



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Ms Laura Gibson

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Mrs Val Hepworth
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12th November 2025

Dear Ms Gibson

P/24/0610/2 Proposed demolition of Buildings 1-24 Henson Villas, Pearson Park, Kingston Upon Hull HU5 2SZ

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development affecting a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens (RPG) – Pearson Park, Registered at Grade II. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is a member organisation of the GT and works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of registered sites and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

Originally known as the peoples' park, Zachariah Charles Pearson, Mayor of Hull, donated the land (27 acres) for this park to the people of Hull in 1860. It was designed by James Craig Niven (d.1881), Curator of Hull's Botanic Gardens and was completed in 1863, the first park laid out in Hull. An essential element of the design was a broad carriage drive running round the park with the surrounding plots for housing development – villa residences of ornamental design.

The diagonal layout of the 1-24 Henson Villas that were built after the war on a bombed area to the south-east and proposed for demolition, is at odds with the general historic layout of the buildings/villas bounding the outside of the park. Henson villas do not contribute to the special interest of the Avenues and Pearson Park Conservation Area and the RPG.

We understand that the application is purely for demolition of the flats, retention of the trees and grassing over and we have no objection. We suggest that permission should include a caveat that the trees and design lines of routes close to the site should be protected during the process to ensure the park setting is not compromised by unforeseen consequences.

Looking at the OS map, 1891 all the buildings/villas appear to be at a fairly uniform distance back from the public highway/carriage drive around the park. Our advice for future development proposals is that the historic building line should be restored/strengthened because it is such a prominent backdrop to that area of the park. New building mass should reflect the traditional

building lines, height, overall massing and materials.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to the proposed demolition and trust that our advice for the future of this site will be helpful. This is an opportunity for the improvement of the setting of the RPG and for the Conservation Area.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc Historic England, e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk; Conservation@ the Gardens Trust.