

## 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:** Whitton Ward Councillors Mrs. Jo Humphreys

**Address:** 8 Talma Gardens Twickenham TW2 7RD

### Comments

**Type of comment:** Make a general observation

**Comment:** Submission Part 2 from Whitton ward councillors, Cllr Humphreys, Cllr O'Carroll & Cllr Sehra

#### Guard House Gate

Whilst we are pleased to see that the entrance by the Guard House will be pedestrians and cyclists only, this middle section of Kneller Road will struggle to take additional vehicle/cycle/pedestrian traffic. The road is very narrow with parked cars on one side, effectively reducing this route to a single carriageway. Cyclists, especially those who are younger and therefore more inexperienced are likely to be unnerved by the cars and the 481 bus trying to pass each other. As a result, cyclists will end up cycling on the pavement. However, the pavements, especially on the side of the school, are extremely narrow and already currently heavily used by children going to and from nearby schools. We therefore believe that this gatehouse entrance should only be used sparingly with most students being asked to use the main "Historic Gate" entrance on the lower part of Kneller Road.

#### Historic Gate - lower part of Kneller Road

The proposal to run an on-site drop-off/pick-up operation is very welcome as it will clearly take the pressure off the surrounding roads. However, the main vehicle and pedestrian entrance on Kneller Road that will be used for this purpose, will result in vehicles crossing a major walking and cycling route for children going to and from Chase Bridge Primary and Richmond upon Thames Secondary. We are concerned that during peak times a large number of vehicles will be driving into the gates and more worrying emerging out of the site, and will compromise the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, many of whom will be children. We are also apprehensive that should vehicles not enter and exit the site efficiently, cars will start to back up along Kneller Road, which is already extremely busy in the mornings, and some parents not willing to wait to enter the site will instead choose to offload their children on the surrounding roads, causing additional problems.

We therefore would like to see a condition attached that means the school must provide a member of staff to manage these gates between the hours of 8.00-9.15am and 4.00-6.00pm.

Finally, this entrance is very near to the junction where Kneller Road continues to the right and straight ahead is Warren Road. There are two refuge crossing points at this junction, and we are concerned about pedestrian safety given how busy

this area will become. In addition to the 481, the 281 and the 110 bus also pass along here frequently during peak hours. We would like road engineers to look at making changes to improve the junction and upgrade the crossing point, and we would like planners to secure S106 funding for this.