

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 21/3107/FUL

Address: Barnes Hospital South Worple Way East Sheen London SW14 8SU

Proposal: Drop-in full application to supersede residential development zone of previously approved Outline planning permission 18/3642/OUT. Demolition of existing structures and redevelopment of site including construction of three new buildings comprising 106 residential units of mixed tenure (Use Class C3), alterations and conversion of two existing buildings for 3 residential use (Use Class C3), car and cycle parking, landscaping and associated works.

Comments Made By

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Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

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Access considerations including parking

In our comments on the previous outline application we expressed concern about the access issue. Shortly after we made our comments the Council introduced double yellow lines along South Worple Way in order to improve accessibility. However, we still have comments as follows:

- The applicant's Transport Statement (TS) describes South Worple Way as running parallel with the railway line but, despite the introduction of double yellow lines, makes no mention of its highly substandard width, particularly at the east end towards the level crossing at White Hart Lane. It makes no mention of drivers having to mount the pedestrian footway in order to avoid hitting vehicles coming in the opposite direction (see photos in separate representation being made by post). This was not an issue 30 years ago but the width of vehicles since then has significantly increased.
- The TS mentions the traffic survey undertaken in July 2021. We must argue that this survey would not have been useful. The holiday period will have already started and many would-be drivers would still have been working at home. By September, with the re-opening of schools and the return of commuting traffic, the numbers were on the increase and we are aware of many complaints about South Worple Way being used as a bypass for those stranded on the congested South Circular. We insist that further traffic surveys are carried out at a more appropriate time before this application proceeds further.
- The TS mentions the accessibility by rail and bus but makes no mention of South West Railway's plans to continue reducing train services from Mortlake and Barnes Bridge during the off-peak, nor that some of the local bus routes have been introduced only in reaction to the closure of Hammersmith Bridge, i.e. the PTAL is currently 4 but could conceivably reduce to 3 or 2. This should surely be addressed?
- As for the parking, we are pleased that the basement carpark has been moved away from the southern edge and that access to it has moved further north. We note there is a minimal increase in parking to serve the increase in the housing units but there is no consideration of the cumulative impact on traffic resulting from the redevelopment of the rest of the site. We also note that the parking survey undertaken on 2-3 Feb 2021 covered an area within a 200m walking distance of the site – but that the map of the area in Appendix E includes the Grosvenor Avenue enclave which, whilst within 200m as the crow flies, is more like 600m on foot. Be that as it may, residents on the development site will realise that they will not be eligible to gain access to controlled parking in these nearby streets.

Construction

- Finally, we would like to raise concern about the impacts during construction. It is important that all three sites – the

housing, medical unit and SEN school are developed at the same time so that local residents are inconvenienced by the construction activity only once and not at three separate times. It is imperative that the planning applications for all three sites are handled at the same time and we urge the Council to do what it can to expedite the other two.

We urge the Council to consider the above points before proceeding further with this application.