

Kew Society Planning Policy

As set out in its constitution, the Kew Society aims, through its work on planning, to:

- Preserve the character of Kew
- Enhance features of beauty or of historic or public interest
- Extend and preserve public amenities in Kew or in areas affecting Kew.

The Society carries out these aims by:

- monitoring planning applications that affect Kew, submitting comments as appropriate
- giving evidence during the planning approval process on major developments
- engaging with the London Borough of Richmond Council in the development and implementation of its plans for the area
- commenting on national and local government planning policies.

We aim to take a pro-active approach to planning for the area, engaging constructively with the London Borough of Richmond and other bodies responsible for preservation and development in the area or which affect the area, including Councils adjacent to the Kew ward, the British Airports Authority (BAA), the Richmond Heathrow Campaign (with the Richmond Society and the Friends of Richmond Green), and the Old Deer Park Working Group (with the Richmond Society, the Friends of Richmond Green, the Friends of the Old Deer Park, and the St Margaret's Estate Residents' Association).

Planning applications

The main focus of the Society is on major new development sites and buildings of historic/architectural interest. We aim to ensure that developments preserve and enhance the beauty of the area, including architectural designs in keeping with or enhancing the style of neighbouring buildings, attention to green landscaping and sustainability. We take account of Council policies in their Development Management Plans when we make comments on proposed developments.

We look closely at any developments which involve change or intensification of use, loss of public amenities, loss of green space including where of townscape importance, loss of garage or off-street parking space, intensification of traffic volumes and any noise impacts. Where there are proposed changes of use in retail space, we take account of the need to retain a mix of local amenities and trading shop fronts to meet community needs as well as the commercial viability of sites. In most cases we do not comment on individual household planning applications unless they have an impact in one or more of these areas.

If we do not comment on a specific planning application, this cannot be taken as a positive endorsement of the plans.

We work constructively with the Council to encourage developments that meet the needs of the community as a whole and maintain the special character of Kew, including its historic legacy of buildings and green spaces and attention to details of the street scene such as signage on retail outlets, street furniture (street lighting, bollards etc.), location and design of facilities (telecommunications, recycling and refuse etc.).

Development Plans

We work with our members to develop a vision for the future of Kew, identifying locations that might be appropriate for redevelopment or improvement. We work with the London Borough of Richmond and others to influence development strategies and plans in accordance with this vision.

Planning policies

We consider and where appropriate respond to public consultations from national and local government on their planning policies which may affect Kew. In making comments we are guided by the policies set out in the London Borough of Richmond's Core Strategy adopted in April 2009 and its more detailed Development Management Plan adopted in November 2011 which covers a sustainable future, protecting local character, meeting people's needs, and detailed generic policies on for example, design quality. Both documents are available at www.richmond.gov.uk.