

From: [PCU](#)
To: [Rachael Beard](#)
Subject: FW: LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2021
Date: 22 November 2021 09:44:29

From: Teresa Read [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 November 2021 09:30
To: PCU <PCU@communities.gov.uk>
Subject: LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2021

I am sending this email because of the wrong address for letters notified in the official Compulsory Purchase Order Notice in the Richmond and Twickenham Times by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Like many residents this mistake in the Official Notice has caused problems especially as I am abroad at the moment and thought I had done everything necessary for this issue before going on holiday.

Teresa Read

To: The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
Casework Unit, 5 St Philips Place, Colmore Road, Birmingham, B3 2PW

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM
RIVERSIDE
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2021
COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF LAND AND NEW RIGHTS IN TWICKENHAM
RIVERSIDE
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2021

Dear Sir

Opposition to the Compulsory Purchase Order

Further to my letter below - which has already been acknowledged - **I would like to make clear that I oppose the Compulsory Purchase Order on Diamond Jubilee Gardens and the local environs including the Embankment.**

I would like to add that the Liberal Democrat Party is continuing to send out emails to residents containing information which is not accurate to say the least; this is unacceptable during the consultation of a planning application.

The photographs used to depict the proposed area for development are of the boarded up car park and not the Diamond Jubilee Gardens and the Embankment. Of course, the car park is the site intended for affordable housing but it gives the untrue impression of the majority of the "site".

Cllr James Chard's letter is also linked to the email and it is unacceptable

that this biased information is being sent to residents in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames by a Twickenham Riverside councillor.

Your faithfully

Teresa Read



3rd November 2021

To: The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
Casework Unit, 5 St Philips Place, Colmore Road, Birmingham, B3 2PW

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM
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Dear Sir

I am a local resident and trustee of the Richmond Environmental Information Centre Charity Number 1129804. I am also an editor of an online community newspaper for Twickenham and Richmond in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. My home and work are 1.5 miles from the abovementioned site.

I am a retired teacher who has produced a ten-year world history (www.worldinfozone.com) working with organizations in many countries. I am extremely active in the local community and have been the chair of a borough community group giving planning advice to residents including those affected by previous Twickenham Riverside plans. I have also spent many years organizing community events on Twickenham Riverside and the River Thames at Twickenham. I have worked with the Council (Volunteers Contract) and the Rugby Football Union Community Officer to organize events in Twickenham, including the opening of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens and Twickenham Embankment, now subject of the Compulsory Purchase Order.

I have also worked as the educational consultant and researched three two-year Heritage Lottery Funded projects, two directly related to Twickenham Riverside (see history note below).

In 2009 I worked on behalf of residents in Twickenham with Electoral Reform Services to carry out a postal referendum on whether housing was wanted on Twickenham Riverside. Four thousand local people

received a postal vote and a high turnout was overwhelmingly against housing on the Riverside. Local people spontaneously donated the ERS costs which shows the importance of this site to residents.

A petition was also accepted at 10 Downing Street with over 10,000 signatures to save the Twickenham Riverside site for public use.

In 2009 the Liberal Democrat Council implemented a Linked Sites Strategy for Twickenham Riverside which moved affordable housing away from Twickenham Riverside and built on garage sites in Twickenham and Teddington. An award-winning community garden in Twickenham was also destroyed and building on a garden site in Strawberry Hill caused a family to leave the area.

Twickenham Riverside land was bought by the Council in 1924 for public walks and pleasure grounds. The Title Absolute is in the name of the Mayor and the Burgesses of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

A popular lido was on the site for many years, an important social hub of the area until it closed for repair in 1980 and was not reopened. There is much interest in reinstating a lido somewhere on the site (I was an adviser in the first LBRUT competition for the Twickenham Riverside site working with a global company situated in central London that put forward a plan with a lido). There is a Change.Org petition for a lido on the Twickenham Riverside site with 4,800 supporters and many informative comments about the area.)

As you know, the Diamond Jubilee Gardens are currently protected by the Twickenham Riverside Trust and is public open space. I have noted the Levelling Up Fund for Parks which shows the acknowledgement of the importance of places where children can play safely and which help to promote a person's well-being.

