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From: Graham [REDACTED] >
Sent: 09 June 2023 16:45
To: Richmond Local Plan
Subject: Local Plan - proposed bridge Ham to Orleans Road Twickenham

Categories: Consultation Response

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The proposal of a bridge connecting Ham to Orleans Road is simply out of the question on so many levels, including safety for all as a primary concern.

Orleans Road is already overused and there have been many incidents with cars, cyclists and pedestrians, including several close calls involving children and buggies. Orleans Road is more a lane than a road, in fact it was originally called Ferry Lane, and as such is very narrow and certainly not suitable as a cycle thoroughfare or indeed an access point from Ham to Twickenham or visa versa. Building a bridge at the end of Orleans Road has so many safety issues for all, from residents to users, and is a bad proposal.

The area at the end of Orleans Road cannot have lighting as there are bats. The bats are a protected species. Neither could footings for a bridge be constructed in the river bank, or river, at this point as there is a species of muscle living in this part of the river that is also protected. No lighting would be a severe and high risk safety hazard at night, a bridge without lighting would be a muggers dream and dangerous for any unaware user of the bridge.

The proposed site for the bridge would sit in the protected view from Richmond Hill, a view deemed of great historical significance and as such is rightly to be protected.

This idea/proposal falls flat on many levels, it simply is a non starter unless the wish is to create problems for the future. A bridge at Radnor Gardens could easily be constructed and would not create issues such as the ones outlined above. A bridge at Radnor could have lighting, does not access a residential street, would not sit in a protected view, have no historical or conservation issues and would be safe for both cyclists and pedestrians, not to mention residents. A bridge at Orleans Road would become a hazard and ruin a conservation area with historical significance. A bridge would also destroy a beautiful stretch of the river enjoyed by residents and visitors alike, it would also cause the closure of the ferry enjoyed by so many.

I strongly object to the proposal of a bridge linking Ham to Twickenham being sited at the river end of Orleans Road.

G Martin
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Sent from my iPhone