

# Consider better site for school Play politics

Sir – Councillor Paul Hodgins letter (Challenge to meet demand, July 31) offers little reassurance to anxious parents in East Twickenham.

This is where the greatest need exists for a new primary school, not near London House, Old Deer Park or Richmond Magistrates' Court.

He must be hopeful his preferred option – on the Ryde House site near Richmond Bridge – will emerge from the protracted negotiations between the developer Lidl and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) that

is ultimately responsible for selecting sites.

His hopes are probably shared by many local parents in the belief that this is the only viable site in the vicinity.

It is just not true.

As Coun Hodgins and his colleagues are well aware, many of those involved in the Schools for East Twickenham (SET) campaign are convinced there is a better site.

It is just around the corner in Rosslyn Road and it is never been seriously considered.

The council already owns

two impressive villas – no 11 and number 13 – in this quiet road, with substantial gardens and parking at front and rear.

Subject to re-location of the existing services, and to sensitive re-development of both buildings, I believe they could be turned into a fantastic primary school with few of the disadvantages of other sites including Ryde House.

Differing reasons have been given as to why this option is impractical.

The buildings are deemed “of townscape merit” and are in a conservation area so

conversion would need to be managed with sensitivity to the surroundings.

Surely not impossible.

Equally important, the existing services – a residential unit for young people in no 11 and the much valued ETNA Community Centre in number 13 – would need to be re-located in suitable premises.

But with adequate notice and goodwill on all sides, that should not be an insurmountable problem.

And the benefits of a permanent site for a new primary school would surely far outweigh any possible

threat to the character of the conservation area.

Rather it would enhance and unite the community for generations to come.

If the EFA eventually secures a school on the Ryde House site, much of the above will sadly seem irrelevant.

But perhaps it is not too late for Coun Hodgins to give himself and local families another option by asking the EFA to assess both buildings in Rosslyn Road. Surely nothing to be lost?

**PATRICK KIDNER**  
East Twickenham

## Superstore will attract more traffic

Sir – Paul Hodgins, cabinet member for schools, mentions nothing about the massive demand for school places in East Twickenham at a time when details about the Lidl plans for re-development of Ryde Place have gone ominously quiet (Challenge to meet demand, July 31).

I only hope that the council can convince Lidl that the right solution is a local “convenience” store with either a school or residential properties and not a large “destination” store, it wants, which would be the size of Poundland in Twickenham.

A large supermarket would attract significant extra traffic to an area already challenged by congestion, partly because of its proximity to Richmond Bridge.

The impact of additional traffic in already congested conditions is far greater than in less busy conditions, as congestion rises exponentially.

The Government states that a 2 per cent increase in busy traffic can result in 10 per cent extra congestion.

A large store would need extra deliveries from HGVs, which cause more congestion because of their size and slower ability to manoeuvre as well as exposing other road users to more collisions.

Government statistics show that HGVs are six times more likely than cars to be involved in fatal crashes on local roads.

And then of course a large store would create huge demand for extra parking.

**PHILLIPA EDMUNDS**  
East Twickenham



Bob Jones submitted this photograph, taken in Kew Gardens, on Wednesday, July 29. If you have a picture you would like published in our weekly Borough View slot, email it to [lettersrtt@london.newsquest.co.uk](mailto:lettersrtt@london.newsquest.co.uk).

## Day lorry made its entry War heroes

Sir – Driving towards Richmond gate this Tuesday from Kingston, there appeared, tentatively coming through the gate, a large lorry with a trailer.

It obviously had been blown in as being a foreign one by the plates, it was in unfamiliar territory.

Off it went towards Roehampton. I followed on my journey and there it went slowly going down the hill stopping by the Holly Lodge turn.

Obviously the driver was in

a quandary, how on earth do I turn around this rather large vehicle?

So off he went toward Sheen where, indicating left, he managed to turn the lorry, trailer and all.

We laughed knowing the quandary he was in and off he went back to Richmond gate.

Hopefully he escaped without a fine.

**STEPHEN BENNETT**  
by email

Sir – While remembering victims of Hiroshima, let us spare a thought for the victims of Japanese cruelty beyond belief to the Far Eastern Prisoners Of War who died in their thousands and those who survived forever suffering injuries. They are also been known as The Forgotten Army. Thankfully we think differently in remembering August 6, let us remember them as well.

**HELEN NOBLE**  
by email

## High tides at Richmond Bridge

Hammersmith Bridge 26 minutes earlier; Kew Bridge 12 minutes earlier

	time	htcm	time	htcm
Friday	0757	4.4	1954	4.3
Saturday	0850	4.1	2055	4.0
Sunday	0952	3.9	2216	3.8
Monday	1107	3.8	2342	3.8
Tuesday	1218	4.0		
Wednesday	0050	4.1	1317	4.3
Thursday	0145	4.4	1406	4.5

National Severe Weather Warning Service 01344 856264.  
Floodline 0845 9881188.

The Port of London Authority (PLA), Bakers' Hall, 7 Harp Lane, London EC3R 6LB.  
020 7743 7900, [portoflondon.co.uk](http://portoflondon.co.uk). Environment Agency floodline information [environment-agency.gov.uk/floodwarning](http://environment-agency.gov.uk/floodwarning).