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3/5/2023

Environment, Transport and Compulsory Purchase
The Planning Inspectorate
3A Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

For the attention of: Ms Rachel Newman, Case Officer

Dear Ms Newman,

I am writing in support of the Compulsory Purchase Order issued by the Council to acquire land on Twickenham riverside known as the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

At the start of this much needed project such a step was not necessary as the previous Trustees of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens voted unanimously to accept the design for the redevelopment of the riverside including the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. Since gaining control of the Trust, however, the new members have been uncooperative with the Council concerning this development, driven one suspects, to further their own narrow interests.

After nearly forty years of rejected schemes and small-scale refurbishment of the area, what should be the jewel in the crown for Twickenham has left us with a basic kid's playground, cheaply built to hide the old swimming pool, a parking lot and constant through traffic. The area is not only a long-standing embarrassment to our community but it is such a missed opportunity to create real social heart to Twickenham town centre.

There is a strong desire by Twickenham residents to have this riverside area redeveloped after nearly forty years of rejected schemes and small-scale refurbishment of the area.

I am sure others have given you details of this Riverside development plan. The design for the site has been developed over the last year or two by a highly experienced architectural practice and through several iterations and now largely meets with approval from a significant number of the residents of Twickenham and the wider borough. It will create an open, welcoming area by the river with new facilities for residents and visitors to enjoy. It will be a focus for a wide variety of events in delightful surroundings on a site that at present is mainly a car park and a throughfare for traffic.

I urge you to please approve the implementation of the CPO because unless the Council can get control of the Jubilee Gardens this redevelopment, for which Planning permission has already been granted, will not be able to go ahead.

Yours Sincerely

Ray Williams