

Dear Sirs

I am responding on behalf of Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) to Application 17/2759/FUL. We understand this was refused by LB Richmond and has now gone to appeal. The site is local to the River Crane and therefore we would like to submit a response . However, it is not obvious from the site where to post it and we would therefore be grateful if this message could be forwarded to the correct people.

FORCE is a local charity, founded in 2003 and with over 500 members. Our Objects are to protect and enhance the community and environmental value of the River Crane corridor. FORCE is a small volunteer based Charity and does not have the resources to look at all planning proposals local to the river corridor. This proposal was not considered by FORCE during the initial application and we are not able to undertake a proper evaluation of the proposal as it now stands.

Therefore, rather than making a statement as to the merits or otherwise of the proposal, I am writing to bring to the Inspector's attention the importance of the River Crane corridor and the protections that operate along it.

The River Crane corridor, in the area of the proposed development, is a Metropolitan Site of Importance for nature Conservation and is protected by Local Plan and London Plan policies. The corridor is within Crane Park, a vibrant and important park for local communities.

FORCE surveys carried out twice a year since 2012 show that over 1000 people per day enter and exit this part of the park on a typical weekend.

The lower Crane corridor is also a high value environmental habitat. It is home to at least six species of bat as well as water voles and kingfishers. As a result we would oppose any proposals which introduced new disturbances – particularly noise and night time light into the river corridor.

FORCE would be happy to answer any questions arising from the proposals and this Appeal

Your faithfully,  
Rob Gray  
Chair of FORCE

Website: <http://www.force.org.uk/>

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