



20/11/2021

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.

I fully support the Compulsory Purchase Order implemented by the Council for the reasons set out below.

I am a resident of Twickenham and have lived in the borough all my life. Although Twickenham town centre is less than one hundred yards from an enchanting section of the Thames Riverside, it is almost hidden from view and consequently Twickenham has been unable to take advantage of this amenity (unlike Richmond-Upon-Thames, its sister town three miles downstream).

The closing of the large, outdoor lido-style swimming pool in 1980 (built in 1935) exacerbated the degrading of this potentially valuable amenity because it then stood derelict for over thirty-two years. In that time this lovely stretch of riverside became simply a car park. Over those years Councils of various political persuasions tried to devise a development plan for this potential local amenity but funding constraints and residents' aspirations could never be reconciled. In 2012 a temporary solution was agreed on, the swimming pool building was demolished, the pool filled in and covered with a simple paved area and basic children's playground. The Council never gave up its efforts to produce a development plan for this Riverside area, however, and in the last three years or so they have produced with a plan that is both financially viable and meets the aspirations of the majority of the residents. This plan was achieved by running a successful Architectural competition and selecting a world class Architect for the project. Together they have run many consultations with residents and produce the current redevelopment plans for the site and adjacent areas that most residents support. But this plan requires the Jubilee Gardens and the buried pool over which it sits to be demolished, as was always envisaged when it was built.

Unfortunately, the group who currently control the Jubilee Gardens have changed the position of the trust from support for the project to one where they want to stop it, which they are doing by refusing to allow this part of the Twickenham riverside to be developed. This has led the Council to have to follow the compulsory purchase route to avoid delays which could completely destroy the scheme.

I ask the Secretary of State to refuse the appeal by the Twickenham Riverside Trust and approve the Compulsory Purchase order so that this scheme can be implemented for the benefit of the residents, which will enhance Twickenham Town centre and provide a wonderful Riverside space for use by residents and visitors alike.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Williams