

Our reference: COM105301773

Application number: 2018/3810

Application address: Jolly Boatman And Hampton Court Station Redevelopment Area, Hampton Court Way, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AE

Name: Mr Duffy

Address: Quarry House Ganborough Road LongboroughGL56 0RE GL56 0RE

Comment type: You object to the planning application

Date of comment: 10 Feb 2019

Comment: Although not a resident, I am a frequent visitor to the Hampton Court area. One of its charms is the relatively low height and modest bulk of the built environment, which is appropriately subordinate to the Palace as the most prominent building in the area.

If this application were permitted, the built environment would change radically, and mostly for the worse. I acknowledge that some development of the Jolly Boatman/Hampton Court Station site is probably merited, but the proposed development is wholly inappropriate to its context. The proposed buildings are too bulky and too tall. They are also too dense – there are simply too many of them.

Architectural style is a matter of personal taste, but the proposed style is too rectilinear and the materials too unforgiving. The development would stand in harsh contrast to the gentler lines and tones of the Palace across the river and would be in danger of dominating that part of the Thames, which forms a key part of our cultural and architectural heritage. It would also dominate the local residential roads, with adverse implications for residents feeling they are part of a cohesive local community.

Furthermore, the area around Hampton Court Bridge is already congested, a situation that would only be exacerbated by a development of this scale. The difficulties that residents and visitors already have with parking would be compounded.

Finally, there is not an obvious need for more hotel capacity in this area. Hampton Court already attracts many visitors who base themselves in central London, with which there are good public transport links.

I urge you to reject this application and to suggest to the developers that they revert with a more modest proposal, smaller in scale, more compatible in design and materials, and without a hotel.