

SEEMA MALHOTRA MP



House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Cllr Pritam Grewal (Chair) and Planning Committee Members
Planning Committee
London Borough of Hounslow
7 Bath Road
Hounslow TW3 3EB

11th April 2023

Dear Planning Committee Members,

RE: Development Plans for Hanworth Park House

I write this letter in support of proposed plans for the development at Hanworth Park House, a building of historic significance, important to local communities and with the proposals set to bring benefits to the Park as a whole and to the local community.

I have been a long standing supporter of the project to redevelop Hanworth Park House and bring it back into more public use. I have been very concerned about the deterioration of the House which has significantly worsened in recent years. The House also means very much to those by whom it is remembered. Many local residents have been part of its community over the past 60-70 years, including by those who worked there in aviation or automotive roles, while it was a care home, or who had relatives who were resident there.

Hanworth Park House is not just a local asset, but a national one. It has an extraordinary, multifaceted history. It has contributed to our nation's royal history, political history, aviation history, and our social history. For over 500 years, the House has been part of our national story and the history of women in aviation. Our local community played a key role in the development of the RAF, with Hanworth Air Park being a hub for the Air Ministry and a training school. On August 8th 1915, mothers of sailors, soldiers and servicemen gathered in Hanworth for their very own Mother's Day.

For far too long, Hanworth Park House has ceased to be a facility that should rightly be at the heart of our local community. With a renovated House, Hanworth Park has the potential to be to the west area of Hounslow what Gunnersbury Park has become for the east of Hounslow and Ealing. It will be a national tourist attraction and family facility on the edge of Heathrow, becoming a hub for wider regeneration of the area of deprivation in which it is located.

The potential of the house, and the development of the park alongside it, is one of those important projects in my constituency from the point of view of heritage and community improvement. I want to see Hanworth Park House and a renewed Hanworth Park as a space of history, heritage and education. And in addition, a space for people to meet and share their lives together through hiring of facilities for birthdays, weddings and social events.

I have included some photos of events in recent years using the front of the House which has

SEEMA MALHOTRA MP



House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

been a wonderful place for school and community events. This would be an incredible place for our school children to visit to learn our proud local history, to connect them with their place, inspiring them to learn about the past but also to connect with opportunity for jobs in aviation, car manufacturing and other industry connected with the House and its past.



Hanworth Park
House 2017 - 2019

We have a duty and responsibility to our historical assets, and to preserve some fascinating local and national history.

Currently, there are no museums in Feltham and Heston, and Hanworth Park House would greatly enhance the area's cultural offerings. Due to Hanworth Park House's Tudor connections and the House's use during World War I and early aviation, the site is ideally placed for a museum to explain the history of my constituency, as well as the wider area. I anticipate it will be popular among schools in the area, as well as those further afield who are teaching about the Tudors, World War I or World War II (all of which are topics covered at every level of the National Curriculum).

The proposed development would materially benefit the area by providing housing in an area that the Greater London Authority and the London Borough of Hounslow have identified as a priority.

Although this entails some very limited construction in a site designated as Green Belt and a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, it is identified in the Borough's Green Belt Review Part 2 as low-performing green belt. I would agree with this assessment. The wider park includes some priority habitats (including acid grassland and woodland) but some of these require significant enhancements.

SEEMA MALHOTRA MP



House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Additionally, the proposed project will make use of brownfield areas that were previously occupied by airport hangars and will create more than 10 acres of publicly accessible and open new greenbelt. As part of the application, the woodland, while losing some trees (many of which are poor quality at present), would result in re-planting at least 200 trees within the site boundary and include enhancements to the retained woodland and other ecological enhancements to the wider park, reflecting an emerging management plan for the park, which it is currently lacking. The proposed project would result in a Biodiversity Net Gain increase of 35%, exceeding the minimum policy requirement of 10%.

It would also benefit the wider park with views of the House, restoring some of the scenes and visuals of the past, as well as preserving the current community uses, introducing further spaces for community use, new entrances and paths, and reducing current antisocial behaviour from moped users. For the last 3 years I have worked with local residents who are part of an informal friends of Hanworth Park group (closely associated with but separate from the Friends of Hanworth Park House) with the network of local residents actively engaging the wider community on a vision for the park for families. This network was instrumental in some of the key improvements over the last few years in partnership with Hounslow Council – including improved children’s playground, bridlepath reinstatement, replacement of bins and benches, signage, safety and biodiversity strategy. This next stage of investment in the park would be vital for securing financial contributions for additional and improved paths and facilities within the park.

I therefore believe the development and the limited changes to the green belt are justified by the exceptional circumstances that restoring a heritage site entails, as well as the ecological enhancements and community benefits proposed.

It is also urgent. We do not have long left before we no longer even have the option to save the House. Since I first visited Hanworth Park House around 6 years ago, when you could walk through much of the house and upstairs, it is devastating to see how the condition has deteriorated so rapidly such that it is not safe to enter.

This will be a historic decision. I very much hope that this application can be approved and help be given to make this project a success for the council and community and with a legacy secured for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "S. Malhotra".

Seema Malhotra MP
Member of Parliament for Feltham & Heston