
Plans need big rethink

Sir - I have been following the fate of the Hamilton Road Electricity Works closely. It caused me to wonder what exactly is the purpose of the planning department at council level? As I understand it, the developers have applied three times to part-demolish the present Victorian buildings, to replace them almost entirely with modern apartments, and Richmond upon Thames council planning department has turned the plans down three times.

Surely that should be the end of it, unless there is a serious rethink and redesign of the development of the site. But no, the developers can now simply go above the council and apply for planning permission from the planning inspectorate in Bristol.

Well, with all due respect, I suspect a person in Bristol would care as much about planning issues in Twickenham as I care about planning issues in Bristol - that is, not very much.

There are many reasons why the Hamilton Road development should not go ahead as it stands, and my hope is that common sense prevails and the planning inspectorate agrees with the council.

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