

No to extension at 173 Whitton Road



The planning application for 173 Whitton Road, Twickenham, subject of a judicial review brought by a neighbour and the quashing of the borough planning committee's consent, has been refused on reconsideration of the proposal.

This time, as a result of the judgment, the committee took a wider view of all material considerations and concluded that the application should be refused, against the officer recommendation for a permission.

A recommendation to defer the decision pending a site visit was defeated.

Commenting on what has become an interesting case, Cllr Philip Taylor said: "Here you have a successful judicial review, which is very unusual. I think it is important that we are seen to do everything properly."

Richmond upon Thames Planning Committee meeting on 2 June, on a majority vote of members, rejected the application for a two-bedroom, two storey extension with cantilevered bathroom on grounds of: unneighbourliness relating to bulk and massing, overdevelopment, loss of daylight, loss of privacy; contrary to design guidelines for extensions; car parking; loss of symmetry in the street scene.

Amongst other things, the judgment from the judicial review criticised the council for failing to give proper reasons for the granting of planning permission in its decisions documentation, and this has changed practices. Members are able to introduce all material considerations into the debate and the committee is careful to clearly state and record the planning reasons behind its decisions which are fully articulated at the committee.