

# DeHavilland Alert

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London Borough Press Release

[Richmond upon Thames Borough Council - NEWS - Council's disappointment at High Court decision](#)

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NEWS: Council's disappointment at High Court decision

The Leader of Richmond Council has voiced his disappointment in the decision by the High Court of Justice to grant a Judicial Review hearing on the Council's decision on the future of the Clifden Site.

In May the Council's Cabinet agreed that the Clifden Site should be used for new a Catholic primary and secondary school. This decision followed on from a consultation where sixty seven per cent of parents and residents who responded agreed that the site should be used to establish a new, five-form entry Catholic Secondary School and fifty seven percent in favour of the primary school. Since this decision was made the Richmond Inclusive Schools Campaign (RISC), with support from the **British Humanist Association** (BHA) have campaigned to have the decision overturned.

Following consideration of all the documents submitted by the BHA and Jeremy Rodell at RISC, the Deputy Judge of the High Court has granted permission for a Judicial Review hearing, agreeing to review the case further in regard to whether the Council acted lawfully when it considered and approved the Diocese of Westminster's proposals.

The Council is also concerned that this decision will result in more uncertainty for those families who will, from this September, be applying for a place at either of the schools for next year, particularly for the secondary school for which the deadline for applications is the 31 October.

Cllr True, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

"I am disappointed that despite the clear, democratic decision that has been taken by our community, the national **British Humanist Association** and its local acolyte, have moved forward with their campaign. This delay and uncertainty will also be of huge concern to a

large number of parents across the borough, who have already started applying for places for their children at either of the schools.

“Every day that passes the work to deliver two new schools for the borough is at risk of being delayed at a huge cost to every tax payer in this borough. As I have said before, the Council will defend our local decision against legal action confidently and vigorously, seeking to recoup any costs. Every penny spent on lawyers would be money lost to spend on the education of all young people in the borough. Every month spent in the courts will also be a month lost in preparing these schools for hundreds of local children.

“We will now be working with our lawyers to contest the claims being made.”

It is expected that the Judicial Review will be heard in October.

Ends

Notes to editors

Members of the public should call the Council’s contact centre for more information by phoning 08456 122660.

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