

Sent by email to: neighbourhoodplanning@westminster.gov.uk

Planning Officer
City of Westminster Planning Department
SW1E 6QP

Date: 26/07/23

Dear Sir/Madam,

Belgravia Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040 Submission Version

I write as a member of the Planning & Conservation Working Group of the London Historic Parks & Gardens Trust (trading as London Parks and Gardens LPG). LPG is affiliated to The Gardens Trust (TGT, formerly the Garden History Society and the Association of Gardens Trusts), which is a statutory consultee in respect of planning proposals affecting sites included in the Historic England (English Heritage) Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. Inclusion of a site in the Historic England (HE) Register is a material consideration in determining a planning application.

LPG is the gardens trust for Greater London and makes observations on behalf of TGT in respect of registered sites, and may also comment on planning matters affecting other parks, gardens and green open spaces, especially when included in the LPG's Inventory of Historic Spaces (see <https://londongardenstrust.org/conservation/inventory/>) and/or when included in the Greater London Historic Environment Register (GLHER). In this instance there are several sites contained inside the consultation area that are listed on the inventory. These are;

- Hyde Park, including Hyde Park Corner (Grade I)
- Eaton Square (Grade II); Chester Square (Grade II); Belgrave Square (Grade II)
- Wilton Crescent (Grade II)

Based on the information provided LPGT has the following comments:

POLICY BEL5: LOCAL VIEWS OF SIGNIFICANCE pg.46

Principal views of the garden squares from their approach has been identified as an essential characteristic of the built environment of Belgravia. LPG support policy BEL5 that ensures views towards registered green spaces and garden squares are protected. Local views are protected via the Westminster City Plan (Policy 40) and additional local views, particularly View of Hyde Park and Albert Gate from Lowndes Street, have been considered.

5.11.1 Hyde Park Corner pg.55

The Belgravia Neighbourhood Plan proposes to introduce 'decorative planting and shrubs'. A number of organisations are listed as potential consultees for future landscaping proposals, but LPG is not listed. Any proposals should not detract from the function of Hyde Park Corner as a transitional open space. Our recommendation is to consult TGT in these proposals from concept to delivery.

6.4.1 Garden Squares pg.70

The Neighbourhood Plan is proposing to limit the public access to the garden squares throughout the conservation area, ensuring their primary function remains as private space for local residents. Our recommendation is for all the squares to participate annually in LPG Open Gardens weekend.

7.2.1 Open Spaces pg. 76

The suggestion to construct a children's play area in Ebury Square of concern. The square is protected under the London Squares and Preservation Act 1931, although the play area would be considered as a structure connected to the recreational use of this space, it could impact the original layout of the square. Our recommendation is to consult TGT on the proposals that are part of the Grosvenor's Cundy Street Quarter redevelopment and future proposals for play areas as noted in POLICY BEL11: SPACE FOR PLAY AND GROUP SOCIAL ACTIVITIES pg.78.

Design Code 10

LPG support the recognition of the importance of the gardens squares to the sense of place and integral part of the original plan for Belgravia. The garden squares can continue to play an important role in increasing biodiversity through planting and maintenance. We agree the views towards the squares must be maintained, and the addition of street trees may impact the planned vistas. Therefore, the focus should be on maintaining the garden squares.

LPG has considered the information that you have provided and issues this **letter of support** based on these proposals. This does not in any way signify either our approval or disapproval of the proposals and should new information come to light that may have an impact on the heritage asset the Trust reserves the right to alter its observations.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Sweeney

For and on behalf of the
Planning & Conservation Working Group

Cc

The gardens trust (conservation@gardenstrust.org)

LPG (planningresponses@londongardenstrust.org)