

Representation to the Planning Inspector conducting the Inquiry into The Stag Brewery Planning Applications

22/0900/OUT: housing/mixed use development

22/0902/FUL: secondary school and all-weather pitch

1. I make this statement to set out my objections to these planning applications. I have been working with the Mortlake Brewery Community Group and the Mortlake with East Sheen Society. I support their position as set out in their Rule 6 statement and do not wish to repeat their arguments.

2 There are matters which I wish to draw to the Inspector's attention, which other objectors may feel distract from their main arguments.

3. Being an interested local resident I have kept a close eye on developments and studied the local authority website from time to time. In December 2023 I noted that 89 'letters of support' had been uploaded to the site by the developer.

4. I attach these as Appendix A. I quote briefly from the covering letter.

5. *"64 of the letters (Appendix A) are from individuals within the community of Mortlake and wider Richmond Council boundaries, eleven are from individuals from nearby areas such as Isleworth and Roehampton who use the same road network and can benefit from the commercial amenities like the cinema.*

.....

"They have given their consent for their representations to be sent to Richmond Council and uploaded on Richmond Council's website. These supporters have agreed to the contents of this letter which are submitted on their behalf, urging you to grant consent for the proposals to transform a brownfield site into a

state-of-the-art multi-use hub.”

6. I was interested to see that a number of names related to people living near to me. Enquiries have been made of eleven people which established that none of them had agreed to their names being used, and were not aware of the existence of the letters. Who knows how many more were not genuine?

7. Inquiries made of the local authority have now established that they were presented to the Planning Committee in July 2023.

8. I raised the matter with the local authority. My email correspondence with Lucy Thatcher, the Strategic Applications Manager for Richmond Council, is attached separately as Appendix B. I do not consider that I have had a satisfactory explanation. As of today I have not had a reply to an email I wrote on 22 March in spite of a reminder.

9. People I have spoken to locally are concerned about what is regarded as a fraud on the local community. Unless there is a satisfactory explanation forthcoming, it raises questions about the trust to be afforded to the developers, especially in the context of what might be several years of future work.

10. If I am provided with what I regard as a satisfactory explanation, I shall draw that to the attention of the Inspector.

11. While writing I would like to add that as a keen sportsman I have major concerns about the planned loss of Other Open Land of Townscape Importance (OOLTI) and sports fields.

Richard White

is a retired solicitor and former Tribunal Judge

11 April 2024

richard.ahwhite@btopenworld.com