



Marble Hill Steering Group (Expanded)

20 March 2018

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Great Room, Marble Hill House

Invitees:

- Maria Walker, CEO Twickenham Film Studios
- Janine Fotiadis-Negrepontis, Love Marble Hill
- Celia Holman, Twickenham Society
- Dave Cree, Kew Park Rangers
- Sue Green, Inspired Women
- Claire Chapman, Brilliant Play Solutions
- Rachel Worely, Reality Dog Training
- Maureen Coyle, MH Property Manager
- Rosaleen and Luke , Orleans Park School
- Ed Harris, Twickenham Museum and local history society
- Kate Pitt, EH, MH Audience Development Manager
- Andy Philp, Thamesians Rugby Club
- John Anderson, Marble Hill Society
- Michael Murray Fennell, EH
- Berny Simcox, Environment Trust

	Content	Actions	Leading
1	Welcome and Introductions		Alex Sydney
2	<p>Update</p> <p>2.1 AS explained that English Heritage has taken a step back in relation to the Marble Hill Revived project and has withdrawn current planning application. EH is now carrying out a new consultation programme. Have not taken that step lightly – but EH is aware this is a local park for the local community and it needs to have broad buy-in from the community.</p> <p>2.2 The Steering Group membership has broadened from 14 groups to 22.</p>		

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	<p>2.3 Original groups were primarily existing users of the park.</p> <p>2.4 EH has tried to broaden the membership out to take in a greater number of viewpoints.</p> <p>2.5 It is not possible to invite everyone but we want to make sure people in the room can represent the full range of local viewpoints on the project.</p> <p>2.6 There will be Consultation workshops covering 3 main areas: play facility, in April; the landscape between house and Thames/ woodland quarters in May; the café, in June.</p> <p>2.7 EH will also run a series of open days so people can find out more generally about the project</p> <p>2.8 EH will be communicating more regularly through newsletters – copies are available for anyone who hasn't had one</p> <p>2.9 There are individual groups who have asked to have a meeting with us and we are in the process of arranging those.</p> <p>2.10 EH hopes to find a way through some of the more contentious issues, maximise positive suggestions and come away with proposals to build into a new planning application.</p> <p>2.11 Q: Montpelier Row – are they represented on the Steering Group – one Montpelier Row resident wrote to the Chief Executive of English Heritage requesting a place. A: EH has invited them to feed in through other meetings.</p> <p>2.12 Q: Will Steering Group members hear what other individual groups have to say ?</p>	<p>2.12 EH will summarise the discussion which takes place in those meetings and share with steering group.</p>	
I.	Key elements of the proposals that each group represented likes and does not like about the Marble		

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	Hill Revived project in its current form.		
2.	<p>Twickenham Museum and local history society</p> <p>The Museum and Society look upon Marble Hill as a scheduled ancient monument and public park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work needs to be done to the house – from a jewel in the crown of this side of the river it needs to be sorted out and tidied up and everyone will have a place in it. • The café needs to be more in keeping with a landscape of this quality. Having a bigger café will generate the money EH needs. It does not have it at the moment, and has not been spent on this area. If that is the only way EH can look after Marble Hill, so be it. • No negatives – TM looked at the proposals and said it is very happy with all of the elements. 		Ed Harris – Twickenham Museum and local history society
3.	<p>Thamesians Rugby Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadly the club is excited about changing facilities which are in line for a much needed revamp and not particularly modern. • Concern – over the temporary removal of some of the pitches whilst the pitch improvement works take place – 4 rugby teams share 2 pitches. Even for a couple of seasons 1 available pitch would be very difficult. • Thamesians like most of the investment project which seems essential to viability of MH – including fabric of the house, public access and opening. Club loves the idea of bringing to life the history of the place and use of 18C map. • They like the biodiversity of park. The club is of the opinion that it is unfortunate they can't have a sports pavilion, but think this might be chalked up for the future. 	KP to share detail on this with AP.	Andrew Philp from Thamesians Rugby club
4.	<p>Marble Hill Society</p> <p>The MHS believe the investment project is essential to</p>		John Anderson, Marble Hill Society

