

Richmond Society Airtrack Response – 15th December 2008

The Richmond Society welcomes in principle the Airtrack proposals for increasing rail access to Heathrow Airport, particularly as the service will benefit our many members living near Richmond Station. However, we are concerned that Airtrack may increase road traffic congestion and pollution in Richmond as a result of increased down time at the Manor Road level crossing and the three other roads with level crossings between Richmond and Barnes. We are concerned that this has not yet been modelled as part of the Airtrack proposals. We are also concerned that increased track utilisation for fast trains may result in a deterioration of service for stations such as North Sheen which are served by slower trains.

We therefore believe that the scheme should not go ahead until:

- ◇ The effect on traffic congestion and pollution of longer down times at all level crossings has been assessed.
- ◇ Proposals have been devised to avoid or reduce the impact of any additional traffic congestion and pollution arising from longer level crossing down times.
- ◇ Sample rail timetables have been published showing the service impact of Airtrack on intermediate stations such as North Sheen as well as on main stations like Richmond.
- ◇ This additional information has been subject to further public consultation.

Neil Maybin

12th December 2008

The Richmond Society is a local amenity and conservation group with around 1000 members.

We have worked for over fifty years to make Richmond a better place to live, work in and visit.

Further information can be found at www.richmondsociety.co.uk.