



Planning Applications
2 Adelaide Road
London SW18 1DA
f.a.o. David Andrews

176 Upper Richmond Road
London SW15 2SH

11 April 2023

Dear David

**Planning Application 2023/0550
Watermans Green**

The Putney Society wishes to express our deep disappointment at this application, not so much for what is in it, but for all the missed opportunities. Two years and more of consultations seem to have resulted in a widened path leading nowhere. As the PLA points out, the scheme fails even to replace the life buoy.

One of the objectives, so we have been repeatedly told, of the High Street Fund money that has paid for this scheme was to join up the High Street and Embankment. But this proposal isn't joined up enough even to have noticed that there is now planning consent for a new Clipper Pier at one end of the site, nor the proposals for the Star and Garter hotel, nor to even mention that the greater part of the space has been leased out, permanently so it now seems to local bars effectively privatising public open space.

Instead we are offered repaving (and lots of yellow lines as an afterthought) where there should have been a road closure. The path along the Green won't lead anywhere – an opportunity missed ever since the council leased out half of it – when it should have linked up the Thames Path under Putney Bridge. Re-opening the derelict rubbish strewn steps at the eastern end might have made the footpath useful, but seems not even to have been considered, so this application effectively includes retention of this eyesore.

The desperately narrow footway above which remains as the only connection could, should, have been widened, but again only gets a change of paving.

In short, this proposal fails to provide anything useful and should be rejected until there is a scheme that uses public money to provide some discernible public benefit. If the 'Green' is not to lead anywhere, let's have back the dense planting in the 1905 photo (Fig 14 in Heritage Statement) which at least would help Putney's chronic air quality problems.

Is it possible to refuse an application on the grounds of wasting public money?

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Catto

Andrew Catto,
Buildings Panel Convenor
For and on behalf of the Putney Society.

The Putney Society

The amenity society for Putney and Roehampton. Registered Charity No. 263242

www.putneysociety.org.uk