

Don't let Sainsbury's rip the heart out of it.

WHITE LANE

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WINTER WONDERLAND!

Welcome to the wonderful Winter issue of WHAG weekly.....Inside you'll find news about all the issues that count:

Parking

Traffic

Supporting local shops

Tesco's

Globalisation

And much, much more.....



Yes, thanks to the developers: **Oakmill Properties**, the tenants: **Sainsbury's**, and the architects: **Collado Collins** (and not forgetting Richmond Council and the Planning Inspectorate) we now have a landmark building that will prompt current and future generations to wonder... how it happened. We told you before, but here's what the architects had to say about the development:

'The development sits on a prominent corner within the Barnes Conservation Area and close to the River Thames. In addition, a former Coach House, that is a building of Townscape Merit, forms part of the scheme. The design seeks to provide idiosyncratic accommodation based on rational unit planning in order to create a building which has character and is economically viable. The architecture is contemporary in its configuration and material selection, with a form designed to fit comfortably within the Conservation Area and re-unite a street presently broken by an existing car showroom'



PARKING! Remember what a nightmare it was finding a parking space before the CPZ? Remember what Euan McMurdo of Sainsbury's said in his letter of the 8 June 2007? No? Here it is again: ' By providing a small neighbourhood store for the local community, where local residents can pick up everyday essentials, we are encouraging people to shop locally. The shop is aimed at local people walking to the store therefore we will not be providing any additional parking which would encourage customers to drive to the shop'.

Oh, thanks Euan, that's alright then (although we don't think that's really the reason for not providing parking is it?) But wait a minute, there are only six parking spaces, in a three bay stacker system, for the nine new flats and nothing for Sainsbury's staff-how's that going to work? Well, when the planning consent was finally obtained, objections to the absence of on-site parking were dealt with by an undertaking that no parking permits for occupants of the building would be issued if a CPZ was introduced. We are sure that members and officers of Richmond Council will not only honour this undertaking, but also monitor the inevitable problems that increased traffic and parking demand will cause.

And finally, there's that Loading Bay –we hope it is not really true that Richmond planning department have suggested it could be used by motorists stopping to use the Sainsbury's cashpoint.— loads? money? Oh, you do it.....



TESCO'S! Congratulations to Tesco for their excellent choice of location for their new Metro store, due to open early next year on the old Woolworth's site in Sheen. Despite claims to the contrary, the WHAG has never been a campaign against supermarkets in general but has simply strived to protect this much loved neighbourhood from inappropriate development.

SUPERMARKET SWAP! Shoppers in Roehampton will no doubt have been devastated to find that their Sainsbury's Local has closed and become a Shell Select Foodstore instead.

Meanwhile, residents in Putney can only marvel as they see the Shell signs come down and that their Sainsbury's Local is to supply own brand petrol alongside the store. Plenty of parking at this one too.

A LOCAL SHOP FOR LOCAL PEOPLE –REALLY? Last year marked the first time in Sainsbury's 138-year history that a single shareholder had controlled a larger stake than the Sainsbury family when the Qataris achieved 25%, making them the largest single shareholder. As at the 28 July 2008 the Qatar Investment Authority's stake in Sainsbury's stood at over 27%. See map



Follow Justin's lead -Use those WHAGbags. 'Sainsbury's is launching a groundbreaking text reminder service to encourage customers to take their carrier bags when they go shopping, as 58% of shoppers still say the biggest barrier for not re-using bags is they forget to take them shopping and need a reminder.' **The WHAG** is not offering a text reminder service as we believe that the concept of taking a bag to carry shopping is not too hard for our readers to grasp.

The view from the WHAG

When the WHAG, Susan Kramer and Zac Goldsmith met up with Justin King last year, one of the issues raised was the design of the whole development, based on architects' drawings, which had been roundly condemned as an eyesore in a Conservation area such as Barnes.



Mr. King examined them and then said, "Well, I'm no architect, but it looks pretty good to me."*

There was a moment's pause, then gales of laughter filled the room, much to Justin's displeasure.

Well, we're not laughing now. And I doubt any of the residents are, either.

The reality is even worse than the drawings. Hardly a day goes past without some passer-by stopping to look, shaking their head and walking away with a bemused expression on their face.

It isn't just the basic design, as described in the architects' words on our front page – which is a candidate for Private Eye's Pseud's Corner if ever there was one.

Look at the low grade materials used to build it. Look at the shoddy way it's been built. Not even Bob the Builder could fix that. And if you think it looks bad now, just think what it'll look like in twelve months or so.

It's not just a disgrace to *this* area, it would be a disgrace to the most run-down inner city in the country.

Thank you, Richmond Council Planning Department and the National Inspectorate. Thank you so much. We shouldn't forget their part in allowing this monstrosity to be built.

So the view from the WHAG today is quite simple : horrific.

Yet another reason to Ignore the Store.

David Rossiter — The WHAG

**NB. To Sainsbury's lawyers : Whilst these may not be Mr.King's exact words, they entirely and accurately convey the gist of his sentiment. And I have witnesses who will back me up.*



The Information Page



Join us on Tuesday 9th December at the Christmas Street Party—win a WHAGbag crammed with good things from White Hart Lane, stock up with other WHAG merchandise—all proceeds, as usual, to The Friends of Barnes Hospital.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

Q) I'm a busy health professional—I understand that, at the recent licensing hearing, Sainsbury's lawyer suggested that I was just the sort of person who might want, after a difficult night on call, to find somewhere to buy a bottle of wine at 7am—did he really say that?

A) Yes, we're afraid so.

Q) Good grief, does he know that most young people end up in A&E as a result of excessive alcohol consumption?

A) Probably, but he also said they're very careful not to sell to minors.

Q) Hello, I'm sure I read in the Daily Mail a while ago that Sainsbury's had an offer on cider that worked out at 26p a pint—sounded great—do you know if it's still going? (p.s. please don't tell my mum I asked this)

A) Afraid not, they pulled it after the negative publicity.

Q) I can't wait for Sainsbury's to open and want to know when you lot are going to shut up—I couldn't care less about small independent shopkeepers. Sainsbury's are making this shop look really nice too—why don't you realise that this is progress?

A) Oh dear....(to be continued)

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