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29 Oct 2023

Head of Development Management  
LB Richmond upon Thames  
Civic Centre, 44 York Street  
Twickenham TW1 3BZ

For the attention of Lucy Thatcher

Dear Sir/Madam

**23/1937: Stag Brewery Film Studios  
Use of the existing buildings and land including erection of external film sets for film production operations and ancillary activities**

We note that the covering letter accompanying the application dated 23 August 2023 “seeks to allow the film production use and film sets to be used continuously until such time as the masterplan applications are secured for the site.” We note that it does not use the word ‘permanent’ although the first covering letter dated 23 January 2023 from EB7 does so, as does the Design and Access Statement (para. 3).

We also note that the same covering letter of 23 August 2023 states that the application is for the “use of the whole site (eastern and western portions) for filming purposes and associated ancillary activities” but excluding the playing fields.

Many members of our Society have visited the Film Studios and are very impressed with the way in which this site has been put to good use instead of lying derelict. We support this application for the following reasons:

1. The site has been in industrial use for over 500 years and the film studios are currently a very fitting replacement industry for the brewery, indeed a much cleaner industry than was the brewing. The studios continue to provide good employment opportunities, they are a boost to our local economy and they have become a source of civic pride following closure of the brewery.
2. Unlike the housing and school development which the Council has approved and which will add significantly to the existing traffic chaos in this area in peak hours due to the constraints at both Chalkers Corner and the level crossings, the applicant’s Transport Note indicates that “the majority of staff will travel to/ from work outside of the peak hours.” This is music to our ears.
3. The only problem associated with the film studio use is the aircraft noise, its location being between the two flightpaths into the northern and southern runways of Heathrow, but the

former packaging plant of the brewery has been sound-proofed at great cost and the film studio use should be allowed to continue in order to justify such cost.

4. By contrast the housing and school development, which the Council has recently approved subject to Mayoral direction, defies logic as it is in conflict with the Council's own planning brief for the site and with its policies on building heights, heritage and affordable housing – also indeed with the Mayor's policies on the same issues. It is important that a better solution for the ultimate redevelopment of this site is found and, until then, we have no objection to this proposal for the continuation of the film studio use for the eastern part of the site. As for the western part, we would not wish to see dereliction occur here, hence we have no objection to the film studios using the whole site excluding the playing fields.

Our Society's Committee are unanimously in favour of this application. We have not had the opportunity in such a short time to sound out all our 430 members but, if we were to do so, and in view of the 978 objections to the housing and school applications, we are very confident that they will give us their full support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Catchpole', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Catchpole, Chair