

Euro views

Twickenham MP Tania Mathias said businesses should have a greater role when it comes to influencing Britain's relationship with the EU.

Dr Mathias was joined by Conservative MP Steve Baker and Syed Kamall MEP, in a meeting with people that covered issues including immigration, regulation and trade.

Dr Mathias said after the meeting: "The EU is an important topic, and we often hear the views of politicians."

"In the Prime Minister's renegotiation leading up to the referendum, it is vital that we listen to the views of residents and businesses too, to ensure we focus on what they want from the EU."

Chief executive of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce Anne Newton said: "We thank our Twickenham MP Tania Mathias for consulting with us on Europe, as businesses in Richmond need to be heard in the debate on our EU membership."

Deer Park site 'unsuitable'

George Odling

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The controversial site for a new free school in Richmond was referred to as a "twisted joke" at Tuesday's full council meeting.

Conservative councillors admitted the London House site for Deer Park School was "not ideal" and more than 1,000 people have signed a petition calling on the council to find a better location.

Bellevue Place Education Trust (BPet) wants to open the primary school in Lower Mortlake Road from September 2017, and the Education Funding Agency has secured the site.

Campaigner and Green Party member Andre Frieze said the site was an accident and pollution blackspot, and there was not enough room.

She said: "There really

cannot be a more unsuitable site for an infant school than London House, unless it is actually in the middle of Manor Circus, the smoke-filled roundabout just a stone's throw away from it.

"Siting a school named Deer Park just 10m back from the A316 seems like a twisted joke, with the joke being on the children who will go there."

She added: "The councillors should and must care."

"You have a duty to safeguard the children in this borough and if you approve a school knowingly sited in an accident black spot then any accidents will be your responsibility."

Council cabinet member for schools, Councillor Paul Hodgins, said it was a challenging issue and it was right to debate the proposed site, but the borough has expanded existing schools as much as possible and was



out of easy options.

He said: "I am not going to argue that this is the ideal place for a school."

Ms Frieze pointed out the site did not meet the government's guidelines for primary schools and said: "Where does Bellevue plan on

putting a playground on the site? On the roof, where children can breathe in more deadly fumes?"

Council cabinet member for environment Pamela Fleming said finding suitable sites in the borough for much-needed new schools was virtually impossible.

She said: "We all want the best for our children and for them to have a happy and healthy environment."

"Many of the health problems [associated with pollution] are based on 24/7 exposure and children won't be at the school all day every day of the year."

"I want to assure parents we aren't complacent about air quality."

Anger: Green Party member Andre Frieze called the London House site a 'twisted joke'



Keeping the faith

Pop sensation Paloma Faith stole the show as she opened Kew the Music on Tuesday.

A sell-out crowd of 8,000 fans packed out the tourist hotspot to watch her perform.

Photo: Tejas Sandhu/PTSPPhotography



You too can name the new school

Richmond residents are being asked for their ideas on a name for a new secondary school due to open in Twickenham in 2017.

The school for 11 to 16-year-olds will be co-educational, non-selective and non-faith based, accept 150 students a year and is due to open in September 2017. People will be asked to submit their suggestions for the school's new title and their reasons for the name.

Robin Ghurbhuran, principal of Richmond upon Thames College and

member of the Free School Trust, said: "We want to hear from the community, parents, families and, of course, the children that could be educated there."

"Whether your inspiration is based on the geography, culture or heritage of the area, an aspiring word or just a name you think suits, let us know what it is and why you have chosen it."

To submit your suggestions, visit rec.org.uk/education/new-secondary-school/. The deadline for suggestions is September 10, 2015.

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