



**National  
Trust**

Chris.Hurcomb@nationaltrust.org.uk  
Direct line: +44 (0)1223 206003  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Open Letter to Parish Council

Dear Neighbours

### **Wimpole Infrastructure (Car Park) Project**

Wimpole is the one of the most significant estates in this region. The site is listed, a Registered Park and a Scheduled Monument – there are no higher levels of protection and statutory recognition. The property also has the only national working rare breeds' farm.

The estate has a number of conservation and infrastructure issues which are detracting from visitors enjoying the best experience at the property. In some areas we are seeing the heritage assets being harmed by the increased footfall.

I, with the support of our regional consultancy and the National Trust as a whole, have been working on a 10 year vision and master plan which will ensure the best for Wimpole and improve our visitor offer and experience, easing the pressures on the heritage assets and environment. We are not deliberately looking to develop our visitor numbers, however regional planners are telling us that the property is a key amenity for Cambridgeshire and asset to the local economy; and as such that we should expect some natural growth in visitor numbers over the years ahead. This is therefore a key moment to invest (at an unprecedented level for the Trust) in a change that will deliver major long term benefits.

After an exhaustive exploration of options, we have concluded that the greatest conservation benefit to the estate will be the removal of the existing car parking from the parkland areas around the Stable Block and relocation of parking and our visitor welcome outside of the Registered Park. The current parking areas can become a quagmire at times and are just not operationally fit for purpose. We are also now finding as a result of these issues that the public are sometimes parking in the highway, which is unacceptable to us and locals.

Wimpole Estate  
National Trust  
Arrington  
SG8 0BW  
Tel: +44 (0)1223 206000  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

President: HRH The Prince of Wales  
Director, East of England: Paul Forecast

Registered office:  
Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 2NA  
Registered charity number 205846

All the agencies we have spoken to so far have been very supportive of this concept and we want to present our current thinking on the relocation of the car park to our friends and partners in the local community. We now feel we have achieved enough clarity about what we need to achieve, what is possible and we have sufficiently explored some of the critical technical issues: so we want to invite you all to an 'open house' on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the Wimpole Rectory Restaurant** to seek your views and answer questions on the project.

The consultation will be hosted by myself and the design team and will run as follows:

11.00am	Arrival/Welcome with Tea/Coffee.
11.30am	Presentation by Design Team.
12 noon	Open Forum for questions and opportunity to review details/drawing and project information on the scheme.
1.00pm	Close.

We very much look forward to seeing you then. Please note that our parking charges will be waived for anyone visiting the 'open house': just write a note 'open house' and place in the window of your vehicle.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hurcomb  
General Manager  
Wimpole Estate

Cont/d