

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

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Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: Application B - New Secondary School Application B 22/0902/FU
School Place Needs, Siting and OOLTI

The justification for the proposed new secondary school needs to be reviewed. Local secondary schools have the space to expand (Richmond Park Academy has grounds (apart from current buildings) which are not significantly different in size from the site proposed for the new school and sports area.) Also given the current traffic issues due to the closure of Hammersmith Bridge (and when if ever it will open) will parents want to send their children to a secondary school on that site. Just stand outside the proposed site in the rush hour!

The proposed school is still located on protected OOLTI green open space, sports fields which represent the largest open green space in Mortlake.

A lot of families in the local area use the state primary schools and then go elsewhere for secondary education (both private and state such as Tiffin and Sutton grammar schools) . Secondary schools generate additional traffic eg staff cars and parents bringing children whereas primary parents tend to walk children to school. I worked as a tutor in teacher education and in the last 10 years must have visited nearly 50 secondary schools in the London area when monitoring trainee teachers. Car parks full (at least 50 cars plus - double parking), side roads reduced to having resident parking. Teachers have students' work to carry/probably their own children to drop off to school so the use of a car is often a necessity. Let us be realistic, although I do understand the need to reduce car use due to pollution and climate change. A secondary school needs ample parking for staff and will also generate even more traffic and congestion in the local area. The planned school seems to have limited parking facilities.

It seemed to me on the interactive video consultation last year that Richmond Council were the prime movers for a secondary school and, though not articulated, the developers were not averse to a primary school as an alternative. It was indicated that in other developments they had built primary schools with flats on top. (Cost effective?). It seems the site might be ideal for Thomson House. One of the present sites by the Sheen Lane Crossing is a health hazard and a danger. Staff frequently have to escort children across roads to Mortlake Green or the Brewery playing fields for outside activities. Not ideal on busy roads with very often irritated and frustrated drivers. Primary education is a greater need – many local primary schools have reduced outside space due to expansion in recent years to accommodate local needs. There is a black spot in the centre of Barnes which happens to be out of the catchment area for any of the local schools such that some children cannot get a place locally.