27 February 2019

Ms Jennifer Margetts Planning Services Elmbridge Borough Council Civic Centre High Street Esher Surrey KT10 9SD



Historic Royal Palaces is the charity that looks after:

Tower of London **Hampton Court Palace Banqueting House** Kensington Palace **Kew Palace** 

Hillsborough Castle

We help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built. We raise all our own funds and depend on the support of our visitors. members, donors.

sponsors and volunteers.

Dear Ms Margetts,

Re: Application ref: 2018/3810 Jolly Boatman and Hampton Court Station Redevelopment Area, Hampton Court Way, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AE

I refer to our letter dated 8 February last in response to your consultation in respect of the above application.

Our letter included the following comment:

Sections of the north and eastern elevations of the development would be visible from key viewpoints within the palace and from Barge Walk. The importance of the retention and reinforcement of the tree screen on the development side of the river must therefore be emphasised.

In furtherance of this requirement from Historic Royal Palaces, I thought it would be helpful to set out a recommended tree and landscaping proposal to assist with consideration of the screening needs.

Historic Royal Palaces wish to see greater enhancement of the tree and landscaping screen currently present on Cigarette Island between Hampton Court Palace and the development at the former Jolly Boatman and Hampton Court Station site.

The current planting on 'the island' consists of mature horse chestnut trees planted around 1930 and holm oaks in standard and multi-stemmed form. The current population of horse chestnut trees are mature and at risk of loss over time due to the impact of bleeding canker, leaf miner and blotch diseases leaving their loss a vulnerability to the screening that they currently provide.

In order to maintain a continued sustainable screen, HRP would like to work with Elmbridge Borough Council and the developer (at the developer's cost) to support a plan to enhance the western boundary and screening properties of the tree cover on Cigarette Island and a landscaping design for the public realm area.

Historic Royal Palaces commissioned a draft landscape proposal for Cigarette Island in 2015 with Todd Longstaffe-Gowan. Plan Proposal Option B: Surface Access, in this Proposal, provides an example of greater landscaping enhancement possible through tree and shrub planting at the back of the Island (western boundary) alongside the development site and also alongside the river bank.

Historic Royal Palaces would wish to see a mixed species screened belt comprised of different height trees, i.e. standards and coppiced specimens. Species selection should be mainly native and typical of the local riverside landscape. Further planting of pollarded and coppiced riverside species could benefit the riverside setting while at the same time respecting views of the palace from Cigarette Island.

A copy of the Landscape Proposal is attached for reference.

Thurs sin curshy

John Barnes Chief Executive

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c.c. Simon Graham-Smith, Development Control, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames