

NEWSLETTER

A voluntary association supporting local heritage, quality of life and community

New houses in Thames Street? Change of use proposed for Crest site

A planning application has been submitted to construct 14 four/five-bedroom houses, plus five garages and an office building, at 39 Thames Street. Construction would mean the removal of a lot of trees.

A quart into a pint pot

Residents of properties in neighbouring roads are very concerned by the sheer **mass** of the proposed new development. It tries to squeeze a lot of tall buildings into a modestly sized site.

The plans show big new buildings, with small gardens, and seemingly closer to neighbouring properties than the Elmbridge planning guidelines recommend.

Lost trees

There would be high flat sides of buildings up against the boundaries of the site, at the end of neighbours' gardens. Mature screening trees would be lost.

This site is overlooked by more than thirty properties: in Dorchester Road, Darnley Park, Gascoigne Road, Farnell Mews, Montrose Walk and Thames Street.

Concerns about parking and traffic

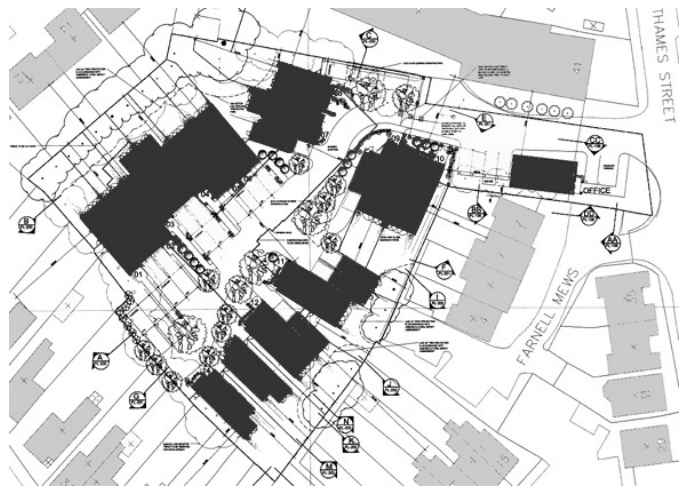
The plans also involve the loss of existing office parking spaces, with rationalisation of the 39/41 Thames Street site to a single big office plus a new small office.

Some residents are worried that the development may put additional pressure on local on-street parking – already a major cause for concern.

Could do better

Valid grounds for objection to these plans could include: change of use; design, appearance and layout (e.g. the bulk or massing of new buildings, excessive height, distance from adjacent existing buildings); the effects on existing residential amenities (e.g. loss of light, overshadowing, overlooking); loss of significant trees; and traffic generation/movement and parking.

Many local people feel that any plans for this site must respect its surroundings: with buildings a reasonable size and spacing, and more trees preserved.



The plans are for 14 new dwellings, each with four or five bedrooms over three floors, eleven metres high, plus an office building, five garages and several carports. The plans propose building very close to the boundaries, after removing mature trees that currently screen the site.

(Elmbridge BC reference number: 2005/2341)

Planning: how to learn more

Elmbridge Borough Council make details of planning applications available online.

You can view this planning application at:
www.elmbridge.gov.uk/services/planprop/planningonline.htm

If you wish to comment or object

Quote application reference 2005/2341, 39 Thames Street, Weybridge. Send your comments, preferably by 15 November, in writing to:

Martin Parker (Ref 2005/2341)
Acting Head of Town Planning
Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre, High Street
ESHER, Surrey, KT10 9SD

Or send via email, including your name & address, to:
tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk

Portmore Park & District Residents Association Committee for 2005-6

Miles Macleod (Chair) 844449 Clinton Close; Pat Scholey (Secretary) 843121 Mount Pleasant; Ian Bonnett (Treasurer) 856971 The Willows; John Phillips 847984 Portmore Park Rd; Tricia Scott 888843 Montrose Walk; William Rutherford 850971 Mount Pleasant

Walton Bridge Public Inquiry

Starting on 8 November 2005 at Shepperton Moat House Hotel

Be part of the democratic process! If you can get along to the Public Inquiry, even for an hour or so, you'll be a visible presence and get a chance to hear the evidence and cross-examination.

Overview of PP&DRA Walton Bridge objections

We welcome a new Walton Bridge, but it must be a scheme that fits in with the local environment, preserves riverside amenity and avoids unnecessary damage. We object to Surrey County Council's proposed scheme, and the compulsory purchase of land, on the following grounds:

Flawed consultation and process: Surrey County Council did not conduct a fair consultation into the design possibilities, They gave little initial publicity in Weybridge, and delivered invalid findings.

Environmental damage and loss of amenity: The proposed bridge and junction would cause irreversible local environmental damage and loss of riverside amenity at Cowey Sale. The northern sliproad is particularly damaging as it would route traffic along what is currently tranquil riverside. This open space beside the Thames is highly valued by residents and visitors. The proposed 'exchange land' to be taken from Broadwater Farm is not at all equivalent, as it is not riverside land.

Junction design and traffic flow: The proposed additional slip-road threatens to invite additional 'rat run' traffic along Walton Lane (Weybridge), into the narrow traffic-calmed residential roads of Thames Street and Portmore Park.



Surrey County Council's in-house design for a new permanent Walton Bridge, new viaduct and new 'clover leaf' junction at Cowey Sale

Public Inquiry provisional timetable

Day 1 , Tues 8 Nov: **Case for the Promoting Authority**
Mr Stephen Sauvain QC representing Surrey CC will call 7 witnesses (to continue Day 2 , Wed 9 Nov)

Day 3 , Thurs 10 Nov: **Case for the Supporters** (anyone);
Case for the Objectors Mr Geoffrey Stephenson representing Elmbridge Borough Council will call 2 witnesses

Day 4 , Fri 11 Nov: **Case for the Objectors** - Walton Bridge Campaign will call Professor John Whitelegg

PP&DRA evidence scheduled for 15 November

Day 5 , Tues 15 Nov: **Case for the Objectors** - CATA; Portmore Park & District Res Assn; Esher Res Assn; River Thames Soc

Day 6 , Wed 16 Nov: **Case for the Objectors** - Lower Halliford Res; CPRE; The Walton Society; Cllr M Schofield; Cllr G Chubb

Day 7 , Thurs 17 Nov: **Case for the Objectors** - Open Spaces Society; G Gilbert; L Jackman; Ashley Road Res Assn

Day 8 , Fri 18 Nov: **Closing Speeches**

The Inquiry will start at 10:00 and close at 17:00 each day (13:00 Friday)

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE - Keep up to date by calling the Programme Officer (Karen Senior) on 0208 541 7104

Aims of PP&DRA

We are a voluntary association of local residents. We care about our locality – its heritage, quality of life and community.

Local Heritage

Help safeguard the long term character of our locality – Our part of Weybridge is graced with attractive homes, tree-lined roads, and the Wey & Thames riversides. We want to hand it on unspoilt to future generations.

Quality of Life

Keep day to day life safe and pleasant for residents – We help represent local views on issues including planning applications, antisocial behaviour, traffic, parking, street cleanliness, local amenities and services, and anything else that affects residents.

Community

Support neighbourliness – Participating in PP&DRA is a way to get to know people, and help build the sense of community.

HOW TO JOIN

Membership of PP&DRA is open to residents of the roads listed at the foot of the page. Please send your name, address and contact details, plus a subscription (£3 or more) to:

Pat Scholey, Secretary PP&DRA
2a Mount Pleasant, Weybridge KT13 8EP

You can view our website at.

www.portmore.org.uk

Contact us via any committee member, or email committee@portmore.org.uk