

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 22/3004/FUL

Address: Kneller Hall Royal Military School Of Music Kneller Road Twickenham TW2 7DU

Proposal: The demolition of existing modern buildings on the site and the conversion of and extensions to Kneller Hall and other ancillary buildings associated with the former royal military music school to a day school (Use Class F1), together with the construction of associated new purpose-built buildings including teaching space, indoor sports facilities, sporting pavilion and forest school building. Alterations to the existing playing fields, to include an all weather pitch with fencing, flood lighting to existing tennis courts, sustainability measures and re-turfing. Provision of a new access from Whitton Dene, and other ancillary works including parking areas, hard and soft landscaping, lighting, access alterations and energy centre. Internal and external alterations to Kneller Hall and the curtilage listed buildings to facilitate the day school use, including demolition and rebuilding of single storey extension to the west wing of Kneller Hall, extension to the Band Practice Hall and re-opening of Whitton Dene site entrance.

Comments Made By

Name: Mr. jeremy Keates

Address: 11 Prospect Crescent Twickenham TW2 7EB

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: Walking and Cycling

The applicant highlights that the cycling network in Whitton is unsatisfactory and needs to be improved. It also highlights the poor pavements around the site such as outside 106-120 Nelson Road. This matches the user experience of residents, which have previously been raised with the council.

The applicant does accept a willingness to invest in improved infrastructure based on council recommendations. At this stage there are no existing plans from which the council has to work from and this design work should be funded by the applicant and submitted as part of this application.

Insufficient detail has been provided by the applicant on strategic walking and cycling routes and destinations where trips will begin and end, beyond one blurred map.

Only three walking and cycling routes have been analysed in the submission from the three nearby train stations. One of the identified routes will take pupils along Whitton road from Twickenham station, which has a high incident rate and where the pavement is less than a meter wide.

Cycles cannot be taken on trains in rush hour, so the identified routes will not be relevant to any pupils wishing to cycle.

Some of the existing identified quiet routes such as along Redway Drive will be negatively impacted due to the increase in vehicle traffic in the area and its potential use as a cut through. This again highlights the lack of strategic planning that has gone into alternative forms of transport by the applicant.

Fundamentally the transport assessment is of such poor quality to render the whole application meaningless. The council must reject it on that basis.