

**From:** JUDITH HOWARD <howardjudith@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 17 Feb 2010, 20 h 39 min 20 s  
**Subject :** Clapham Junction Newsletter Feb. 2010

Dear CJAG,

Thank you for your February Newsletter. The following points sprang to mind when reading it, regarding the station entrances.

Having lived in this area all my life (since 1946!), and used Clapham Junction station regularly since around 1957, I guess have "seen it all"!

Firstly, I welcome the proposal to re-open the "top" entrance in St. John's Hill - it was a stupid mistake ever to have closed this in the first place.

However, this must not involve closing the lower entrance, as was proposed in the recent (rejected) development plans, leaving the lower subway just for platform interchanges.

We definitely need both entrances open, as was always the case originally; otherwise the congestion will simply move up from the subway onto the footbridge - and I rather doubt if the structure is physically strong enough to withstand the increased weight and vibration!

Secondly, the old top entrance building is most attractive (in 17th cent French style), and should not be overshadowed by new tall developments nearby. I find the 1970s (or was it 1980s?) development of the lower station entrance quite satisfactory, in keeping with the original scale of the nearby Victorian architecture, and see no reason for replacing those buildings - a waste of money. The little shops are very useful, especially the WH Smiths and the small supermarkets.

Thirdly, I would like to see lifts up from the subway onto the platforms - which would have been more useful than down from the footbridge, in my opinion.

Fourthly, I can't quite imagine where any additional over/underpasses could be situated! Not all the platforms are long enough to accommodate an additional footbridge. I think with both station entrances in use, the present level of "footfall" would be shared and the space would probably be adequate. I know that train usage has grown recently - good! - but in my youth fewer people had cars, so I doubt whether it is now actually greater than in the 1950s? Anyone got any statistics?? This has always been a very busy station.

No real comments re. Grant Road, as I hardly ever use that entrance. But maybe that end could accommodate any new buildings/developments, as it really is a horrible untidy mess!

In the present recession, I feel it is essential to concentrate on the really important factors to make the station itself more functional and user-friendly, rather than wasting money on unnecessary large-scale redevelopment of the whole area. You only have to see how big developments proposed for Wandsworth town centre (Ram Brewery, and

Business Village sites) have stalled, or never even got off the ground. Keep things more modest and focused, and it might then actually get finished!

If I have any more thoughts, I'll write again, but thanks again for the chance to put forward my views.

Kind regards,

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