

*Ellen Purton*



3 January 2021

Planning Casework Unit  
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities  
23 Stephenson Street  
Birmingham B2 4BH

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT for Compulsory Purchase of Land and New Rights in Twickenham**

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to you to convey my strong support for the compulsory purchase order for the space currently occupied by the Diamond Jubilee Gardens in Twickenham.

Twickenham's riverside has been mostly derelict for many decades, with various proposals for it created, fought over and discarded. The site is an eyesore, with empty buildings falling down and the embankment used for a car park. The only amenities there are a children's playground and the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, both of which were originally installed as temporary amenities until a permanent plan for the site was developed.

Over the years a community consensus has evolved for what Twickenham would like to see in its riverside. As a long-term resident active in the community, I have watched support coalesce around a set of broad principles – open space by the river instead of car parking, a public square as well as green areas, access to the river itself, and a mix of residential and commercial space to help offset the costs. A robust RIBA competition produced a plan that is genuinely popular with the locals and will revitalise our beloved town.

The Twickenham Riverside Trust is attempting to block implementation of the winning plan for party political purposes. The Trust board is trying to stop the current Council from being able to progress the development and become the council that Got Twickenham Riverside Done. As a local resident, I am outraged that they would risk derailing this important project and plunge the town into further controversy just to deny political opponents a win.

The proposed plan provides an undeniably better park than the existing Diamond Jubilee Gardens, as well as other much-needed community space. The current playground will be re-provided with updated play equipment; the grassy area will be more play-friendly; the

whole landscaped area will be visible for everyone's enjoyment and to draw people to it. And it will all be accessible, unlike the current provision. There is absolutely zero advantage to the community from the existing park that would not be provided by the proposed one.

I would also like to stress that pressure on housing here, especially affordable and social housing, is immense. This development will help us meet building targets for new housing while providing the social rented properties that are in such desperately short supply.

As a local resident, I am appalled that the Twickenham Riverside Trust, which is meant to be representing our interest, is happy to cut off Twickenham's nose to spite the Council's face. Twickenham has waited decades for this derelict site to be rejuvenated, and I implore you to help the town move forward.

**Please approve this CPO** and allow us to have the development for which we have waited so very long.

Kind regards,

*Ellen Purton*

Ellen Purton  
Twickenham Resident for 20 years