

## **MWML Board, September 2021**

### **Agenda item 4: Pedestrian gate to the west footpath and the river walk**

1. A proposal was made by a resident at an AGM some years ago for a side gate in the West fence near Montevetro, and was subsequently raised again with the Board.
2. MW has an increasing number of young families, some with prams and small children on scooters/bicycles. In addition there are several elderly residents who are unable to climb the podium steps with or without an escort/walker. These residents enjoy/would enjoy walking along the quieter and less polluted Riverside Walk outside the 'rush hour'.
3. The advantages of a gate are:
  - The Podium exit is difficult for the elderly and those with young families/prams who wish to use the Riverside Walk.
  - The west gate exit allows access but only along a narrow pavement with obstructions denying access to an escort/walker or wide pram.
  - The route via the East gate is longer and along the busy and polluted roads.
4. The proposed site was opposed by some Whistlers residents beyond the West gate. This was investigated and it was considered that the security issue could be overcome if a tall gate like the Podium with a similar lock and key was installed at the same level as the high fence at the end of Whistlers Ave. This location was in the original MW design for a vehicle exit. A gate on the river side of the garages would not be practical due to the need of steps leading from the MW level down to the sloping walkway; a slope would be too steep or protrude into the pathway. It was considered that there was no other option.
5. Discussions in 2018 with Wandsworth BC who have adopted as part of the public highway the narrow strip of land between the MW fence and the River walk (which is owned by Wates under title TGL45261). Approval was given subject to Planning Permission.
6. We got a design drawn (required for planning), an estimate for the work, and submitted a planning application. There followed along delay (application mislaid prior to or during Covid lockdown). There were an unknown number of objections to the application, however Planning Permission was granted on 21 April 2021 and work must begin within three years.

The original cost quoted in 2019 was £2,340 + VAT and this has been increased by 10% due to the delay = £3,088.

See attached: 2019 estimate; planning consent; drawing (the consent is conditional on this design).

Martin Stratton  
31 August 2021