

The Borough Planner, WBC

For the attention of Ms Cathy Molloy, Case Officer

Dear Sir,

**Planning application 2017/2707  
River terrace, Wandsworth Park, (abutting 105-115, Deodar Road, Putney)**

This planning application proposes the loss of public open space and its conversion into private residential use. Given the importance of public open space to the wider Putney community, this proposal must be unacceptable in principle.

In the Wandsworth Local Plan, the borough council's planning policies, against which this application must be judged, are set out.

In the Core Strategy, adopted in March 2016, on page 39, Core Policy PL4(a) states: **'The council will protect and improve public open space in the borough ....'**  
On page 68, Core Policy PL9(a) states:  
**' ..... the council will create a riverside walk and increase public access to the river.....'**

In the Development Management Policies Document, adopted in March 2016, on page 108, Policy DMO1, Protection and Enhancement of Open Spaces (b), states: **'...areas of open space will be protected and enhanced in open use ....'**  
On page 109, Policy DMO(c) states:  
**'Where the net loss of open space is proposed, replacement provision of equivalent or improved quality that suits current or future needs will be required in an appropriate location'.**

The proposed change of use of this corner of Wandsworth Park is in clear contradiction of the adopted council policies on open space.

There is no land use policy in the Local Plan which would support the granting of planning permission by the council in this instance.

This application arises as a result of alleged night-time anti-social behaviour in this patch of public open space. But the council has not sought to discuss or find a solution to the problem with local relevant community groups, such as the Putney Society or the Friends of Wandsworth Park.

There could be a solution to this problem without the loss of public open space and without any detriment to the public interest.

The council could ask the Friends of Wandsworth Park to take on the responsibility of closing and locking the gate at the entrance to the patch of open space at dusk and of unlocking and opening the gate early in the morning. This would maintain public access to the open space during daylight hours.

Why has this not been done?

This corner of Wandsworth Park offers the only bit of riverside walk in the park where quiet contemplation, without interference from cyclists and dog-walkers, is possible. Why should this be lost?

With every new development in the areas around the park, especially in the Wandsworth Riverside Quarter to the east, the number of residents looking to Wandsworth Park for their recreational needs grows. The demands and pressures on the park can only continue to grow in the future. How can the loss of even a small part of this public open space be justified in these circumstances?

**It is essential that this planning application is refused.**

Yours faithfully,

John Horrocks  
Putney Society Open Spaces Panel Convener  
For and on behalf of the Putney Society