

Object to Proposal

Application number: 14/3732/FUL

Date and time: 18-03-2015

Comment type: Object to Proposal

Comment:

This is not really a Ham Hydro but a Teddington/Twickenham Hydro because it is in Teddington and will severely and negatively impact many in Teddington and Twickenham.

It is very public that there are an enormous number of objections as well as the substantial increase in flood risk. However it is now thought that this is being ignored and permission could be granted at the beginning of April. There will be:

- Damage to a heritage site enjoyed by many locals and visitors to the area
- Excessive noise to a quiet residential area that will create a public health risk, There has not been sufficient assessment of the noise level and its impact on local residents and people who are enjoying the river.
- Significant safety concerns to people and children using the river, sailing and kayaking. The Ham Hydro scheme has been described as a 'death trap.'
- Damage to the Lensbury sports centre (enjoyed by many local and visiting people) as a result of noise levels. There will be a twenty four hour mechanical sound from the three turbines

If planning goes ahead this will also cause an enormous increase in the flooding risk to Teddington and Twickenham with considerable costs to repair damage to homes and businesses in Teddington. Last year parts of Teddington were only days away from the Teddington Weir being used to deliberately flood some residential roads as a flood management strategy last year. Many parts of Teddington would be impacted. It is unthinkable that approval could be granted for the Hydro without a full Flood Risk Assessment to take account of the significant additional (and much faster) volumes of floodwater that will be experienced at Teddington Weir once the River Thames (Datchet to Teddington) flood relief scheme is completed.

In addition, residents by the river are very aware that there is also insufficient permanent flood relief measures in the Upper Thames catchment area to reduce downstream flows and know that future flood risks that will be occurring as use of the Thames Barrier to protect the tidal stretches of the Thames is withdrawn to protect central London.

The residents in Teddington are also aware that this fixed screw design being at the major floodwater flow point means that floodwater will be hitting the three screws and they will have to be closed down to prevent structural damage. This means it will be like the water is held like against a 'brick wall' rather than being able to be raised to allow flood water to go through, as is possible with other designs.

This means significantly increased risk at Teddington Weir. How can this high risk and largely unknown situation justify the small reward to be gained from the Ham Hydro?

Is this just being pushed through for political gain, just before the election and if so how can politicians ignore the strength of local feeling on this ludicrous scheme?