

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 18/0549/FUL

Address: Chalkers Corner Junction At Junction Of Lower Richmond Rd South Circ And Clifford Avenue Richmond

Proposal: APPLICATION C: Reconfiguration of Chalkers Corner traffic junction, to include existing public highway and existing landscaped and informal parking area associated to Chertsey Court, to facilitate alterations to lane configuration, a new cycle lane, works to existing pedestrian and cycle crossing, soft landscaping and replacement boundary treatment to Chertsey Court.

Comments Made By

Name: Mr Councillor Paul Avon

Address: 18 Fitzgerald Avenue East Sheen London SW14 8SZ

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment:

As a Councillor for Mortlake & Barnes Common, I object to the application for the reasons below:-

1/The widening of Chalkers Corners will have an appalling effect on residents' day-to-day lives both in terms of noise of constant traffic and pollution. NO2 concentrations at Chalkers Corner at 59 micrograms per cubic metre already exceed the UK annual mean objective of 40 micrograms per cubic metre by nearly 50%. Loss of the buffer provided by the Other Open Land of Townscape Importance and mature trees will bring traffic closer to people's homes thereby increasing levels of pollution and impacting the health of residents.

The quality of residents' lives and their health would suffer immeasurably. It is unconscionable in my view that this development goes up at the expense of Chertsey Court Residents' lives. The proposal entails the slicing off the apex and would result in the loss of a significant number of mature trees which is totally unacceptable. Policy LP14 5.3.4 should be applied to protect this garden because of its value to local

people, contribution to the network of green spaces and value for biodiversity. I strongly object to the loss of these mature trees. The residents of Chertsey Court deserve better.

One resident at Chertsey Court commented to me "The powerless, voiceless residents of Chertsey Court will be left surrounded, enveloped and further isolated by a rising cloud of petrol fumes and incessant engine noise, with no respite and stripped of trees to act as a buffer." Another resident commented: "Not only would we have more traffic than ever but it would be closing in on us. My breathing would be affected further. It would certainly mean that I would never ever sit on my balcony again."

In summary the mitigation proposed (wall and less mature trees) is nowhere near sufficient. By its own admission ".....the amount of filtration or absorption from the new intensive green planting proposed at Chertsey Court cannot be quantified..." [10.113 Air Quality Report]. Richmond Planning officers must scrutinise this report in detail and protect the interests of Chertsey Court residents.

2/The widening of Chalkers Corners is supposed to "alleviate the transport and traffic implications associated with the operations of the development." [10.32 Air Quality Report] I am very sceptical that this alteration will improve matters no matter what the data suggests. The reality is that the site is difficult to enter/exit bounded by A316, the River, Lower Richmond Rd and Sheen Lane (Mortlake Level Crossing where we have extensive barrier downtime of 45 mins + per hour at peak periods). Added to this, we have the vagaries of Hammersmith Bridge Closure from time-to-time. You must live here to appreciate the area is already brought to a standstill at certain points in the day and all this will do is suck in more traffic and make the situation even worse. Any improvement would be short lived and temporary. It is not nearly radical enough to deal with the idiosyncrasies of the site. In my view, the developer/TfL (Chalkers Corners falls under the auspices of TfL) have not come up with the right solution that will cope with the proposed density of the development (and the subsequent c.40% + increase in the population of Mortlake).

I should stress that I am in favour of the development of the site but not at any cost and certainly not at the expense of Chertsey Court residents and the wider community in my ward.

Cllr Paul Avon
Councillor for Mortlake & Barnes Common