

**SECTION '1' – Applications submitted by the London Borough of Bromley**

**Application No :** 15/04121/LBC

**Ward:**  
**Crystal Palace**

**Address :** Crystal Palace Park Thicket Road  
Penge London SE20 8DT

**OS Grid Ref:** E: 534475 N: 170872

**Applicant :** Ms Lydia Coelho

**Objections : NO**

**Description of Development:**

Repairs to granite steps and sphinxes to include repainting of the statues

Key designations:

Conservation Area: Crystal Palace Park

Areas of Archeological Significance

Major Development Sites

Metropolitan Open Land

Proposal Sites

Sites of Interest for Nat. Conservation

**Proposal**

Proposal to carry out repairs to Sphinx statues and adjoining granite steps. The statues are to either end of the terraces to the former Crystal Palace. The repairs will involve mortar repairs to existing cracks and the statues are to be repainted in a red ochre colour which was found to be the original colour following paint analysis and desk based research.

**Consultations**

Historic England are supportive of the application.

One representation of support was received from a resident.

**Planning Considerations**

The application falls to be determined in accordance with S.7 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 which requires work to a listed building that would affect its special architectural or historic interest to be authorised by the relevant planning authority. The following policies of the Unitary Development Plan and NPPF are further considerations:

BE8 Statutory Listed Buildings  
Chapter 12 NPPF

The area is within Metropolitan Open Land but this is not relevant to a Listed Building Consent application and Planning Permission is not required for these works.

## **Conclusions**

The main issue is the impact on the character, integrity and special interest of the Grade II listed statues and adjoining steps. The Crystal Palace, Designed by Sir Joseph Paxton for the Great Exhibition of 1851 in Hyde Park, was afterwards taken down and re-erected in 1852-4 on the site of Penge Place. The building itself was burned down in 1935, but the 2 terraces of the formal garden in front of it survive and the Sphinx statues are at the north and south ends of the upper terrace.

The Sphinx statues are in very poor condition with many cracks and broken/missing sections along with a heavy build-up of atmospheric staining and biological growth. A detailed specification written by a conservation engineer has been submitted and the works proposed are in accordance with best practice. These include; rebuilding sections of inner core, mortar repairs to cracks and new moulded sections. The existing paint colour is grey but the proposal is to return to the original red ochre which was originally intended to invoke the Egyptian reference of the Sphinxes. This proposal represents good conservation practice and will better reveal their significance. Some of the steps have become loose from the bedding mortar and are in a dangerous condition and they will be re-bed.

In conclusion the proposal is an acceptable one which will ensure the survival of these heritage assets.

## **RECOMMENDATION: GRANT LISTED BUILDING CONSENT**

### **subject to the following conditions:**

- 1 The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of 3 years, beginning with the date of this decision notice.**

**Reason: Section 91, Town and Country Planning Act 1990.**