



Supporters of Ashton Gardens

16 August 2004

Dear Mr. Lee

Ashton Gardens Lottery Bid

We understand that the Council's intention was to submit a Heritage Lottery Fund grant request toward the end of July, and we write to re-iterate our wholehearted support for all attempts to restore the Gardens.

We recognise that the work is required because previous Councils have not met their obligations to fund the necessary repairs and maintenance of the gardens infrastructure, and we agree that a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant will make funding this backlog of repair and restoration easier. To this end we welcome the possibility of grant aid. Ashton Gardens is widely cherished by our community, and our members have raised £5,000 to contribute to the endeavour.

We must, however, make it clear that we do not, nor will we ever, agree to the sale or disposal of any part of the Gardens. In this regard, we are persuaded by the views of heritage experts and the public locally. The Council's own expert consultants summed up the position, when they wrote: *"The denial of planning permission to develop on any area of this garden must be seen as a key to the retention and restoration of the historic character of the gardens."*

We refute absolutely the Council's claim that it is not able to find the match funding by any means other than selling part of the gardens. We strongly support the view expressed by the Council's external Auditor that other methods of providing the match funding are available to the Council, and should also be considered.

To destroy the integrity of the Gardens in order to restore the remainder is, in our opinion, to defeat the object of the exercise.

Yours sincerely

Fred Moor

Chief Executive, Fylde Borough Council, Town Hall, St Annes

cc to Mr P Fellows, Heritage Lottery Fund, 7 Holbein Place, London. SW1W 8NR

Chairman
Fred Moor
18 Sandhurst Avenue
St Annes, Lancashire FY8 2DA
Tel: 01253 728047
chairman@ashtongardens.org.uk

Secretary
Jon Harrison
6 Nateby Close
St Annes, Lancashire, FY8 3PW
Tel: 01253 724298
secretary@ashtongardens.org.uk

Treasurer
Jill Sumner
10 Dorset Road
St Annes, Lancashire FY8 2ED
Tel: 01253 721608
treasurer@ashtongardens.org.uk