

Victorian buildings saved

by SARAH NEWSTEAD

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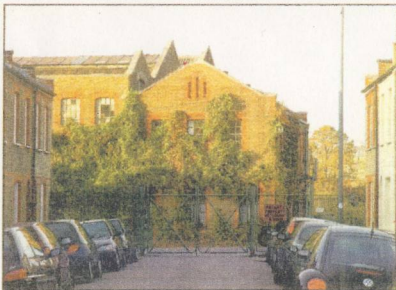
Residents rejoiced after plans to build flats on a slice of borough history have been thrown out by planners.

An application to build 31 flats on the site of Hamilton Electricity Works, Twickenham, was refused after planning officers said the build would have been "overbearing and unneighbourly".

Under the plans, two of the three Victorian works buildings would have been demolished despite being of townscape merit.

Planners also felt the flats would place an unreasonable demand on existing education facilities.

Residents of Hamilton Road and streets surrounding the works have campaigned to preserve the site since it was threatened by an initial planning application in 2005.



Built to last: The Victorian buildings in Hamilton Road

After forming a pressure group, the Talbot Road Action Committee, residents won conservation status for the Hamilton site early last year:

Cathy Cooper, committee

spokesman and a resident who overlooks the site, said: "It was completely over dense and nobody wants to see those buildings demolished.

"The plans also contained un-

derground parking for 32 cars. But what about extra traffic coming through Hamilton Road which is already so congested many residents can't even find space to park."

In 1902, the works lit up workmen's homes in the area.

Today, locals remain passionate about the site and, according to Mrs Cooper, the latest application attracted 68 objections on the council planning website alone.

Matthew Rockel of Friendcastle, the Mortlake-based developers controlling the site, said: "We will be appealing the refusal of the second application and have already talked to council officers about the possibility of preparing a third.

"It will be about a fortnight before we have decided what this application should consist of."

A separate application to demolish two of the buildings is still awaiting a decision.