

Our reference: COM519578842

Application number: 2023/0866

Application address: St Georges Hill Lawn Tennis Club Warreners Lane Weybridge Surrey KT13 0LL

Name: Mr Edwards

Address: Clova Old Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0PZ

Comment type: You object to the planning application

Date of comment: 28 May 2023

Comment: Applications 2023/0697 Gym and 2023/0866 Padel Courts – St Georges Hill Tennis Club

I write in respect of the two applications for the buildings at St Georges Hill Tennis Club. This objection is late as the yellow notices have only just been put in place close to the location.

If an application were to be submitted to Elmbridge Planning Department for 5 Industrial Units (including the existing Indoor courts building and the Groundskeeper building) and a factory with the architectural merits of a First World War ammunition factory, there would be a public outcry.

In making this application the Architects have been less than open in their submission. This project is comprised of 4 parts, the existing buildings, the Gym, the Groundskeeper building and the 3 Padel courts. All are close to one another, yet there is no elevation/section which shows the whole proposed landscape. Doing so would reveal the extent of this Industrial Estate development. I can only imagine the frustration of the immediate neighbours in contemplating this proposed project. There is no evidence of any WG Tarrant inspiration in these drawings, but there is a great deal of 'Grand Designs' influence.

One further comment. The existing Groundskeeper building is a one storey pitch roofed structure. The intention is to replace it by a much larger 3 storey building. In recent times, Elmbridge BC refused planning permission for the replacement of a similar structure on a site, occupied by transient people in Seven Hills Rd, which had been used as a production facility during the Second World War. Permission was only given for a single storey structure with an identical footprint to that existing. Also in a wooded setting, that was less than a mile away. The precedent has been set for 'like for like'.

I am absolutely amazed at the suggestion that such structures should be proposed let alone built. This is first and foremost a Housing Estate, one of the best, if not the best in the country with some very expensive properties old and new in this 400+ acre site. In looking at the design of these structures no consideration has been given to the W G Tarrant Heritage, which the Tennis Club is so proud to celebrate each year. The Tennis Club are in effect tenants of the estate which is owned by the residents, and each member benefits from the considerable investment put in to the Estate each year by those residents. These are the residents' homes and need to be respected. The Prestige of the club stems from the Estate; not vice versa.

It is not an industrial estate. As one can see from the existing tennis hall, following site clearance,

backing Beaumont Lodge on East Road, 'Crinkly Tin Sheds' (as proposed here) would not be out of place in Oyster Lane or the Hersham Trading estate.

You will notice that apart from a handful of people those in favour of these plans are resident outside the estate and are probably Tennis Club members wanting the Padel Courts. Doubtless many of them would strongly oppose a Padel Court application to be built in their next door neighbours garden, particularly with the lack of architectural merit demonstrated here. None of them will be or will want to be inconvenienced by the Loud Noises until late in the evening or the Light pollution from the court illumination.

The members of the Tennis Club are well served by their current facilities. They have Grass, artificial surface and indoor courts for their tennis, if they wish to play on a smaller court then they have world class squash facilities existing within the Main Clubhouse.

If Tennis Club members wish to smash a ball around inside an Industrial Unit, the club has sufficient resources to purchase a shed or two in Oyster Lane or Hersham to facilitate this.

I strongly oppose this application.