

GEOFFREY J. SAMUEL, JP.,MA.,FCMI.,FRSA
Councillor for Hampton North

Tel: [REDACTED]

1st November 2021

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities,
Planning Casework Unit,
5 St Philips Place,
Colmore Road,
BIRMINGHAM
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London Borough of Richmond upon Thames,
(Twickenham Riverside)
CPO of Land and New Reports,
Twickenham Riverside
CPO 2021

I am writing to you personally as I have met you several times on my visits to Gordons School in your Constituency. I oppose a part of this CPO.

I was Deputy Leader of the Council when we handed over part of this site [The Diamond Jubilee Gardens] to a Charitable Trust with a 125-year Lease. The background is that the former Twickenham UDC purchased this land (with Government approval) in 1924 for "pleasure grounds and pleasant walks". As a Twickenham Borough Councillor from 1957 to its replacement under the London Government Act I have always aimed to honour that purpose.

The closure of the Swimming Pool some forty years ago led to years of neglect although a small garden was opened in 2005. Various schemes were proposed – and all rejected. In an attempt to find a solution which would put an end to years of procrastination the 2010-2018 Conservative Council created the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. To provide security and end its years as a political football, we set up a Charitable Trust with 25-year Lease. The Gardens have been popular and successful.

The present LibDem Council has now approved a new scheme but finds the Diamond Jubilee Gardens to be an obstacle to their plans which include a five-storey block of expensive flats. The Trustees, with their legal obligation under the Lease, have rightly rejected to offer of an inferior alternative site.

The proposal to acquire the site by compulsion would be an unacceptable use of powers to seize land already in public ownership and managed by a Charitable Trust for the benefit of the Community. I support the Trustees [with whom I have no connection of any kind] and oppose the CPO.

(Councillor) GEOFFREY J.SAMUEL [My Ref:19765]

