

30th August 2019

PAINSHILL PARK & THE M25 JUNCTION 10 PROPOSALS

As a long term existing member and former Chairman of CPRE Surrey over many years, and a current resident of Guildford, I am very familiar with the historic 18th Century Landscape Garden at Painshill Park which I have visited frequently. CPRE has chosen to stage its Annual General Meeting (AGM) again at Painshill in September this year, so that all CPRE members attending may have the opportunity to visit its unique grounds and buildings without charge. Highlights of any visit will I feel sure include the newly built Temple of Bacchus and the neighbouring Gothic Tower which are situated close to the western end of the park where the next stage of the Painshill restoration programme will be focused. To keep myself fully informed I attended the Painshill AGM on 13th June at which a progress review of the last 12 months was made and the way forward for the future outlined. I have continued to remain in communication with the Chairman of the Painshill Park Trust since then. I have also attended a Highways England consultation/exhibition about the work proposed in connection with the M25 Junction 10 development.

At the time of the Painshill AGM no problem was foreseen with regard to the collaborative discussions in process with Highways England, and their consultants Atkins, concerning the proposals for Junction 10 of the M25. It was therefore wholly unexpected when I was advised on 22nd August that the latest version of the draft Highways England plans failed to honour the assurances previously made that access onto the A3 at the western end of the park would either be retained, or reinforced by a separate access track for the use of service vehicles and for emergency purposes. A subsequent analysis of the current submission confirmed that this has either been overlooked or omitted. This is a crucial requirement for Painshill as the final stage of the restoration programme will concentrate on the western end of the park, and recent trials have indicated that a fire tender would be unable to reach the Gothic Tower in a sufficiently short time to deal with an emergency. This is made all the more of a priority when one takes into account that the Gothic Tower has burnt down previously and had to be restored subsequently so that it could be used again for residential accommodation.

Those of us who live in the Guildford area are also very conscious of the recent fire which has done a great deal of damage to the National Trust's Clandon House which has so far remained closed to the public subsequently. I understand that this unfortunate misadventure resulted from the inability of the fire service to be able to supply water in sufficient quantity quickly enough. It is therefore in our view only reasonable that, with this warning in mind, Highways England be advised that the Painshill Trust's requirements for the access road they have requested should be met. We therefore urge that this commitment is fully covered in the current document being prepared by Highways England and request that this matter is

treated with the necessary urgency that is required.

Tim Harrold

