

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 22/2204/FUL

Address: St Clare Business Park And7 - 11 Windmill RoadHampton Hill

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 1no. mixed use building between three and five storeys plus basement in height, comprising 98no. residential flats (Class C3) and 1,172sq.m of commercial floorspace (Class E); 1no. three storey building comprising 893sq.m of commercial floorspace (Class E); 14no. residential houses (Class C3); and, associated access, external landscaping and car parking.

Comments Made By

Name: Mr. Adrian Winfield

Address: 23 Chelsea Close Hampton Hill TW12 1RS

Comments

Type of comment: Support the proposal

Comment: I understand this is only the second supporting comment for this development, however as a Hampton Hill resident and a renter I wish to still voice that I fully support this development and feel like it is much needed.

Boroughs such as Greenwich and Ealing built over 2,000 affordable homes in 2022/23, with Richmond building just 38. I wish that was a typo. I've lived in Hampton Hill for two years now, and in that space of time a different flat I viewed towards the Uxbridge Road end of the area had gone from being let for £1,400 a month to £1,750 a month. At that price, someone would need to earn £60k a year before tax in order to afford that (and by that I mean the bare minimum, where the person is spending 50% of their income on rent, the maximum amount recommended by the government). On average, Richmond's rent-to-income ratio is 51%. This is clearly unsustainable and unethical for those who are trying their best to build a career and get onto the housing ladder.

Hampton Hill is a lovely place to live which is well looked after and has a very nice village feel along the High Street. This is one of the reasons I chose to live here. The development, however, will be a couple of streets off the High Street so I do not understand how that would seriously impact that. There is already a multi-story (quite ugly) block of flats next to the High Street, behind the Sainsbury's & Vision Foundation shops, so it's not like this would be the only tall building around. Furthermore, with over half the borough's land being taken up by green space and parks (which is a good thing), development will need to be a little more dense than in other areas of London with more space to build on in order to provide enough homes. I would rather homes were built over a tired old industrial estate, rather than over Bushy Park!

The development has already been scaled down and I believe the scale of the problem due to the lack of housing in the area is so severe that there is no good reason whatsoever to turn this down. As for residents that are complaining about potential increases in traffic, this is just an attempt to scapegoat people trying to find a nice place to live in lieu of the real issues that need rectifying in the area, such as the lack of cycling infrastructure, poor punctuality, journey time and lack of capacity (particularly on the R70, the most direct route to Richmond) on the local bus routes (which can be solved quite easily) and slow, infrequent trains from the local Hampton and Fulwell rail stations.

In summary, this is a development very close to me and one I fully support. I would encourage the local residents who were lucky enough to be able to buy a home here when it was more affordable many years ago to consider how difficult it would've been for them if they wanted to start out on the housing ladder in 2023, and how many would've been happy to spend half their salary on their housing.