

Harrison, Liz

From: Richard C. Kenchington <eastleighrambler@aol.com>
Sent: 23 October 2025 11:52
To: Harrison, Liz
Cc: Vaughan Skinner
Subject: Re: Planning Application Consultation Request O/25/99506

You don't often get email from eastleighrambler@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To
Liz Harrison
EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

We refer to your Council's consultation of the Eastleigh Ramblers on 6 October 2025 (below). This application gives us two concerns (a) the physical impact on Footpath No 49 Eastleigh Town and (b) the visual impact on users of Footpath No 49 Eastleigh Town and views within the valley of the River Itchen.

(a) Footpath No 49 Eastleigh Town is part of the extremely popular Itchen Way a long distance path promoted by the Eastleigh Ramblers and set up in part from a grant from the Borough Council. The path is part of the former towpath to the former Itchen Navigation. The Canal bed is severed by the Eastleigh to Hedge End railway to the north and the M27 to the south. It is largely overgrown but within it can be found the remains of former locks and in winter months water collects forming an important habitat. The vegetation on the west side and the views across the fields to the east give the perception of isolation despite the proximity of the airfield. At the northern end the alignment of the former navigation has been filled in through works that were associated with the reconstruction of the railway bridge taking the public footpath under the railway. All that will change with this development. The proposals for the drainage both immediately adjacent on the west side and the crossing of the alignment of the former navigation and towpath will significantly disrupt the setting of the public right of way. The local planning authority should satisfy itself that the proposals contain a sufficiently robust scheme of landscaping to redress the damage that will be done. A condition should be imposed that requires the reinstatement of Footpath No 49 Eastleigh Town after the laying of the drainage to the satisfaction of the local planning authority and the local highway authority.

(b) The visual impact of the proposed buildings will be enormous and it will be visible not just from the public footpath but from a wide area across the valley of the Itchen. The choice of colours for the cladding will materially affect that impact. We request the local planning authority to include a requirement that all cladding and roof materials used on facades visible from the Itchen Valley to the east should be non-reflective and dark green so that they merge as far as possible into a background behind the remaining and proposed vegetation.

Regards

Richard C. Kenchington FRICS IRRV(Hons)
Footpath Secretary of the Eastleigh Ramblers
2 Pavilion Close,
Fair Oak, Eastleigh,
Hampshire, SO50 7PS
