

# Cherish industrial buildings say experts

Former industrial buildings should be cherished as much as Georgian houses, conservation experts have said.

The comments were made at the Environment Trust for Richmond-upon-Thames annual general meeting following a question from a resident campaigning against the redevelopment of Victorian electricity works in Twickenham.

Cathy Cooper asked why English Heritage had rejected pleas to list the former electricity works at the heart of the redevelopment scheme.

One of the experts on the panel, Timothy Jones, the historic buildings adviser for south-west London for English Heritage, would not be drawn on the specific case of the Hamilton Road proposals but endorsed Cathy Cooper's broader commitment to champion what were once key industrial sites where people worked.

A discussion then followed with the panel on "the new shape of conservation".

Paul Drury, an architect who drew up a new set of "conservation principles and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment" for English Heritage answered questions from the painting of buildings to the management of open spaces from trust members.

Mr Jones said that the painting of houses along with the use of replacement windows or the use of unsuitable roofing materials had a serious effect on the entity of terraces and should be challenged.

He and Mr Drury both commended the record of Richmond upon Thames Council in safeguarding the quality of the local environment.

The meeting, in the Orangery at Ham House, was attended by MP Susan Kramer and the Mayor of Richmond Cllr Bill Treble, as well as representatives of other local conservation groups.