

Claire Frost and Deon Lombard,

22nd November 2021

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
23 Stephenson Street
Birmingham, B2 4B

Dear Sir,

We write in Support of the Compulsory Purchase of Land and New Rights in Twickenham Riverside.

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (Twickenham Riverside) Compulsory Purchase Order 2021.

We are Twickenham residents who support the removal of parking from our Riverside and the creation of a fully pedestrianised public events space, park and gardens. We signed a petition to this effect which to date has over 3,000 signatures.

The Council appointed an independent body, the RIBA, to oversee an architectural competition which was won by Hopkins Architects with the support of the majority of Twickenham residents.

The brief required the integration of disparate parts of the site to provide a 'whole site' solution, including the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. A proviso by the Twickenham Riverside Trust (TRT), who have jurisdiction over the gardens on behalf of residents, was that an area at least equal in size to the current gardens to be provided with equivalent or better amenities. The new proposals were agreed to by the TRT prior to the appointment of new Trustees.

This proviso has not only been met, but clearly exceeded. The Gardens, children's play area and café/tea room are considerably larger and of a better standard than the existing. The area has been opened up to the riverside in a series of grassed terraces, planting and trees extending down to the riverside. A large, flexible multi-functional space has been created for public events and markets at a scale that currently is not possible.

Accessibility is considerably improved for the disabled, including wheelchair users, from access points around the Gardens. The removal of a roadway and parking has enabled the entire area to be pedestrianised, connecting with a newly pedestrianised Church Street to create a quality public realm that is people and not vehicle centred.

It is clear that the above improvements can only be brought about by bringing together the constituent parts of the overall site, including the sub-optimal area

occupied by the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. It is also clear that a CPO is necessary to enable the creation of a 'whole site' solution as proposed by Hopkins Architects and supported by the majority of Twickenham residents.

We thus appeal to you to uphold this CPO for the overall benefit of the residents of Twickenham and our many visitors.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Frost

Deon Lombard