

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. Deborah Genders

Address: 27 Gilpin Avenue East Sheen London SW14 8QX

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: I find the inclusion of a large secondary school within the development project hard to understand. Two good secondary schools are within easy reach of the development, we don't need a third. I am told by neighbours that Richmond Park Academy has falling rolls, and note the intended capacity of that school is now much smaller than when my children attended. Expansion of an existing school which has plenty of sports space seems far more desirable and practical than building a large new school on a cramped site. The head-teacher of RPA, and her colleague at Christ's apparently are concerned that all local schools would suffer if there were to be three of them. The viability of their sixth forms in particular could be under threat with dwindling numbers of secondary age children.

Recent statistical research carried out on behalf of the Mortlake Brewery Campaign Group has identified a demographic change which backs up that picture which suggests that a secondary school is not needed. MBCG's suggestion of relocating Thompson House makes far more sense.

Putting a primary school on the site, apart from freeing up a lot of much needed space for homes, it would have traffic consequences as far fewer people would be coming in and out of the site each day of term time, plus a lessening of the attendant deliveries and other visitors to the school. It would mean the retention of the Brewery sports field which would be used by the whole community at any time, and the developer has said that there would be space to provide more affordable homes, which would be a tremendous benefit.

So no to the secondary school seems to be the only decision to make.