

[REDACTED]

14th November, 2023

Head of Development Management
LB Richmond Upon Thames
Civic Centre, 44, York Street,
Twickenham TW1 3BZ

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Dear Sir/Madam,

23/1937 Stag Brewery Film Studios

Use of the existing buildings and land including erection of external film sets for film production and ancillary activities.

I note that the application dated 23rd August 2023 and the covering letter "seeks to allow the film production use and film sets to be used continuously until such time as the masterplan applications are secured for the site". I note that it does not use the word "permanent", although the first covering letter dated 23rd January 2023 from EBT does so, as does the Design and Access statement (para.3)

I also note that the same covering letter of 23rd August, 2023 states that the application is for the "use of the whole site (eastern and western portions) for filming purposes and associated ancillary activities" but excluding the playing fields.

I have visited the film studios and was very impressed with the way in which this site has been put to good use instead of lying derelict. I support this application for the following reasons:

1. The site has been in industrial use for over 500 years and the film studios are a very fitting replacement industry for the brewery, indeed a much cleaner industry than the brewing.
2. Unlike the housing and school development which the Council has approved and which will add significantly to the existing traffic chaos in this area in peak hours due to the constraints at both Chalker's Corner and the level crossings, the applicants transport note indicates that "the majority of staff will travel to/from work outside of the peak hours".
3. The only problem associated with the film studios use is the aircraft noise, it's location being between the two flight paths into the northern and southern runways of Heathrow, but the former packaging plant of the Brewery has been sound-proofed at great cost and the film studio use should be allowed to continue in order to justify this.
4. By contrast the housing and school development, which the Council has recently approved, subject to Mayoral direction, defies logic as it is seen to be in conflict with the Council's own planning brief for the site and with it's policies on building heights, heritage and affordable housing - also indeed with the Mayor's policies on the same issues.
5. The continued use of film studios in this area is a real tribute to the late Sir Richard Attenborough, English actor, director and producer who lived in Richmond.

It is important that a better solution for the ultimate redevelopment of this site is found and until then, I have no objection to this proposal for the continuation of the film studio use for the eastern part of the site. As for the western part, I would not wish to see dereliction occur here, hence I have no objection to the film studios using the whole site excluding the playing fields.

I am in favour of this application and give my full support.

Yours faithfully,

