

Objection to Twickenham Riverside Planning Proposal

Riverside Twickenham is a popular recreation area for the residents of Twickenham and nearby areas already, and therefore any redevelopment of the site should be sympathetic to its current usage and the needs and requirements of existing residents, this proposal is anything but.

The area is already extremely busy and there are crowds of people on any sunny day and especially at weekends and holidays. This results in substantial noise pollution in evenings and late into the night. The proposal to add a further 45 residential units is ludicrous, Twickenham Riverside is overly busy. The area certainly doesn't need any more pubs, coffee shops or restaurants.

Of most concern is the restriction of light that will affect all the properties in Water Lane. There are no other 4 or 5 storey buildings in the Riverside area, which is what makes it so attractive to locals and visitors. Any new development should be in keeping with existing buildings and not block out daylight which any development of great height extending further down Water Lane would undoubtedly do.

That the development is likely to be a car free zone, is alarming for any residents who own vehicles and require parking and the reduction of existing on street residential parking is most concerning. In addition, if there are 45 new residential units, this will create more traffic in an already busy area and does this plan really suppose none of the purchasers of any new units will also have vehicles which require parking? If such parking is not on site then even greater pressure is placed on the existing Twickenham infrastructure, creating more traffic jams in King Street, York Street, the junction of Cross Deep and Kings Street, and the junction of Kings Street and London Road. There was a terrible accident at this junction recently, more traffic is not needed.

There whole area of the plan should given up to brighter, cleaner, recreation areas, including a replacement lido, to encourage wider participation in outdoor pastimes and swimming for the undoubted health benefits, even more relevant now after 18months of lockdown and restrictions.

Redevelop for the existing community and to protect the quiriness of a unique and historic area such a Eel Pie Island, not for the purposes of profiting from property development which this planning proposal is all about. There are new property developments, not far away in London Road which are undersold and further residential development in the centre of Twickenham should be avoided.

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