



Parks for London

Advancing green space excellence



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Our Statement of Support for [The Gardens Trust](#) 📣

Parks for London supports the Gardens Trust in urging the UK Government to reconsider its plans to remove the Trust's role as a statutory consultee on planning applications, announced on 10th March.

The Gardens Trust provide specialist advice on planning applications with an impact on the parks and gardens that we value as a nation. The Trust operate with a team of volunteers across England to advise on sustainable change whilst safeguarding the special qualities of the formal landscapes, cemeteries and urban parks that operate as the lungs of our towns and cities and provide green recreational space that are vital for local communities, nature, and climate mitigation.

Statutory consultees play a crucial role in ensuring that planning decisions are informed by specialist advice that enables positive, sustainable change and growth while safeguarding our shared heritage and creating community pride, public wellbeing and sense of place.

As an infrastructure organisation supporting those who own, manage, and maintain parks and green spaces across Greater London we know the critical role the Gardens Trust play in advising the planning system. Their informed specialist advice bridges gaps in the majority of planning authorities, in particular where there are shortages in staff capacity and expertise in this area.

Whilst we support reform to the planning system to improve both its efficiency and ability to better deliver public benefits to communities, removing the Gardens Trust as a statutory consultee would not support these overarching aims.



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