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	<p>the future viability of Marble Hill. In particular they are in favour of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-awaited, major conservation work to the fabric of the House and improved access and public opening • Focus on presenting the House & Park as it would have been used by HH and her friends & family (and the much needed Visitor Centre & shop) - bringing to life this fantastic local history to be enjoyed by people of all ages • The plans to recreate (as much as is possible) HH's lost Pleasure Garden using the 1752 map • The range of improvements to the sports facilities and the bio-diversity of the park. • Like Least - nothing really, though had funding permitted, it would have been great if a place could have been found for a new Sports Pavilion/social space for the many sports teams who use the park. A longer term ambition perhaps. 		
5.	<p>Environment Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident since 1980. Knows the park very well. • ET is a nature and conservation charity and interested in the landscape. • They are delighted the house opening hours will increase. Everything good as far as ET is concerned. • ET has had a tour of every tree due for cutting back we felt that all was justified apart from willows. After speaking to EH regarding these the willows are being retained. • Their concern is activity with badgers and ET will be working closely with EH to make sure they are protected. • Café essential to continue the legacy of MH. Can see benefits of new café. No views on 		Berny Simcox from Environment Trust

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	playground.		
6.	<p>Reality Dogs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reality Dogs views expansion of café as positive because it would provide place for people to eat without dogs present. It would be nice if the café could open earlier on a Sunday. RD members exercise their dogs in the park beforehand. • Q: Drainage – does this mean pitches get too boggy? AS confirmed this is currently the case. RD is happy to use the park whenever possible, and would be delighted with drainage. • Restoration of the garden is paramount to bring it back – suggest a sensory garden for dogs to take dogs away from main lawn. RW suggested that EH could create a sensory garden for dogs around the perimeter. Because most people without dogs don't walk the perimeter. Un-dog-friendliness of new garden could be a drawback. AS confirmed fencing has been removed from the proposals, but a future consultation is planned. 		Rachel Worley from Reality Dogs
7.	<p>Twickenham Film Studios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lived here since 1983 – brought children and dog walker. Would like to see a park for the 21st century, more innovative. • Believe you should restore the house but like simplicity of the grounds. • Likes the idea of a better café in the coach house but noted that there are lots of eateries in the area, so unless you do something different there is a significant risk of not achieving the required footfall. • From a commercial point of view, MW felt that concerts are revenue generators. so she doesn't understand why EH is not bringing these back because in her view, Marble Hill is an ideal location. • MW suggested – a woodland house instead of a marquee, constructed of wood and could be 		Maria Walker, Twickenham Film Studios.

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	<p>learning centre, and wedding venue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MW expressed a concern about returning to the concept of the past. To recreate the gardens seems a little artificial to her. For example, the The maze at Hampton Court has been there from day one, but this is not so at Marble Hill. Recreating lacks honesty. However, MW does like the idea of a sensory garden. 		
8.	<p>Love Marble Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be a great thing to have the house refurbished – it feels under used. Suggests EH should be more ambitious with its plans for the house - maybe boutique weddings or even tea dances. One of Love Marble Hill's worries is that there will be a significant increase in park costs which could turn out to be financially unsustainable. Janine F-N said in relation to park costs under the new scheme the park would go from costing £359,000 per year to over £1,000000 once MH Revived was up and running. AS said running costs are currently around £200,000 per year. JF-N's primary concern is that it needs to be made clear to people that £6m won't secure future of the park. Concerned about the fencing between house and river. Feels that EH are really pushing this idea. This has been parkland since 1902 and it would be a shame to do that. Parks are tending to go natural low maintenance. Whilst Love Marble Hill can see the benefits of improving the café, they feel that EH's current proposals are un-neighbourly and would impact local heritage assets including the grade 2 listed wall and Montpelier Row. The project will have a negative impact – stripping out 70% woodland – we'll lose song thrushes, move badger sets. JF-N suggests that the project should be forward thinking and produce a blueprint for the future-looking after our habitat but going beyond that by making Marble Hill a centre for Ecology. At present, JF-N feels that it is a real missed opportunity Concern raised regarding increased traffic to Marble Hill 		Janine Fotiadis-Negrepontis, Love Marble Hill

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	<p>Questioned visitor figures being used by EH. EH currently says just under 700,000 people visit the park yearly and Janine-FN queried this figure and asked if House Festival figures were being used.</p> <p>When Alex Sydney referred to the garden plan of around 1752 he referred to it as an 'accurate survey' Janine F-N disagreed with the terminology 'accurate survey' as she said there is no evidence to support this claim. AS then said he would be providing more evidence that the gardens according to the 1752ish garden plan was laid out, Janine F-N said she would welcome this.</p>		
9.	<p>The Twickenham Society</p> <p>The Twickenham Society has a remit to represent history and nature and amenity of local area. CH stated that the Twickenham Society echo the comments of the Ed Harris and Marble Hill Society: we feel reassured by ETRT contribution. TS is broadly in favour of the plans proposed. Have had detailed proposals on interpretation presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Café – There are some very sympathetic details which will make it feel less imposing- CH felt that amendments could be made to make it more neighbourly. • TS is broadly in favour of the landscape proposals and commented that this didn't seem like an overly formalised restoration – Current MHR plans represent loosely landscaped areas. 		Celia Holman, Twickenham Society
10.	<p>Kew Park Rangers</p> <p>Commented that Marble Hill Park is a wonderful facility here and KPR appreciate it.</p> <p>KPR has a clubhouse at North Sheen rec. Playing here on Saturday we have two men's teams and one BETS team. Currently pitches are adequate, missed a few games.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is being proposed would be good - the improvements would present the opportunity to use to use the grounds more than KPR have done in the past. Pitches need improvement. • There is also the social aspect after the game – games finish and everyone leaves. Supports 		Dave Cree Kew Park Rangers

