



15 November 2021

Secretary of State for Levelling up
Housing and Communities Planning Casework Unit
5 St Philip's Place, Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 2PW

Dear Sir

CALL IN REQUEST and OBJECTION TO CPO on Diamond Jubilee Gardens, Twickenham TW1
Planning Application:
https://www2.richmond.gov.uk/lbrplanning/Planning_CaseNo.aspx?strCASENO=21/2758/FUL

I write to object to the Compulsory Purchase Order made on 21st October 2021 by the
London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames which is primarily targeted at the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

I also oppose the planning application by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Council and ask for a "Holding Direction" and ask for this to be Called In.

The Diamond Jubilee Gardens were created in 2014, on a 125 year old lease with the objective of preserving the space long into the future as a public open space on Twickenham Riverside. This land had previously been bequeathed to the Council FOR THE PEOPLE to enjoy for recreation.

My interest in the land is thus:

1. I am a local Twickenham resident of 31 years
2. Twickenham Riverside and the Diamond Jubilee Gardens is an area I regularly visit
3. Proximity to the site (1.1 miles according to Google)
4. Use of Holly Road car park (very close proximity to my property) and negative impact
5. Linked Sites Strategy (further details below)

I ask that you Call In the Council's decision for the following reasons:

1. The public open space planned under the Council's somewhat unpopular development scheme is NOT of equal value to what exists today.
2. The proposal will NOT benefit the public in terms of open space and could be considered disadvantageous.

3. Outdoor activities that previously took place in the gardens will be compromised and not take place due to the reduced space available. The space is also unlikely to be able to host the weekly Farmers Market, which is currently in Holly Road car park. If the Council's scheme comes to fruition, the displaced Riverside cars will have nowhere to park on Saturdays' and the already overparked area (due to over supply of permits) will be under even greater pressure.

4. Building housing on the public land on Twickenham Riverside has always been unpopular and Councils have been voted out attempting to do so. It should be remembered that before leaving office in 2008, the Liberal Democrat administration signed off (during Purdah) a controversial "Linked Sites Strategy" for the Twickenham Riverside site. This scheme allowed the affordable housing component of their housing plan to be off-loaded onto other sites in the Borough. The sites designated for affordable housing in the Linked Sites Strategy included a number of garage sites and various garden plots, including a community garden. This housing was built and it seemed that the affordable housing for the Twickenham Riverside site had been fulfilled.

5. I understand the Council is being given a sweetener grant by Central Government to build affordable housing on this prime Riverside land, but as per point 5, this housing has already been built. The Council has also created social rented / affordable housing on a number of other sites in the Town.

The Council, by way of individual councillors are openly challenging the Trust's position and seeking to cast doubt, unfairly – including at a more personal level – on the integrity of the Trust. Councillors are attacking anyone else who does not support their proposal, including myself, on social media. This is highly unprofessional and a bullying tactic. I have screen grabs if you wish to see them.

Yours faithfully

Julie Hill (Mrs)

Cc Michael Gove, Secretary of State