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JustGiving Awards Company of the Year 2013

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Date 17 June 2016
Our ref 03224/IR/HW/TB/10470211v1
Your ref PP-05108434

Dear Jane

**SMDC: Alton Towers Resort – Application to Discharge Condition 8 Pursuant to Consent ref. SMD/2013/1105**

On behalf of our client, Alton Towers Resort, forming part of Merlin Attractions Operations Limited, please find enclosed an application seeking to discharge condition 8, requiring a landscaping scheme, pursuant to planning permission ref. SMD/2013/1105 at Alton Towers Resort.

The application comprises:

1 Application form;

2 Garden Landscaping Scheme, prepared by Ashmead Price Landscape Planning and Design Consultants; and

3 Application drawings, prepared by Ashmead Price Landscape Planning and Design Consultants:

- Location Plan (ref. AT-418-16-01)
- Terraces (ref. AT-418-16-02)
- Cascade Area (ref. AT-418-16-04)
- Heart Border Area (ref. AT-418-16-03)
- Le Refuge Area (ref. AT-418-16-05)
- Dutch Borders (ref. AT-418-16-06)

A cheque for £97, made payable to "Staffordshire Moorlands District Council", to cover the Council's application fee has been submitted under separate cover.

## Background

Alton Towers Resort is operated by Merlin Attractions Operations Limited. It is the UK's most popular and largest theme park and is therefore an important generator for tourism.

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On 19 June 2014 planning and listed building consent (refs. SMD/2013/1105 and SMD/2013/1106, respectively) was granted for:

*"The erection of outdoor safety fencing at Alton Towers Resort in the Bridge/Dam area, White Bridge area and Upper and Lower Gardens."*

The planning permission was granted subject to nine conditions. Condition 8 requires a landscaping scheme to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme is required to include *"...planting to be retained, planting to be removed, new planting and an implementation programme. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and agreed implementation programme."*

It was agreed in November 2014 with Gillian Bayliss, Senior Conservation Officer at SMDC, that the discharge of the condition application could be delayed until all the fencing had been installed. This has allowed a comprehensive review of the landscaping to take place.

## Landscaping Scheme

The landscaping scheme has been prepared by Ashmead Price in consultation with Alton Towers Resort and focuses on the five key areas. It identifies proposed new planning, notes where planning to be retained and where planting is to be removed in accordance with the wording of the condition. In summary:

1 Cascade Area: Landscaping will focus on the installation of a perennial border and planting of specimen trees. This is scheduled between April and November 2016.

2 Le Refuge Area: Rhododendrons below Le Refuge will be removed, grass will be improved and turf reinstated, and the oval borders and specimen trees will be planted. The works are scheduled between April and November 2016.

3 Terraces: New Luzula Syvatica will be planted along the terraces. This is to be carried out between September and October 2016.

4 Heart Border Area: The existing roses will be removed and new species will be planted as per the schedule on the Heart Boarder Area drawing, along with other associated works. This was completed in May 2016.

5 Dutch Garden: The borders will be subject to planting and restoration which is scheduled to be carried out in May 2017.

We trust that we have provided you with sufficient information to discharge condition 8. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague Tor Barrett.

Yours sincerely

**Hannah Whitney**

Planning Director

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| Copy | Gill Bayliss | SMDC |
| | David Rhodes | Alton Towers Resort |