

# HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST



*Researching and preserving historic gardens. Working with schools to improve and sustain their environment.*

Conservation & Planning, c/o Gardens, Ashridge, Berkhamsted, HP4 1NS

Mr William Myers  
Hatfield Borough Council  
The Campus  
Welwyn Garden City  
AL8 6AE

29 August 2019

Dear Mr Myers

## **Planning Application: 6/2019/0218/LB and 6/2019/0217/MAJ**

Thank you for consulting Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, a member of The Gardens Trust.

Northaw House, Nyn Park, Northaw Place, The Hook and Barvin Park were laid out as gentry estates with 'naturalistic' landscapes during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This gives this area of south Hertfordshire, and Northaw in particular, much of its rural open character.

Northaw House in particular, set on a rise in the ground, commands wide views and consequently is a focus for views from a wide area. We consider it important, both for Northaw House and the historic and rural character of the area that these are kept open.

We therefore object to the number and siting of housing units in these proposals. In particular, units marked on the Site Plan as 24SU2, 25SU2, 27D and 26D will introduce built elements into the views from the village and further afield. They will also harm the setting, and therefore the significance, of the Grade II mansion and the Grade II stables.

The setting of these listed buildings will be further harmed by the proposed parking in front of the mansion. The clutter and glare caused by parking here will also affect the openness of the parkland to the north and the views already alluded to.

We are unclear as to how refurbishment of the walled garden can be achieved if 4 houses are to be built in it. These together with their gardens etc will destroy the historical attributes of the walled garden, and thus its significance and relevance to the assemblage of heritage assets at Northaw House.

Although we have no objection in principle to conversion of the mansion and stables to flats and limited building conversions in the former service yard, we consider that the development as proposed is of too high a density for this rural landscape. We therefore object to the proposals as presented in these two applications.

The NPPF and WHBC's own policies support the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets, whether designated or undesignated. We consider that this proposal harms these heritage assets, both the listed buildings and the undesignated landscape, which has been added to HGT's List Historic Parks and Gardens of Local Interest.

Yours sincerely

Kate Harwood  
Conservation & Planning: Hertfordshire Gardens Trust

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