



Re planning applications RU17/0414 and RU17/0415

The Egham Residents' Association objects to these applications for Runnymede House at 96-97 Egham High Street.

Our concern about them is essentially the same as that expressed recently with regard to the RU17/0092 and RU17/0093 applications covering Prestige House, Egham High Street.

Again, it is not a matter of detail but of principle. This is yet another example of office floor space being removed to make way for yet more 'student' residential accommodation. It is part of an engulfing process by which Egham town centre is being turned into an additional campus of Royal Holloway College.

We can understand the line of logic which says it is preferable to have Holloway students living in the town centre rather than their being housed in traditional family homes in the side streets. But the former is rapidly gaining pace without any clear sign of a diminution in the latter.

This phenomenon is causing increasing dismay and agitation in the town. It is high time Runnymede Borough Council acted to do something about it rather than wringing its hands in a display of ongoing impotence. Has it made any representations to the Government, in which the Runnymede MP is a leading figure?

Our association also objected to last year's planning application RU16/1233 for the site, which was subsequently withdrawn. That application was preferable to these two in our view because it did at least propose a retention of ground floor office use.

Yours faithfully,

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