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Research - Conserve - Campaign

24th December 2021

Lisa Jackson
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Moorlands House
Stockwell Street
Leek
Staffs ST13 6HQ
planning@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Dear Ms Jackson,

Ref : SMD/2021/0827 - Listed buiding consent for the proposed installation of wrought iron balustrade around the internal perimeter of the existing Bandstand to prevent falling; Biddulph Grange, National Trust, Grange Road, Biddulph

Thank you for consulting the Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as statutory consultee with regard to proposed development affecting a site listed by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens as per the above application. We have consulted Julian Gibbs, who was instrumental in saving the gardens at Biddulph when he was Gardens Adviser for the National Trust.

Mr Gibbs undertook a risk assessment when he was working at Biddulph which showed there was minimum risk of anyone falling off the bandstand. Healthy and Safety concerns have clearly become more stringent since then. Having looked at the online documentation, the current option of railings only part way round does not seem very balanced, and in our opinion it would look more sympathetic if the railings carried on all round the bandstand. We would also suggest that there is scope for taking a design cue for the ironwork from gates in Egypt or the Ice House to make the structure less utilitarian in appearance. All the metalwork at Biddulph was designed and made by Dave Broadbent of Mobberly, sadly now retired, but we feel sure that the National Trust's architect will be able to find and employ a similarly skilled blacksmith to undertake this work.

We hope these comments will be helpful when your officers consider this application.
Yours sincerely,

Margie Hoffnung
Conservation Officer