Currently the children's playground on the site is enclosed and safe, additionally there are spacious public toilets and a very popular community cafe run by people with disabilities.

The current plan does not show an enclosed space for children to play and there are no public toilets, only the use of a pub toilet. Those of us who live in Twickenham know that on rugby days all the pubs are full including the Barmy Arms on the riverside, just along from the site (there are also over 20 pubs within walking distance of the Twickenham Riverside site). The area outside the Barmy Arms is crowded on rugby days and often very rowdy. Thus, with a pub on the site which has toilet use for children from the playground and visitors to the "reprovisioned" gardens there is concern that this may not be a safe environment for the young and possibly intimidating for others.

As a trustee of an environmental charity for ten years I am particularly concerned about the loss of 37 trees which are to be felled. This

includes mature and attractive trees including two which are rare. This cull will also affect trees planted by Boris Johnson and HRH Princess Alexandra. The trees on the Embankment are relatively new but now mature and they were chosen as they can exist in areas which flood.

The whole Embankment covered in the plan has been completely refurbished by the previous administration so I am at a loss to understand why this will all be erased and more public money spent to replace what is now there.

The Council plan is to move some cars from the Embankment but the Council refuse to allow use of a nearby underground car park underneath Council offices which has 66 spaces. When planning permission was granted for this car park it was agreed to be shared with the public after office hours and at week-ends but this has not happened and is not in the Council plan. In fact, the leader of the Council has refused a request for any public use.

There is land which can be used for affordable housing which I believe was bought for this purpose in 2014. It is a boarded-up car park which is known as the Santander car park. There are buildings on the Twickenham Riverside site which were used by two charities so these could be repurposed. However, the Council seems to have given no thought to conservation.

I have been advised by a London Assembly Member to ask for a Holding Direction on the planning application so I would be grateful if you could apply this measure to the application.

https://www2.richmond.gov.uk/lbrplanning/Planning_CaseNo.aspx?strCASENO=21/2758/FUL

I understand that the affordable housing for this site is to be segregated into a block on the old car park next to the road and the Hopkins more desirable flats will have the scenic view of the Thames which is much prized.

There has also been what could be seen as a degree of interference with the planning consultation. The Liberal Democrat Party sent out unsolicited emails widely with misleading information about the site - I have a copy I could send if required. The email stated there had been 40 years of neglect which is untrue, improvements in the area were carried out by Conservative administrations which started with the children's playground in 2005 and later with Diamond Jubilee Gardens, improved terracing with seating and refurbishment of the Embankment.


The email also shows photographs of neglect which are of the boarded-up Council owned car park – the area bought for affordable housing. But the main area for development of the luxury flats is quite the opposite.

Comments on the planning consultation such as "just get it done" echo the unsolicited email.

The site has been full of life and community events since 2011 and as one of the organizers of many events I can provide details if required. Twickenham Riverside was fortunate enough to benefit from years of funding for events from the RFU and the Twickenham Riverside Trust and the Twickenham Bid also put on many community events.

Therefore, as a trustee of an environmental charity and a local resident since the early 1970s who has had extensive contact with the Twickenham Riverside site for many years I ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to consider measures to protect this unique riverside site which has meant so much to generations and is such an important part of our local environment.

Teresa Read



HISTORIC NOTE ON TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE FROM PRIMARY RESEARCH BY THE RICHMOND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTRE (HLF)

TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE: An Historic Site

Prior to Twickenham [outside] Baths (1935-1980), Richmond House, a very grand and impressive house, stood on the Twickenham Riverside site from 1662 to 1923. Edward Birkhead, the first inhabitant, was married to Eleanor Myddleton. Later inhabitants included Lord Torrington, the Countess of Elgin and Field Marshal Sir Edward Blakeney.

In the Spring of 2011, Boris Johnson, the then Mayor of London, visited the site and took part in a tree planting ceremony relatively near the café; the following year the Diamond Jubilee Gardens were opened by HRH Princess Alexandra. Kensington Palace accepted a copy of the book, Richmond House, on behalf of the Duchess of Cambridge.