

The Twickenham Riverside Park Team,

22nd November 2021

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

Dear Sir,

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

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

The Twickenham Riverside Park Team (TRPT) is comprised of local Twickenham residents who support the removal of parking from our Riverside and the creation of a fully pedestrianised public events space, park and gardens. A petition to this effect garnered over 3,000 signatures.

The Council's RIBA architectural competition that encapsulated these principles was won by Hopkins Architects with the support of the majority of Twickenham residents. The brief required a 'whole site' solution combining disparate parts of the site including the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, with an area at least equal in size to the current gardens to be provided with equivalent or better amenities.

The new proposals not only meet these requirements, but clearly exceed them for the public benefit as follows:

1. The Gardens are enlarged by more than 500 square metres;
2. The children's play area is nearly double in size;
3. The proposed café/tea room is more than double the size of the existing, and has visual contact with the play area which the current one does not;
4. The currently walled secluded area is opened up, including the current parking and roadway, extending all the way down to the river to create a large multi-functional pedestrianised space comprised of hard and soft landscaping;
5. Extensive south-facing lawned terraces, planting and trees are provided with the potential to plant more trees in the deep-soil spaces provided; there are no natural lawns in the current Gardens and new tree planting curtailed due to the gardens being located on concrete rubble;
6. Accessibility and movement through the new Gardens are greatly improved for older people, wheelchairs and pushchairs through the introduction of

graduated footpaths integrated into the landscape; there is currently a single disabled access point into the current Gardens located at some distance from the riverside; access from the riverside is by a steep set of steps;

7. A larger vastly more practical events space is provided, including storage facilities and dedicated electrical supplies; current events are reliant on diesel generators;
8. The layout enables a much-improved connection with a widened and pedestrianised Water Lane, linking with a successful recently pedestrianised Church Street to create a unified pedestrian area at the heart of Twickenham.

It is clear that the above improvements can only be brought about by combining the disparate parts of this overall site. It is also clear that a CPO is necessary to bring about this combination to create a 'whole site' solution for the overall benefit of the residents of Twickenham and our many visitors.

We thus appeal to you on behalf of the majority of Twickenham residents to uphold this CPO.

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin Makins

Secretary of the Twickenham Riverside Park Team