

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: halow Project - Building Futures Programme Mrs. Emily Marbrow

Address: 11 QUARRY STREET GUILDFORD GU1 3UY

Comments

Type of comment: Support the proposal

Comment: Building Futures is a full-time, community-based learning programme for young adults (18 - 25) with learning disabilities, focusing on independence, social and employment skills, run by Guildford and Woking based charity, The halow Project. For 13 years, Building Futures has worked with Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development (SOLD) to deliver progressive outdoor learning opportunities to our programme. These essential sessions afford our young people the opportunities to try new activities and skills, from archery and climbing to stand up paddle boarding and mountain biking, which they have often not had access to before. Additionally, each year our work with SOLD culminates in the young people completing their Bronze and/or Silver DofE.

Not only do these sessions introduce new and exciting activities, pushing our young people outside of their comfort zone in a supportive and nurturing environment, they also encourage and foster the development of key skills, such as teamwork, resilience, planning, and an understanding of Health & Safety, all of which are essential for the futures of our young people as they transition to supported living and into the world of work. Moreover, these sessions allow us to support young people with learning disabilities with their mental health, physical health, social and interpersonal skills, giving them the best possible start as they move into adulthood.

Building Futures supports the proposal to redevelop Thames Young Mariners, to create a fully accessible outdoor learning facility, ensuring that future year groups are able to continue to access and benefit from the wonderful opportunities our work with SOLD provides. Facilities such as these are few and far between, making equitable access to them all the more valuable. Young people with additional needs are often unable to access the same range of opportunities as their main stream peers, something made even more difficult as many dated facilities were not built with accessibility for all in mind. We have experienced first hand how these sessions and activities create incredible growth, confidence and resilience in young people with learning disabilities, helping to prepare them for a positive and meaningful life.