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	improvements to the café because if there was a decent sized and good quality café that would be a great benefit to KPR players.		
11.	<p>Inspired Women</p> <p>Marble Hill was a core part of SG's childhood and an important base for her in adulthood. As a local businesswoman, SG is excited to see the activity going on to make MH a vibrant part of community. Inspired Women supports women to empower support and nurture each other – now expanding to help disadvantaged women. This idea for expansion was inspired by story of Henrietta Howard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likes the children's play area proposals – sees it as an important part of what's going on. Beneficial to families, projects and children with additional needs. • There is a lot of space but the house is at the heart of this and money going to restoration of the house is important. • Cafe will generate a huge amount of revenue – it can be designed to welcome many audiences. - If EH gets it right, SG is certain there are many people around who will use it regularly. Parents want something on site because they want to be able to use the café while they do lots of things in the park. We need to move on with the times. 		Susan Green, Inspired Women
12.	<p>Brilliant Play</p> <p>Brilliant Play uses the landscape – CC was initially worried the project meant locals would lose the landscape but this has turned out to be not the case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility to use the landscape is very important and trees might not allow events like concerts. It is a really exciting project because CC understands that the park has to pay for itself and feels that the proposals will facilitate this. • The café has to happen. Love the opportunity for the community to get together. Sharing skills 		Claire Chapman Brilliant Play

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	<p>and interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play area: Has concerns about the design but will save her comments for the consultation workshop. 		
13.	<p>Orleans Park School</p> <p>Both have always lived in the area and have fond memories of the park.</p> <p>Rosaleen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House clearly needs more investment. Turner's house regenerated – amazing. I'd like a bit more community engagement in the house like Orleans House Gallery. Commented that although she was probably a core target audience. this meeting was actually the first time she had ever been inside the house. • Regeneration of the grotto and of the café is a great idea. Rosaleen often goes inside the café but can't get what she wants in it. It needs to have more of a community feel. • We just need to revamp the house and park. <p>Luke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed with Rosaleen comments and added that the proposals for improving sports provision were an important positive – there is lots of potential for regenerating the facilities round here. A girl's changing room would be great and is long overdue. 		Rosaleen and Luke, Orleans Park School
14.	<p>15. AS read SWLEN contribution</p> <p>South West London Environment Network welcomes the focus on reviving the fortunes of Marble Hill House and Park. Marble Hill is an important and wonderful historic House and a resource for people and nature with scope for conserving and enhancing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original proposal mentioned drainage of 		

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	<p>sport pitches and the creation of a wetland habitat. We strongly support the creation of new types of habitat and additional funding could be accessed to achieve this in addition to education provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for the biodiversity within the woodland quarters, specifically song thrush and badgers. We feel any project to revive Marble Hill that proposes works to these quadrants could risk protection of these species. • We cannot support works that causes detriment or the destruction of habitat of any important and protected species 		
16.	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>16.1 AS noted that he was pleasantly surprised at the range of comments and the range of crossover and general support</p> <p>16.2 Three distinct areas have emerged for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Commercial opportunities currently not included in the proposals • Risk around financial costs • Traffic <p>All other issues are picked up by our three workshops.</p> <p>16.4 Date of next steering group meeting: Tuesday 24th April at 6.30pm at Marble Hill House</p> <p>16.5 Workshops: AS explained that EH is inviting people who have expressed an interest in the subject negative or positive. If people want to be invited they should email their interest to the Marble Hill Revived e-mail marblehillrevived@english-heritage.org.uk</p> <p>The workshop will be managed by an independent facilitator. If it is not possible to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend, we will invite people to feed questions and comments to use so there will be a dialogue for those who are not able to attend.</p> <p>We hope this demonstrates that there is a process in</p>	<p>EH will write notes up and make sure they are made available to members.</p> <p>EH will include these issues on a future agenda and give consideration to a further workshop on commercial opportunities</p> <p>Workshops and steering group meetings will be sent to members. Next steering group meeting we will report on workshops to steering group.</p>	

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	train for genuine dialogue		