

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 22/0902/FUL

Address: The Stag Brewery Lower Richmond Road Mortlake London SW14 7ET

Proposal: Erection of a three-storey building to provide a new secondary school with sixth form; sports pitch with floodlighting, external MUGA and play space; and associated external works including landscaping, car and cycle parking, new access routes and other associated works

Comments Made By

Name: Ms. Lesley Chalbot

Address: 17 Church Avenue East Sheen London SW14 8NW

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: After speaking to RPA, I understand that the projected numbers are not accurate and despite multiple attempts to correct them, this has not happened.

I know from first hand experience that there is not a need for another secondary school as local primaries (and presumably feeder schools) are not over subscribed - and in many cases have falling numbers which simply do not justify the boost in secondary school pupil numbers to the capacity described.

Neither of the secondary schools are full and both have shown a willingness to expand. RPA is able to fully expand; the sports centre, as claimed, is not a barrier.

The schools' view, and one that is shared by both myself and a number of those opposing the development, is that an additional school in this location will be at the detriment of an existing school if it goes ahead and I believe RPA have communicated this extensively but to no avail.

As for local boundaries, factors for success of any school are numerous. Reducing the 'busing in' of children has been important in stabilising the schools community and has significantly improved confidence while many who oppose this scheme have shown that future school places could be satisfied at local secondary level in line the 'Community Plan' representing a more sustainable solution.

The siting of the school requires the loss of the existing protected sports fields and is also undersized for 1150 pupils; with simply too little outdoor space, significantly below Department for Education Guidelines for new sites.

All this is a consideration before we even get to the lack of road capacity in the already problematic 'Choker's Corner' and level crossing (which has been made significantly worse due to the lack of investment in Hammersmith Bridge), infrastructure concerns and the 9 (9!) story planned apartment blocks.

While I understand the financial gains of developing the land and having others pay for a new local school, this is to the detriment of a great deal of hard work and investment in the other local secondaries.