

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: Dr Geoffrey Woodhouse

Address: 8 Richmond Park Road East Sheen London SW14 8JT

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: I wish to object to the works proposed at Chalker's Corner, in particular to the removal of land and the destruction of mature trees currently part of the Chertsey Court estate.

The purpose of these works is to improve the traffic flow at this junction. Traffic on the Lower Richmond Road is indeed a problem. It has been so ever since the widening of Mortlake High Street, itself a misguided attempt to improve traffic flow.

The Mortlake Brewery development will add significantly to the volume of traffic on the Lower Richmond Road unless effective steps are taken to control it at source. One obvious way would be to reduce the density of the development, which is a significant source of concern for other reasons as well as traffic generation.

Another way would be to abandon the proposal for a secondary school on the Brewery site. As I have commented in another submission, the decision to build this school is based on an assessment of need which is without foundation. Not to build it would allow the OOLTI playing field to be preserved and significantly reduce additional traffic.

Use of cars by all new residents needs to be discouraged and public transport improved. There is no evidence of any serious work on this.

Above all, any work which will increase the attractiveness of Mortlake High Street and the Lower Richmond Road to through traffic should be avoided. Increasing flow at Chalker's Corner will have precisely this undesirable effect.

It is shocking that works are contemplated which will seriously and permanently reduce the quality of life of the residents of Chertsey Court when so little thought has evidently been given to the costs and benefits of those works.

Costs:

1. Removal of the mature trees will increase levels of air pollution in an already seriously polluted area.
2. Removal of land will bring the traffic even closer to the residents.
3. The aural and visual impact of the traffic on the residents will be greatly increased by removing the trees and reducing the land.
4. The works themselves will take a considerable time, during which life in Chertsey Court will be intolerable.
5. If there is an increase in traffic flow, this will encourage further traffic on to the Lower Richmond Road from either Mortlake or East Sheen, until the point of maximum tolerable congestion (for drivers) is reached, as at present. The residents of Chertsey Court will from then on be subjected to greater traffic density, with zero protection for decades.
6. The existing mature trees have an amenity value which is independent of these quantifiable effects and is one of the few compensations of living in Chertsey Court.

Benefit:

1. Increase in traffic flow for motorists (in fact undesirable: see 5 above)

Residents of Chertsey Court live in an already disadvantaged location. Any development of the Brewery site is bound to increase traffic to some degree. What is dispiriting is the emphasis that there has been on maximising the density of the development combined with the lack of thought given to limiting the increase of individual motorised traffic and encouraging other forms of transport.

I have shown that there are other ways to alleviate the traffic problems at Chalker's Corner. If adopted, they would have a radical effect on the course of the Brewery development as a whole, to the benefit of all the residents of Mortlake. The proposed works, which will permanently blight Chertsey Court as a place to live, will in practice encourage further through traffic, to the disadvantage of all residents.

I urge the Planning Committee to reject these proposed works.