

# NEWSLETTER

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

## What next for 39 Thames Street?

### Two schemes proposed: 55 flats or 14 homes

*Two proposals for the Crest House 39 Thames Street site have been submitted to Elmbridge as planning applications. The outcome may have a significant impact on this area.*

#### Plan 1: 55 flats & underground car park

Application 2007/2556 is for 55 flats (17 of them affordable homes), with underground parking for 36 residents' cars, and surface parking for 19 residents' cars. Total floor area would be 4036sqm. The current offices are 1700sqm.

It would squeeze in a massive block of flats, wholly out of keeping with the residential surroundings, with 2.37 times the floor area of the current building. Visitor parking would be out on the street. Elmbridge BC is short of affordable housing, but that does not begin to make a plan like this acceptable.

#### Plan 2: 14 homes

Application 2007/2579 is for 14 homes, comprising 9 "two-and-a-half storey" houses (3 detached, 2 semis, 4 terraced) with garages, and 5 flats. On-site parking for 29 cars. Total floor area 2676sqm (1.57 times the current floor area).

This is better than previous applications, but the plans are for tall, cramped buildings out of character with the surroundings. Some tree removal, particularly on the SW of the site to create parking spaces, would badly affect the privacy of neighbouring properties.

**Trees matter:** We welcome the recognition by the developers that trees around the boundary are important to the site, but would like to see the retention and preservation of the trees guaranteed.

#### Reasons for previous refusal

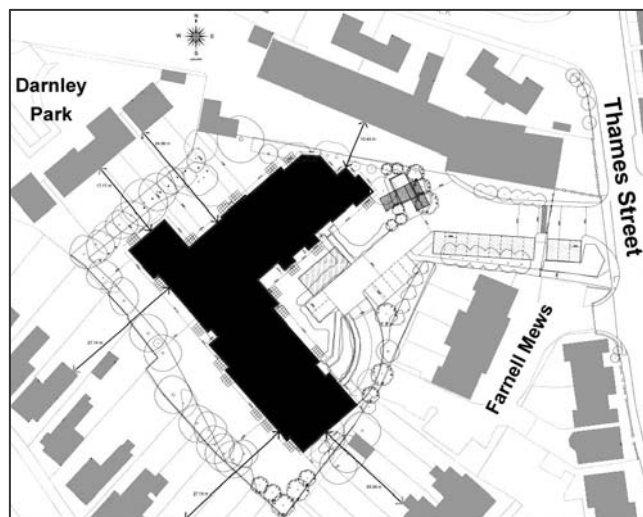
A previous application for 14 houses was turned down 1/ on grounds of change of use, and 2/ for being cramped and incongruous, with excessive massing, inadequate separation, inappropriate design and layout distances causing overlooking, inadequate rear garden depths, general overdevelopment of the site giving an unsatisfactory residential environment, with loss of trees and hedges exacerbating the effect on adjoining properties.

A second application was rejected for similar reasons, as cramped, with excessive height, at odds with surrounding residential development, not attractive, with loss of hedges a detriment to the character and amenity of the area.

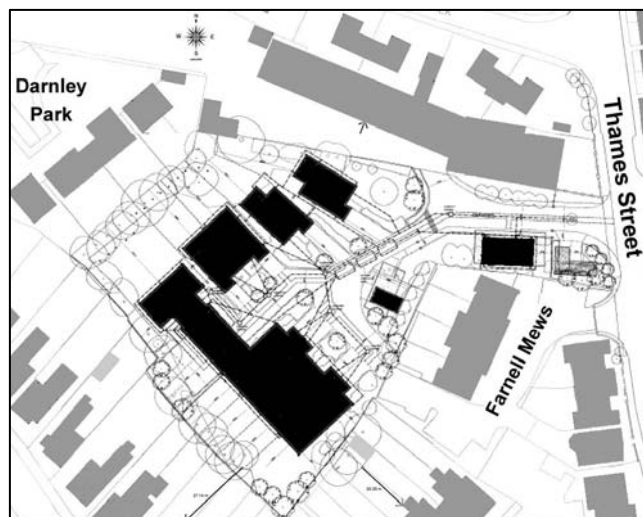
#### How to comment

Send comments via email to [tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk), or by mail to Head of Town Planning, Elmbridge Borough Council, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9SD. Formal deadline is 19 October, but comments a few days late should be considered.

