

There are school site alternatives

Sir – We are repeatedly told there are no alternative sites for Deer Park School.

The cramped, dirty, dangerous London House site at Manor Circus is the only option.

Last Sunday, I went on one of the council's "all in one Your Vision Your Richmond walkabout" and was interested to see three potential school sites in two hours.

□ The area behind Richmond Adult Community College and the car park. The council officer leading the walk commented that it has "a large footprint" and

that there would have to be development of some kind there. It is certainly larger than the 0.23ha (minus the embankment area) at Manor Circus. We were told it is Crown land leased to the council, so should not be a problem. The consensus was that the sea cadets, etc, who are in the area at present, could be moved to the area across the road behind the swimming pool.

□ That very area behind the swimming pool, with the entire Deer Park as playground. I understand this too is Crown land leased to Richmond, so should be a

fairly straightforward legal option. There are some existing buildings which need upgrading, whatever happens. The school could be called Deer Park School without inviting sarcastic mirth.

□ The area behind the athletic ground, bordering Kew Foot Road. This is Crown land again, but leased to the athletic ground, which is not using it, and has allowed it to fall derelict.

Unlike London House, all these sites are well away from the A316, have adequate access for deliveries and drop offs, and even

have car parking.

The one not actually in the Deer Park is close enough for the name to be not totally inappropriate.

They are all much nearer to where school places are needed, and none is just five minutes from an existing state school, as London House is.

I expect they are more expensive than London House, but there will be much less demolition to pay for, and the buildings would not need the sound insulation and air filtering systems necessary at Manor Circus, so will be much

cheaper to build and maintain. The council says it has been searching 18 months for a school site.

During that time they were delighted to announce that Friars Lane car park is to be developed for housing. That would have been a perfect place for a school. Here are three more possibilities found on a two-hour walk.

Are our councillors just not trying hard enough, or are they putting profits before children?

JANE HARRISON
Address supplied

Busy roads

Sir – The planning application for the substantial development of the Sir Richard Reynolds Catholic College, Clifden Road, as a considerably extended school is causing residents of the roads north of Heath Road from just east of the railway bridge, Lion Road, up to London Road, much concern.

The concern is not so much about the use of this site as a school, but the increased traffic and pressure on parking.

Most of these roads have parking places on at least one and some on both sides of the carriageway. Consequently the actual driving space on these roads is one car wide.

This already causes delays through Staten Gardens and Station Road.

The reasonably expected increase in traffic as the school is expanded will exacerbate the situation further.

The provision for car spaces within the new development is minimal, under 30.

The teaching and other staff when fully open will be nearly 140.

We are informed that teachers will use public transport.

Many of us simply do not accept this assurance as teachers often have to take work home and to expect them to carry heavy bags to and from school by public transport is unreal.

Similarly we are told that children will be coming to school by public transport.

This is not happening at present and we do not expect it to happen in the future.

The delivery of children to school occurs at the same time that commuters use these roads as a rat run to avoid the recently restricted roads in the improved centre of Twickenham.

Although there are speed restrictions in place on these roads they are ignored by many drivers. We are asking to the council to think again about the density of development on this site and make more parking available both for cars and the numerous coaches that will be needed to take children to various sports facilities.

RICHARD HARVEY
Address supplied

Wrong park

Sir – Regarding the "Borough View" picture in the Richmond Times issue (Letters, June 5) of the tree carving.

Please correct the caption it is in "Kneller Gardens Park" not Crane Park as stated.

PAM WOOLDRIDGE
Via email

Editor's note: Apologies from Borough View, happy to correct the mistake

Thanks Vince

Sir – The St Margarets Estate Residents' Association appreciate all the hard work Dr Cable put in over the years on behalf of our association, and on behalf of many of our individual members, irrespective of their political leaning.

There have been so many instances during his term as our Member of Parliament which have required help and advice, both of which he gave with speed and in several cases, a personal visit.

We are particularly grateful for his help in:

□ Saving the footbridge over the A316 at the St Margarets roundabout, making it safer and easier for the children attending St Stephens School.

□ His speedy support to our objection to the proposed telephone mast on the green at the junction of Kilmorey Road and St Margarets Drive.

□ Helping us to have Clifton Lodge classified and graded, thus helping to retain one corner of the area as educational.

We wish him well in whatever his future projects may be.

MARILYN HAWKINS
Honorary secretary
St Margarets Estate
Residents' Association

Love paper

Sir – Finally I have a little window to write to you about the God Spot column in your paper.

I love it and every week looking forward to it – I share with my daughters and they enjoy it too. A calming perspective on life, different in a thoughtful way.

Thank you.

UTE McDONNELL
Hampton



Borough View

Fifteen-year-old Michael Brown took a heavenly picture of sun beams breaking through the clouds on Tuesday. If you have a picture you would like published in our weekly Borough View slot, email it to lettersrtt@london.newsquest.co.uk.

Trace family of man shot by Red Baron

I am writing a book about the first pilot to be shot down by Manfred von Richtofen, the Red Baron.

His name was Lionel Morris and I am trying to find out more about his beginnings in Surrey. His father Albert, a tobacconist manager, died in the 1930s, but his mother Lily lived on until 1949, ending her days at the Gateways in Park Lane in Richmond sharing a flat with my great grandmother, Lily Reid. I am hoping to find out if anyone remembers Lily Morris, who also managed a china and glass shop in the Carshalton area.

JILL BUSH
absolutely12003@gmail.com



Snapshot of the past: An old picture of Lily Morris, right

Sir – Reading the report on the incident at Priory Lane, the trouble here is the cycle lane, it is not designed for most cyclists, only ones who are pottering about and do not mind the enforced stops at road crossings. In fact they are a hindrance, and most cyclist do not use it as they go from A to B.

It was not uncommon as I cycled down the lane to be beeped by a driver because I was holding them up. It was the inconvenience of being held up that annoyed them.

The trouble is many of these cycle lanes, like the new homes of the 1960s were built for political reasons.

STEPHEN BENNETT
Via email