

FROM: THE TRUSTEES OF TEMPLE ISLAND

Wokingham Borough Council
(Planning Department)
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1BN

Dear Sirs,

Temple Island – proposed foul drainage installation

This letter is addressed to the local planning authority and provided to the Trustees of Henley Royal Regatta for submission in support of the Regatta's proposal to carry out a new foul drainage installation to serve the Temple, on Temple Island.

The Trustees of Henley Royal Regatta acquired 999-year leases of the Island in 1987 and each of the two leases covers a distinct part of the whole Island. The freehold of each part of the Island is retained by the respective Trustees of Temple Island, who, collectively, retain the freehold ownership of the Island (including the Temple) and have a special role to "preserve and administer the same for the benefit of the nation at large", subject the covenants and conditions contained in the leases, of course.

The southern (smaller) part of the Island is occupied by the Temple itself, which is listed (Grade II) as a building of special architectural or historic interest and is used as venue, especially during Henley Royal Regatta. The northern part of the Island is retained and managed for its nature conservation interest, and the two parts of the Island are clearly demarcated by a hedge. The entire Island is part of the Registered Park and Garden at 'Fawley Court and Temple Island' (Grade II*).

The proposed drainage works to serve the Temple would replace the unsatisfactory existing system and would greatly improve upon it. The project would enhance the system itself and would reduce the risk of leakage or spillage, especially at times when the River Thames experiences high water levels or flooding. At the same time, the installation would be visually unobtrusive and would preserve the character of the wooded part of the Island. It would not cause any material harm to wildlife. On the other hand, the scheme would enable the Temple to be put to its optimum practicable use to enable it to be maintained in a sound condition for years to come.

The Trustees of Temple Island are conscious of the statutory duty of the local planning authority to have regard to the effect of the proposal on the setting of the Grade II listed building and to its effect on the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden. We are confident that there would be no material harm to either and, moreover, that the public benefits of the scheme clearly and decisively weigh in favour of the grant of planning permission.

The Trustees of Temple Island have carefully considered the need for an improved and effective drainage system for the Temple, and we write to register to Wokingham Borough Council, as the local planning authority, our full and strong support for the proposed foul drainage works contained within the planning application, which we understand you are to receive from the agent, Edgars Limited, on behalf of Henley Royal Regatta. Moreover, we are conscious that improvements need to be implemented as soon as possible and thereafter maintained efficiently for the long term, which is also why we support the above-ground installation.

In our view, the works are appropriate for the site and a necessary step to secure the long-term use of the southern section of the Island. We respectfully urge Wokingham Borough Council to grant planning permission for the project without delay.

Yours faithfully,

Ms K Willoughby
Chairman, Trusts of Temple Island