



70 Cowcross Street
London EC1M 6EJ
Telephone: (+44/0) 207 608 2409
Email: enquiries@thegardenstrust.org
www.thegardenstrust.org

Macauley Potter
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
26 West Hoe Road
Plymouth PL1 3BJ
By email only

planningconsents@plymouth.gov.uk
Macauley.Potter@plymouth.gov.uk

November 10th 2025

Dear Mr Potter,

25/01284/FUL and 25/01287/LBC

**Development of an electrical building in the Civic Centre Car Park (over 6 existing car parking spaces), soakaway, and associated works.
Civic Centre Car Park Princess Street Plymouth PL1 2TR**

Thank you for consulting the Gardens Trust in its role as Statutory Consultee on the above application which may have a material impact on the significance of Civic Square, Plymouth, a Grade II registered park and garden (RPG) included by Historic England on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. We have liaised with our colleagues in the Devon Gardens Trust and their local knowledge informs this joint response.

The RPG is a public square of 1957-62 designed by Geoffrey Jellicoe and established as part of the civic layout of Plymouth planned in 1956 by the city architect H J W Stirling and based on Patrick Abercrombie and J Paton Watson's post-war plan for Plymouth of 1943.

The Gardens Trust note that there are other proposals regarding the wider redevelopment of the Civic Centre and we recommend that any assessment of these proposals should be undertaken in relation to these wider proposals.

We have reviewed the drawings for the planning and listed building application which show that the proposed structure sits within the RPG. The proposed new building is a small functional structure and, in terms of scale, does not conflict too much with the surrounding built development.

However, we believe that the proposed anodised triangular aluminium cladding panels, using a mix of three finishes to give variation, with a terrazzo tile plinth and a sedum roof, is not appropriate for a new functional building within the wider development.

We appreciate the intention to continue the historic materials and design; however, the proposed external finish will serve to draw attention to the structure and potentially be a pastiche of the original design. If this were a more prominent building with a more civic use, then the proposed finishes might be appropriate but, as a small utilitarian building, the materials and design should allow it to recede into the surroundings. The sedum roof may be acceptable but must be maintained.

In conclusion, we have no objection to the principle of a new structure on this site but we consider that the proposed materials should not replicate the historic approach but be more recessive.

We would be grateful if the LPA and/or the applicant could notify us if further details or clarification is submitted as to either the proposed restoration of the RPG or the impact of the proposals on the RPG and we would also be grateful to be advised of the outcome of the application in due course.

Yours faithfully

Joanne Mirzoeff BA (Hons) MSc
Consultant Conservation Officer