



Reg Charity No 1013861 Company No 2723974

15 Village Gardens, Stafford, ST17 0LL

Planning Department
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Moorlands House
Stockwell Street
Leek
Staffs, ST13 6HQ

Fao: Lisa Jackson

22 March 2022

Dear Sir

**SMD/2020/OO4; SMD/2020/005 and SMD/2021/0827
PROPOSED HANDRAIL AROUND THE BANDSTAND, BIDDULPH GRANGE, GRANGE
ROAD, BIDDULPH**

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (TGT) in its role as Statutory Consultee over the revised design for a handrail around the Bandstand at Biddulph Grange a site included at grade I on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens. Staffordshire Gardens and Parks Trust (SGPT) is a member organisation of TGT and works in partnership with it concerning the protection and conservation of registered sites. SGPT is authorised to respond on behalf of both Trusts in respect of planning consultations. We are sending a single letter to cover both consultations.

The Trusts remain concerned that this third design iteration for a new railing still remains visually intrusive and insensitive to the grade I RPG. While the remodelling of the stanchions is welcome the overall design with close spaced uprights still has more in common with a highway pedestrian barrier than is appropriate in the context of an historic park. We consider this design would cause harm to the significance of the heritage asset without any demonstrable overriding benefit.

The Trusts appreciate there may be a health and safety requirement for a handrail here (though we are mystified why none is proposed alongside the adjacent lawn where the balustrade is some 400mm lower) but strongly advise it should be as unobtrusive as possible in appearance and reflect something of the historic character of the garden. We suggest that a railing similar to that found along the north boundary of the car park or adjacent to the church gate at the end of the lime avenue (see attached photographs) be adopted as a more sympathetic alternative.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Taylor
Chairman SGPT



Railing at the south end of the Lime Avenue



Railing on north side of car park