

Brentford

Community Council

Founded in 1989

Mr Holroyd, Head of Estates,
Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew
Kew Green
Richmond Surrey TW9 3AB

Dear Mr Holroyd,

Development at Kew and Brentford.

At a recent meeting of the ongoing public inquiry into the refusal by the Hounslow Council to grant planning consent for 69 flats on the Albany House site opposite the Brentford Gate to Kew Gardens, we were made aware of the public consultation you have held about your plans to remove the parking from the Queen Elizabeth Lawn and to open up Kew gardens to the river.

May we respond to that consultation by saying that we enthusiastically support this proposal, which would be the single biggest improvement you could make to our shared stretch of the Thames.

As active members of the Thames Landscape Strategy, we are also aware of the proposals for Brentford "Brentford A Waterside Town" which could compliment your own proposals.

One other aspect of our joint interest in this part of the river emerged at the inquiry.

Our Council has opposed applications for over- development at Kew Bridge (Scottish Widows) Commerce Road and now at Albany House.

We have been concerned in all these inquiries. However, we feel that the last of these may eventually have the greatest adverse effect on views from Kew Palace and from the Kew riverside.

The Albany House site is visible from your Brentford Gate. Next to it the Goat Wharf site is now for sale. On the west side of the Albany House site is the extensive frontage of the Watermans Arts Centre. Funding for this centre has been massively reduced and its future must be uncertain.

Also to the west of these sites lies the proposed Brentford Town Centre, where the Estates Gazette predicted 1150 flats, possibly rising to 12 floors.

Whether Lots Ait and the configuration of the river will hide some of these developments from Kew is uncertain. What is clear is that a great deal of money and developer attention is focused on sites which will effect your environment.

So far we have been in close touch with Keith Garner, who has presented papers to 2 inquiries for you. In all these inquiries the BCC has actively supported the Council against over-development and has been grateful for the degree of support coming from Kew. However, we do feel that we should look for closer co-operation with your own office in influencing the planning context of the Botanic Gardens so as to ensure that plans for both sides of the river proceed together.

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We would welcome a meeting with you and the co-ordinator of the Thames Landscape Strategy to discuss this further. In the meantime we hope you will press on with your plans for Kew riverside.

Yours sincerely

Denis Browne
Chairman, Planning Consultative Committee.

Cc: Jason Debney, Co-ordinator TLS,
Keith Garner, consultant,
Stephen Browne Chairman, BCC
Matthew Rockel BCC.
Maggie Urquhart, Conservation Officer LBH.