



MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Councillor Michael Axton
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Tel: 020-8979-1502

Richard Morris
Planning Services
Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre
High Street
Esher
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14 October 2011

Dear Mr Morris

Consultation on the Character Appraisal and Management Proposal Document for the Kent Town Conservation Area

I am responding on behalf of the Molesey Residents Association (MRA) to the consultation on the Character Appraisal and Management Proposal Document for the Kent Town Conservation Area.

In general we would support the appraisal and recommendations, including the proposed extensions to the conservation area, but would ask for the following points to be taken into account.

- We think the importance and sensitivity of this site should be given special recognition, given its proximity to Hampton Court Palace, the Thames riverside, and Hampton Court. The MRA believes that the Jolly Boatman site itself should be kept as an open recreation area, and that the scale and density of any development on the station site should be consistent in scale and proportion with existing site and the surrounding area. Although planning permission has been given for a large scale development at this site, it is possible that this will not proceed, and we believe the proposals should therefore take account of the possibility that other, (and hopefully more appropriate) proposals for the site will emerge. I would add that we have seen, and agree with, the comments of the Hampton Court Rescue Campaign regarding this site.
- We would like to see the conservation area extended to include the Poyntz Arms and Kent's The Chemist premises. These are historic buildings with architectural importance, and we believe they should be part of the conservation area.
- New development within the conservation area should only be permitted if it will enhance the area. Where a proposal does not demonstrate clearly that this is the case the presumption should be that it will be refused.

- The importance of street trees should be emphasised, as the decline in the number of trees (due to Surrey County Council's decision not to replace them) is detracting from the overall appearance of the area.
- We think it would be appropriate to recommend a review of street furniture and signage within the conservation to ensure that redundant or inappropriate signage is removed.

Please let me know if you need any more information.

Yours Sincerely

[sent by e-mail]

Mike Axton, Molesey Residents Association.