

## Comment on a planning application

### Application Details

**Application:** 22/3139/FUL

**Address:** Thames Young Mariners Base Riverside Drive Ham Richmond TW10 7RX

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing buildings and construction of replacement buildings with associated residential accommodation, changing block, replacement staff accommodation and outdoor activity equipment including high ropes, climbing wall, coasteering course, supporting pontoons with associated hard and soft landscaping and parking.

### Comments Made By

**Name:** Mr. Mick Bradshaw

**Address:** Cantium House, Station Approach, Wallington, SM6 0DZ

### Comments

**Type of comment:** Support the proposal

**Comment:** The Thames Young Mariners centre provides high quality educational and developmental opportunities for children and young people from Richmond and neighbouring boroughs, that are otherwise virtually impossible to access without travelling a significant distance and adding to the cost to parents and carers.

The current infrastructure and range of buildings at the centre are no longer fit for purpose and are badly in need of updating and in need of significant improvement to their environmental performance, sustainability and usage.

The proposed development would enable the centre to provide educational opportunities at the margins of their current operating season and to be able to provide residential experiences for a longer period each year. The development of the activity facilities would further enable the centre to provide for a wider range of user groups and to offer a more diverse experience.

The sheltered location of the centre also enables activities to continue when the flow conditions on the River Thames prevent other river users from being able to safely operate on the river - which can occur at any time of the year.

The centre is barely noticeable from the river itself or the towpath and similarly its presence is only evident from Riverside Drive because of the entrance gates and signage, and I do not believe that the proposals would have any detrimental effect on the local area, other than inevitably for a short time during the construction process.

As someone who personally benefitted from experiences at Thames Young Mariners while a young person, and who now professionally supports schools across south-west London wishing to undertake outdoor activities, I believe the centre to provide badly needed facilities, opportunities that represent good value for money and that are not profit driven and I would urge the Council to consider this planning application favourably.