

## Comment on a planning application

### Application Details

**Application:** 21/0847/FUL

**Address:** The One O Clock Club Marble Hill Park Richmond Road Twickenham TW1 2NL

**Proposal:** Demolition of the existing buildings and erection of a new building for use as a children's play space, nursery and community hub (Class E(f), Class F2), installation of landscaping and associated works

### Comments Made By

**Name:** Mr Berry Ritchie

**Address:** 24 Beaufort Road Twickenham TW1 2PQ

### Comments

**Type of comment:** Object to the proposal

**Comment:** Application 21/0847/FUL

The One O'Clock Club, Marble Hill Park

The only certain outcome of the above application for extensive changes to the land and buildings in Marble Hill Park which currently house the One O'Clock Club is that its approval will extinguish a vital part of their present use.

At present, the site provides an exceptional and possibly unique facility in the borough of Richmond for independent, adult-free, unstructured, child-led play.

Over the five years that we have lived in our Beaufort Road house, we have watched the way in which children coming to the play centre, both boys and girls, have seized on its opportunities for interactive role playing. Old tyres, planks of wood, plastic buckets, sticks, boxes, pipes and sheeting become everything and anything from forts and hideouts to bridges and walk-ways. Imagining and making these is exciting and constructive, both physically and mentally. It is also socially educational. And all this without adult direction or interference.

The redevelopment proposals leave little to no scope at all for child-centred activities of this kind. What with the climbing wall and the scrambling nets and the zigzag zone and the raised trackway and the paddling and splash pools, not to mention the five-fold increase in the building footprint, the children will scarcely have room to queue for their turns, let alone enjoy space to indulge their own imaginations.

This is to leave aside the proposals to turn the site into a Community Hub, catering for who knows how many different uses for both children and adults.

Berry and Carole Ritchie  
24 Beaufort Road

Carole Ritchie was deputy head of Darell Road J M & I School.

Berry Ritchie is an author and journalist.