



07 November 2008

Dear resident,

Putney Place plans rejected

I am writing, in case you haven't heard, to let you know that yesterday's Planning Committee rejected the Putney Place planning application. I am delighted at this result which was achieved, in no small part, by the overwhelming response of local residents like you.

I have now written to the Chief Executive of Oracle - the owners of the Putney Place site - urging them to respect local opinion and not seek to lodge an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate. Oracle has six months to decide whether to appeal. I hope they won't.

I believe their decision on this will signal whether they want to work with us towards a new plan for Putney Place or instead just want to try their luck with the planning inspector. The latter course of action would be misguided: there is no suggestion that a different planning professional (the inspector) would see things any differently, and over two thirds of appeals submitted to Planning Inspectors are rejected.

But I also wanted to let Oracle know that there is support locally for redeveloping Putney Place - just not in the way they proposed. None of the hundreds of residents I have spoken to or heard from in the past few months think the existing buildings have merit. If Oracle want to start from scratch I really think we could come up with a plan that respects residents' concerns, meets local need and enhances Upper Richmond Road. I've added a copy of that letter to my website so anyone who wants can read it: it's at www.stuartking.net/putneyplace.

But it is the lack of a cohesive plan for our town centre that brought about the utterly unsuitable Putney Place plan. Putney's MP and Council are effectively holding the door open to any stack-em-up, pile-em-high developer to come up with ideas that may win them architecture prizes and maximise profits but which blight the local area. And it's not just me that thinks so. The Putney Society Chairman has said: *"The Council appears to have no overall town plan for Putney."*

I'd like to enlist your help in providing some much-needed local leadership. I've enclosed one of my Putney High Street surveys which discuss some of the ideas I have for improving the town centre. I'd very much appreciate your views. And I'll be talking more about this in the New Year edition of The Putney Paper, my newsletter to local residents.

I'd also like to keep you informed about these really important local issues. The easiest way for me to do that is by email - either through my fortnightly e-news bulletin on local issues, or when a specific issue arises. You can add your email address, which I pass on to nobody, on the survey.

Thank you once again for your work on this issue. If I can be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Stuart King'.

Stuart King



Stuart King

Labour's Parliamentary candidate for Putney, Roehampton and Southfields
Putney Labour Party 35 Felsham Road London SW15 1AY

☎ 020 8788 8961 | 📞 070 9289 3658 | 📧 stuart.king@putneylabour.org.uk