

May 10, 2018

RE: **Chalkers Corner Planning Submission: REF8/0549/FUL**

Dear Richmond Planning,

My name is Mike Keefe and my family and I live at 119 Lower Richmond Road near the temporary bus stop going towards Chalker's Corner and have done so for the past 18 years. I am attaching a petition rejecting the developer's proposals for the Chalker's Corner redevelopment signed by local residents.

In addition, see below my personal opposition to the planning submission along with possible resolutions on a few of the areas.

1) **Parking & Bus Stops**

The residents of Lower Richmond Road have limited parking along the Lower Richmond Road and within the lay-by at Chalkers Corner. We do not have any real alternatives as we are unable to park in Chertsey Court or on nearby Watney Rd as these are private parking areas/roads. Residents of these areas as well as customers of local business's like Medi-Vet and indeed the general public are all allowed to park in the limited spaces along Lower Richmond Road all of which compromise our ability to park near our own homes. The Brewery development will only bring more vehicles into the area massively increasing the pressure on parking to unacceptable levels.

Developer's proposal and impact:

There are only circa 20 spaces along this road for 30 houses/flats so space is already at a premium. The current developer's proposal shows a new full bus stop where the temporary bus stop currently resides resulting in a **loss of 6 - 7 parking spaces**. There is no provision for the replacement of these lost spaces within the plan. **This full bus stop I vehemently oppose**. The impact will be a reduced quality of life and safety for all residents along the road particularly for elderly and families with small children. In addition, this will bring increased parking pressure on neighbouring roads such as Shalstone, Kingsway, the lay-by and even further afield. The Brewery development will only bring more vehicles into the area increasing the pressure on parking to unacceptable levels.

Proposal:

I would like to see a full and rigorous review of the parking along LRR from Kingsway to Chalker's corner to include:

- A. the introduction of a **residents-only protected parking scheme** for only residents living along the southside of the Lower Richmond Road and the lay-by.
- B. the **removal and/or relocation of the temporary East/West bus stop** nearest Chalker's Corner
- C. the **introduction of more parking** along Lower Richmond Road towards Chalker's corner and near the Kingsway / LRR intersection for LRR residents.

Rationale:

A. Residents Only Protected Parking

The introduction of a residents-only protected parking scheme will prohibit Chertsey Court residents, Medi-Vet customers, random parkers and in future any of the increased populace from the Brewery Site development from parking along this section of the Lower Richmond Road. This will at least maintain and protect our current parking arrangements.

B. Removal and/or relocation of temporary East/West Bus Stop Relocation

To counter the developer's proposal, I am proposing the East West bus stop be positioned in front of the newsagents on the corner of Lower Richmond Road and Kingsway. The zig-zags currently in place in front of the newsagents can be reduced from the current 6 to 4 (according to the 1997 Zebra Crossing legislation) which will provide enough room for a full bus stop. If this bus is too close to the Rosemary Lane bus stop then the Rosemary Lane bus stop should be removed. Although this will mean access for the East West buses for Chertsey Court and Lower Richmond Road residents would move about 100m, it will have the following huge benefits.

1. Much improved safety for many residents and future students as a full bus stop with better access near to a zebra crossing has to be better than the developer's current proposal.
2. Greater access as the pavement in front of the newsagents and shops is large making it possible for a full shelter to be installed whilst not inhibiting others walking along this area. This creates a safer and more user-friendly experience for the community.
3. Traffic flows nearer the junction will be improved as there will be no stopped buses
4. Safer as no malicious vehicle overtaking will happen near the junctions as a result of stopped buses near this very busy junction
5. Existing parking can remain and even be extended providing a vital benefit to all residents. See illustration of possible improved positioning.
6. Lower litter pollution as rubbish accumulating in front of residents' houses will be eliminated
7. Reduced air pollution nearest to homes as there will be no more idling buses directly in front of houses
8. Reduced noise pollution from the idling buses and the vehicle queuing behind.

C. More Parking

With the removal of the temporary bus stop, I am proposing the parking be extended by another 5 – 6 spaces towards the junction. This will help benefit all residents immensely particularly the many elderly residents and the many families with small children. In addition, 2 – 3 more spaces should be provided near the Kingsway / Lower Richmond Road junction.

2) Traffic, Congestion and Pollution

The current congestion is unacceptable and with the increased populace resulting from the Brewery Development the situation will only get worse and reject any increase in traffic to the area.

Air pollution levels are already above UK and EU acceptable levels and stand to increase as a result of the Brewery Development. The proposal does not address these issues and widening the road only allows for more idling cars / buses / lorries thus increasing the pollution to killing levels. I have no solution other than to oppose any increase in traffic.

Noise pollution levels are very high as the congestion causes frustration amongst drivers (horns, shouting, engine revving etc.) and the introduction of more lanes will mean idling engine noise is set to increase. I have no solution other than to oppose any increase in traffic.

The speed at which driver travel along the road when it is not congested is unacceptable and propose that a **traffic calming scheme** and **introduction of a 20 mph speed limit** be introduced which will make the road safer and reduce noise pollution.

3) Bike Lanes

The current proposal of a bike lane which extends from the end of the proposed bus stop for approximately 40 meters is derisory. This is not a practical bike lane and represents the developer either their mis-understanding the issue or their indifference to the real issue we all face which is speedy bikers on the pavement. In defence of bike riders, the LRR is very narrow for vehicles and bikers to share once they get past the newsagents near Kingsway. Putting a small lane at the end of LRR will not do anything to move the bikers off the pavement. What is needed is a bike lane along the whole stretch of road from Kingsway to Chalker's corner.

Moreover, what is also needed is a bike lane on the opposite side (West East route) for the same distance as I have personally witnessed two bikers being knocked off their bikes as this stretch of road gets very crowded with vehicles vying for every inch of space.

In addition, a bike calming scheme on the pavements all along the Lower Richmond Road should be introduced to lessen the likelihood of bikers travelling at speed along the pavement.

The current proposal is unacceptable and more needs to be done as expressed above.

4) Green issues

I believe that no one really wants to see the removal of any of the greenery along our road. My proposal is that any trees / greenery removed will need to be replaced/relocated so the net loss of trees is zero. In addition, the overall landscaping should be greatly enhanced along the road to minimise the overall affect of the widening of the junction. Some green grass near the Chertsey Court brick wall may have to be sacrificed as a result of new road layouts which I accept.

Summary:

In summary, I reject the Chalker's Corner Junction planning proposal for the above reasons and ask for your assistance in making my and my families voice heard.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Keefe

