

Rd T Times 23 Nov 2007

# Residents happy as plans are axed

Residents have claimed a fourth victory in the fight against the "gross overdevelopment" of a historic borough site.

Jubilant Twickenham residents have welcomed a Planning Inspectorate decision this week to throw out an appeal to demolish part of Hamilton Road electricity works and build 29 flats on the site.

The news comes after a public inquiry was held for three days from September 26.

The Victorian works in Hamilton Road have been at the centre of a planning battle since developers Frenckcastle first submitted a planning application in October 2005.

Richmond Council has since twice refused planning permission and Talbot and Hamilton Road residents and ward councillor Clare Head succeeded in getting the Victorian site designated a conservation

**By Sarah Newstead**

area.

Cathy Cooper, of the Save Hamilton Electricity Works campaign, said: "I'm absolutely over the moon. My partner told me when I was on the South Bank – I just screamed, I was so happy.

"But I've worked really hard and the inquiry was quite gruelling."

The inspector, Mr Baird, ruled that the works "make a significant and positive contribution to the character and appearance" of the conservation area. He also said that homes in Talbot Road would be "considerably less pleasant places to live" if the development were to go ahead.

Vincent Cable MP who supported residents said: "This is a piece of gross over

development trying to pack more houses into an area of very high density where parking is already virtually impossible. The residents were well organised and put up a terrific fight."

Councillor Martin Elengorn, cabinet member for environment on Richmond Council, said: "This was an important outcome, supporting the council's decision earlier this year to refuse the application in this recently designated conservation area."

Bill Bailey of Frenckcastle said: "Obviously we were disappointed but we respect the inspector's decision and any new proposal will respond to the inspector's report. It requires fresh thinking from us."

□ For more information on the campaign, see [hew.org.uk](http://hew.org.uk).