**Do you support the aims of PP&DRA?**  
Have you subscribed this year? Details overleaf...



*Planning application 2007/2556 is for a block of 55 flats with underground parking for residents, but no visitor parking*



*Planning application 2007/2579 for 14 homes: three detached, two semis, four terraced (all with garages), five flats*

#### Bulldogs Island building worry

People are worried by plans for additional buildings on Bulldogs Island, in the Wey Navigation Conservation Area. When permission was given to rebuild The Little Mill, the total footprint was strictly limited. New proposals would effectively double the building area. Many people feel strongly that this beautiful island should be conserved. What are your thoughts? You can inspect the plans on [www.elmbridge.gov.uk](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk) – search for application 2007/2440

#### Portmore Park & District Residents Association Committee for 2007-8

Miles Macleod (Chair) 844449 Clinton Close; Caroline Freeman (Secretary) 856973 The Swansway, Portmore Park Rd; Ian Bonnett (Treasurer) 856971 The Willows; Gary Busted Dorchester Road; Tukun Chatterjee 831414 Darnley Park; Jessica Nolan 821526 The Willows; John Phillips 847984 Portmore Park Rd; William Rutherford 850971 Mount Pleasant; Brian Scholey 843121 Mount Pleasant; Tricia Scott 888843 Montrose Walk

# New Walton Bridge

## Revised plans win praise

*The new plans for Walton Bridge were exhibited at The Heart shopping centre last month, winning many positive comments.*

People are very pleased at how much the Surrey CC Walton Bridge team have improved the design since the public inquiry:

- **Better junction:** a simple priority 'T' junction instead of the previous oversized 'half clover-leaf' design for the Cowey Sale junction.
- **Smaller bridge:** narrower arch span, height lowered by 5.8 metres (19 ft). The access road to Walton Marina is diverted behind the arch 'legs'.
- **More green riverside space** for public amenity. An 11 metre wide Thames Path below the bridge, separated from the marina access road. Disabled river-view parking spaces off the marina access road.
- **New ramps to the riverside** from the existing viaduct, fully accessible to pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists, segregated from the road, plus a new bridleway to the south of the viaduct, towards New Zealand Ave.

### Make Cowey Sale a pedestrian-dominated zone

PP&DRA welcomes the new design, and would like to see some additional improvements, in keeping with its spirit:

1/ Cowey Sale becoming a pedestrian-dominated area, where traffic gives way to people, and children can safely cross the road. That means much better traffic calming than the five speed humps proposed. We would like 'horizontal' traffic calming, with alternating flow and a pedestrian crossing.

2/ A renewal of the guarantee that rat-run traffic along Walton Lane will be monitored and controlled effectively.

## Does school traffic affect you?

### Help manage the impact of school activities

*Many residents at the PP&DRA AGM said they are affected by school traffic, particularly by inconsiderate parking across people's drives and close to corners. There was also concern about coaches blocking the junction of Thames Street and Portmore Park Road.*

### Liaison with St George's College Junior School

We meet twice yearly with St George's College Junior School headmaster, Antony Hudson, to discuss concerns and solutions. He has again reminded parents of the need for consideration in parking, and is looking for more off-street staff parking. The school is trying to ensure that it uses the smallest possible coaches, and that these are routed to reduce jams. It is also having some success in encouraging non-car travel to school.

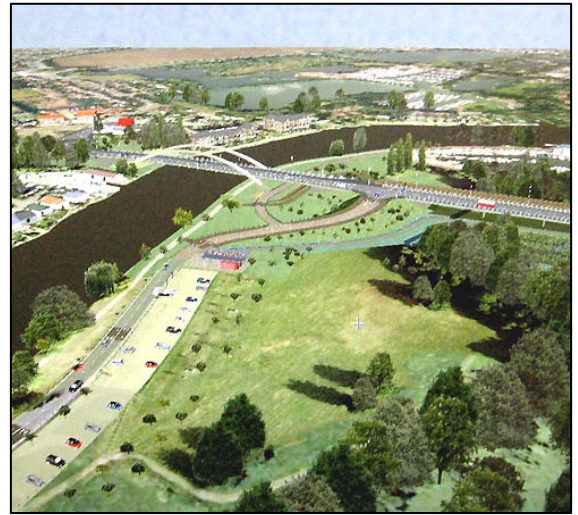
### What would you like to see happen?

If you have strong feelings or constructive suggestions about how to help the schools and community coexist more effectively, please let us know.

## A vote of thanks to Betty

Residents at our AGM voted their thanks to Betty, our lollipop lady, who has seen thousands of children & parents safely across the road at the junction of Thames Street and Portmore Park Road, with great dedication and through all kinds of weather.

We understand that Betty will be retiring at Christmas, and wish her a long and happy retirement. Future long-term arrangements for the road are to be decided. They may potentially involve a pelican crossing, rather than a crossing warden. Do you have views on what would be best?



*An aerial view of how the new junction and bridge will affect Cowey Sale – more green riverside space*

## Worthwhile aims?

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### Aims of PP&DRA

We are a voluntary association of local residents. Our association is not aligned to any political party. 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:

**Caroline Freeman, PP&DRA, 3 The Swansway,  
Portmore Park Road, Weybridge, KT13 8HU**

You can view our website at.

**[www.portmore.org.uk](http://www.portmore.org.uk)**

Contact us via any committee member,  
or email [committee@portmore.org.uk](mailto:committee@portmore.org.uk)