

## Comment on a planning application

### Application Details

**Application:** 24/1985/FUL

**Address:** Roehampton Gate Cafe Richmond Park Richmond SW15 5JR

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing buildings, revision to site entrances and layout, construction of a new cafe, public toilets and cycle hire building, associated hard and soft landscaping, and a new pedestrian access gate on the park boundary

### Comments Made By

**Name:** THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK Mr. Max Lankester

**Address:** 49 Lichfield Gardens Richmond TW9 1AP

### Comments

**Type of comment:** Support the proposal

**Comment:** This representation is made by The Friends of Richmond Park (FRP).

FRP welcomes the proposals set out in the application by The Royal Parks (TRP). The resulting buildings and layout - notably the re-routing of the access road behind the café - will constitute a considerable improvement to what exists at present. Although vehicles entering or leaving the site will inevitably still encounter some pedestrians and cyclists on the Tamsin Trail, they will no longer be faced with groups of cyclists who have congregated on the access road close to the present café building. Replacement of the current buildings, which were always intended to be temporary, is long overdue.

FRP has concerns, however, about the way(s) in which cyclists will access the reconfigured site. As some of the application documents state, the central area in front of the new buildings is intended to be a safe, pedestrian area. If mounted cyclists access the site at the three crossing points (shown, for instance, on the 'Proposed Landscape GA' drawing L-DR-SC-200-002 dated 8 July 2024) on their way to the cycle racks, we can foresee a degree of conflict between those cyclists and pedestrians. The issue is one both of safety and general amenity for pedestrians using that space. FRP and TRP have held several meetings at which this topic has been discussed, and TRP is aware that further design work is required. Accordingly, we suggest that if planning permission is granted a condition be imposed along the following lines:

No development, excluding above-ground demolition, shall take place until details of the following matters have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority:

(a) the proposed number, location and design of facilities for parking bicycles, whether cycle racks or other devices; and

(b) the routes by which respectively (i) pedestrians and (ii) cyclists will enter and leave the application site as well as details of physical measures to ensure, so far as is practicable, the separation of pedestrians and bicycles while being ridden into, out of, or within the application site.

**REASON:** In the interests of highway and pedestrian safety together with the amenity of the area.

Subject to that, FRP supports the granting of permission.