

LETTERS

Don't ruin our road by carving it up for modern developments

Sir— I am writing to support Cathy Cooper's comments regarding the proposed development at 37 Hamilton Road.

Hamilton Road is a narrow Victorian street consisting of 67 two-bedroom terraced cottages. It is only possible to get one car at a time in to or out of the street. Hamilton Road is situated in an area of Twickenham that is locked between the railway lines to the north and east and the road that runs along the north side of Twickenham Green. While there are four access roads in to this area (albeit along narrow, congested roads) there are only two exit routes.

One is via the sharp corner at Chapmans and the other is via the narrow traffic

calming measure at Briar Road.

So this area is already a very congested part of Twickenham with very limited access and exit routes, and yet this development proposes to build 31 apartments and an office on the site of the old factory, increasing the density of housing in Hamilton Road by 50 per cent.

The community is not being helped in its fight against this development by two ridiculous pieces of legislation.

The first is that developers are only allowed to provide one parking space per unit. The politicians need to come down and get real. People will have as many cars as they like whether or not there are enough parking spaces. The second

ridiculous piece of legislation is that 40 per cent of all such developments have to be allocated as affordable housing.

There does not, as far as I am aware, appear to be any ability to compromise on this.

As the developer has to hand over 40 per cent to the council, in order to make such developments profitable for the developer, they have to be high density.

Anyone with any sense can see that Hamilton Road simply cannot squeeze in another 31 houses.

Does anyone in any case really believe that such developments help the community and reduce the housing shortage? Most young people trying to get

on the property ladder will not be able to afford these executive apartments. The reality is that the vast majority of these flats will be bought by absent investment landlords.

It seems to me that in order to increase housing stock, planning departments are allowing developers to carve up this country and build for profit without any regard to the environment or existing residents. Please don't let Frenccatle ruin Hamilton Road.

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