



**SWINDON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Kevin Fisher  
Chair  
Shaw Resident's Association

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1 February 2018

DR.JG.sp.KF.LydiardPark4877

Dear Mr Fisher

Thank you for your letter dated 22 January 2018 and subsequent email dated 30 January 2018 regarding Lydiard Park and its setting.

As you know Swindon Borough Council places great importance to protecting Lydiard Park and its setting. Back in 2012 we successfully fought a planning appeal on land in the Borough at Hook St that threatened to harm the Park's setting. More recently, in combination with a well-orchestrated response by local residents as you mention, we submitted a robust objection to the Taylor Wimpey scheme leading to its withdrawal. You will be aware that we have also recently refused planning permission for a small group of houses close to the entrance to the Park, which would have been detrimental to its setting. We are also aware that the majority of the undeveloped area that could comprise setting lies within Wiltshire, rather than Swindon. Nevertheless, we appreciate, that we should not be complacent and in this respect your letter is very pertinent.

The designation of a Historic Parks and Gardens area is within the gift of Historic England rather than the Local Planning Authority. You will be aware that the Lydiard Park Historic Parks & Gardens designated area was reviewed and amended by Historic England quite recently and we are not aware of any plans for them to revisit this work in the near future.

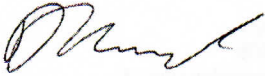
The guidance and case law in respect of 'setting' has advanced significantly since 2002. Setting must be very much considered within the context of any proposal, including non-visual attributes, which a 'simple' line on the map would fail to adequately deal with. Indeed there would a risk of unintended consequences of this approach, For example, a development just beyond the setting designation would be perceived as acceptable in principle when it could in fact cause harm to the setting.

In respect of the designation of 'local green space', the bar for such designation is set quite high. For example, these spaces should be local in character and not include extensive tracts of land. That said, through the Local Plan Review it is something we can explore with yourself, and also with Wiltshire Council.

In respect of a Conservation Management Plan, this would in all likelihood have limited weight in respect of any planning application. Notwithstanding the identification of resources to draw up such a Plan, it is something we can explore with yourselves should we agree that it would be able to deliver potential wider benefits.

We will request that officers meet with you at an early opportunity to discuss the points you have raised and how we can best achieve continued protection for Lydiard Park.

Yours sincerely



.Cllr David Renard  
Leader of the Council



John Gilbert  
Chief Executive