposite Hatfield station and the dangers that that poses to residents, commuters and visitors. The proposed access and parking plans seem to me a much safer and more logical solution.

Above all, the Estate should aim to and needs to be able to evolve and develop in positive and progressive ways in order to continue to meet its responsibilities to provide and enable access whilst preserving and maintaining one of our most historically significant landmarks. I therefore support applications S6/2010/1710/FP and S6/2010/1711/FP.



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