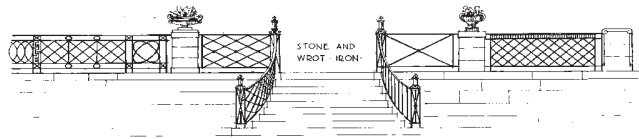


Patrons Sir Mark and Lady Lennox-Boyd : President Mr Robert Parker DL



*Lancashire Gardens Trust*  
*Conservation & Planning Group*

15 March 2016

Your ref: 3/2015/0968/FUL

Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Church Walk  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire  
BB7 2RA

For the attention of Adrian Dowd

By email only to [planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Application No: 3/2016/0167/FUL**  
**Formation of 2No Tennis courts with seasonal polythene inflatable dome, perimeter fence and floodlighting; reconfiguration of car park and formation of two coach laybys; Stonyhurst College, Avenue Road, Hurst Green, Clitheroe.**  
**TGT Reference: E15/01498**

Thank you for your consultation letter inviting The Gardens Trust (TGT) to comment on the above application. As previously notified to you, TGT (established in July 2015 from the merger of the Garden History Society and the Association of Gardens Trusts), who are the statutory consultee on matters concerning registered parks and gardens, is now working closely with County Garden Trusts, and the responsibility for commenting on planning applications in this context has now passed to the Trusts. The Lancashire Gardens Trust (LGT) therefore responds in this case.

The LGT recognises the importance of the heritage assets at Stonyhurst College in being a Registered Park and Garden Grade II\*, and one of Lancashire's most important designed landscapes, and one of a very small number of Grade II\* sites in Lancashire. The historic designed landscape at Stonyhurst had its origins as the setting for the fine Elizabethan mansion for the Shireburn family where construction commenced in 1592. The main features of the current formal Stuart garden were for Sir Nicholas Shireburn shortly after his inheritance in 1695. It is the work of Henry Wise who brought all the elegant details of the Renaissance garden to this Lancashire seat. Wise was the head gardener to Queen Anne and George I and his work was also supplemented by works and statuary commissioned from the foremost artists and craftsmen of the time.

One of the most notable features of the formal garden is the stunning panorama which can be seen from the end of the principal allee and the terrace at the observatory which gives a prospect across the valley towards the distant escarpment of Longridge. This is proof that formal gardens were not always inward-looking. We note that the present application is in a more distant part of the Registered Park and Garden near St Mary's Hall and does not interfere with this principal prospect.

The LGT supports the College's current proposals for enhancing the facilities at the College. We note that the application site lies within the boundary of the Registered Park and Garden, and as far as we are aware, no heritage features are affected by the proposals, and some of the site is already in use as car park. However we would recommend augmenting the landscape proposals indicated on the application drawings by the addition of hedge planting along the main driveway to supplement the new trees proposed.

On the basis of details provided, the LGT does not object to this application.

If there are any matters arising from this letter please contact me on 01772 795602, email [Stephen.e.robson@btinternet.com](mailto:Stephen.e.robson@btinternet.com).

Yours faithfully

*Stephen Robson*

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Chair, Conservation & Planning Group