



**Footing the bill: BHA and Risc members outside the Royal Courts of Justice**



**No regrets: Jeremy Rodell, from Risc, with campaigners outside York House**

Deadlinepix RT60825

# The £40k school review

By Rachel Bishop

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The judicial review into the Catholic school decision cost Richmond Council almost £40,000 – but the opponents will foot almost all the bill.

The council spent £32,499.40 on external legal fees for a High Court lawyer and work leading up to the case, plus £6,650.40 on in-house legal costs.

However, the majority of the cost will be paid by the British Humanist Association (BHA) and Richmond Inclusive Schools Campaign (Risc), which brought the case against the council.

On winning the case, the council was able to reclaim most of its costs, which were capped at the request of both parties. Risc's costs were capped at £20,000 and BHA's at £15,834.

Despite the huge loss, Jeremy Rodell, from Risc, backed taking the issue to court.

He said: "The council's action in pushing through as a top priority a new state-funded school that is effectively closed to around 90 per cent of local children, and giving it the only site then available,

was simply wrong.

"That they did so in a way that appeared to flout the new Education Act meant it would have been irresponsible not to challenge them legally if we could.

"We didn't appeal against Justice Sales' decision, both because of the cost, and because the likely timing of an appeal hearing meant the school would almost certainly have been allowed to go ahead, even if we had won, while creating a lot of needless uncertainty for parents and children."

He said this was because a lot of work on applications and building had already been done, so it was unlikely a judge would rule against.

Head of legal services at the council Paul Evans said: "I think the council showed an extremely inclusive and validated approach to the way it took the decision. I think it was a very good example of a council making a good decision in the way you are supposed to do it."

Refurbishment works for St Richard Reynolds Catholic College are due to start in April, with the current costs for the first stage about £3m.

The council received 373

applications for a place at the secondary school, with 115 making the school their first choice, and more than 100 for reception.

Chairman of the interim governing body at the school Andy Cole said: "I think in a

democracy, everybody should have a say. I regret some of the comments that were made, but they were down to a minority."

For more about the school, visit its new website at [strichardreynolds.org.uk](http://strichardreynolds.org.uk).



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## Students take heart by helping to raise £1k

Waldegrave students celebrated healthy hearts and promoted good lifestyles to kick start the British Heart Foundation's

national heart month. The students raised about £1,000 through wearing red for a mufti day, during which they were encouraged

to think about the variety of factors that contribute to keeping a healthy heart and consider how to improve the health of others.

## How to save cash

Richmond Business and Retail Association will hold three talks and a networking event on February 13 at Duke Street Church.

The event, called How to save money and grow your business in 2013, runs from 6pm until 7.30pm and those wishing to attend should confirm by emailing town centre manager Con O'Brien at [info@richmond.town.org.uk](mailto:info@richmond.town.org.uk) or call 07854 013864.

## Showcase sign-up

Talented artists have until February 18 to sign up to showcase their work as part of the Arthouse festival in June.

Visit [richmond.gov.uk/arthouse](http://richmond.gov.uk/arthouse).

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**Residents over 50** who are keen dancers are invited, by the Leader of Richmond Council, to put on their dancing shoes and head down to the Clarendon Hall for an afternoon of music and dancing.

**Date:** Tuesday, 26 February 2013  
**Time:** From 1.30 – 3.30pm  
**Place:** Clarendon Hall, York House  
 Twickenham, TW1 3AA

**SPACE IS LIMITED SO BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**



Call **08456 122 660** or go online  
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