

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: Mrs. Anita Ford

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Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: I would urge the council to reconsider most seriously the need for a secondary school. Figures clearly show that this is simply not needed. We have two wonderful local secondary schools, Richmond Park Academy and Christs' School. The building of a new secondary school would surely have a negative impact on these 2 schools. It would be far better to invest in the infrastructure of these establishments, further developing their 6th forms and creating 2 schools of which we can all be very proud. The introduction of a 3rd secondary school in this area would risk overshadowing the 2 existing schools as well as the risk of having 'out of borough' pupils to fill the spaces.

It would be far better to use part of the site (NOT losing the playing field) to accommodate Thomson House School, a primary school, currently split over 2 sites and perilously close to the level crossing at Mortlake station. This would ensure a safer and more comfortable environment for the pupils and staff who could have a 'state of the art' school in which to thrive. A primary school will always have a much more local catchment area so this would in turn help with the traffic situation as the vast majority of these pupils would walk, cycle or scoot to school, as they currently do and dice with death at the level crossing every day.

1,500 secondary school pupils plus teaching staff is an inordinate amount of people arriving and departing every day. This will simply yet again exacerbate the traffic problem which we already suffer. 1,500 secondary school pupils are by nature much bigger than primary school pupils and will therefore require much more space. The current proposed space allocated for this secondary school falls way short of the requirements for pupils of this age, particularly with regards to open space. If we are to have an unwanted and unnecessary secondary school foisted upon us, then for goodness sake make it something of which we and the pupils can be proud and not something where they will feel cooped up and short changed.

How often do we read about childhood obesity? How often do we hear that children spend too much time 'on screen' and not outside getting fresh air and exercise? All too often, I would say. Yet here we are with the council considering a school without enough outdoor space and considering getting rid of the playing field! This is simply ludicrous! The playing field should be kept not only for use by the school (be that primary or secondary) but for all-round community use. Does the council have any idea how much that playing field is used? If not, then I respectfully suggest the members do their research or even visit it on a weekend and see just how much community use it gets.

Replacing a live, natural grass field with an all-weather artificial pitch is unacceptable. What about our 'green' credentials!

To suggest that the re-provisioning of green space throughout the development will somehow make up for the loss of the playing fields is ridiculous. These smaller green areas in no way replicate the space of a field. Where are children meant to go outside to play? Where are people meant to gather for picnics or play football or simply enjoy being outside? If the

past years of lockdown during the pandemic have taught us anything, it is the value of outside space. I would urge the council most emphatically to retain the playing field, accommodate the school elsewhere on the site and ensure plenty of green spaces between buildings to ensure a pleasing and attractive landscape. Currently some of the proposed green spaces between building are too small and will simply end up being overshadowed by the tall buildings.