


From: 
To: [Joanna Vincent](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for the CPO for Twickenham Riverside
Date: 16 April 2023 16:45:26

Dear Ms Vincent,

I am writing is strongest support of the proposed Compulsory Purchase Order to allow the Twickenham Riverside Scheme to proceed.

As a resident fo Twickenham for over 20 years, I can say that the people of Twickenham have had three decades to decide what they would like to see on this riverside. We have been consulted repeatedly and have said very clearly and emphatically that what we want is a riverside development with public open space next to the river and the buildings needed to make is financially viable around the perimeter. We wanted a park by the river, instead of a car park.\

The council's consultation on the brief for the development showed very clearly that there is broad and deep consensus on these points, and they duly formed the foundation of the brief. This brief then went out to a rigorous RIBA-run competition, and the council chose to give the design of the development to the firm that was most popular with the people (as evidenced in the consultation) and which hit the brief most clearly.

We want this development. I implore you not to be hoodwinked by a tiny handful of self-interested residents who feel entitled to continue using Twickenham's town centre riverside as their personal car park. The thousands and thousands of residents who are keen to see this lovely scheme break ground should not be held hostage by the Twickenham Riverside Trustees personal agenda. It's undemocratic of them to attempt it and I do hope you will not allow them to get away with this perversion of their founding principles.

In addition to the wish of the town for a riverside park, the scheme includes badly needed affordable housing, and even more badly needed social housing. With families of five and six living in one bedroom flats, or in temporary accommodation in hostels with strangers, Richmond cannot wait another decade or two for this housing. This scheme is the fastest way to get more housing on the go now.

The current Diamond Jubilee Gardens are virtually unused, because they are hidden from view in the centre of a derelict site, have no step-free access and the site is too dark for good cultivation, hemmed in as it is. It is manifestly apparent that a better site for a public park is along the river, where we can enjoy the prospect of the water, and where there will be more sunlight, safer access and a connection between the high street and the river.

The new open space will be bigger, better and easier to get to than the current Gardens. It will be a wonderful public amenity for the whole town. We can't wait to see it built.

May I ask whether I can apply to speak in support of the application at the hearing in June? Is there a form I need to fill out, or someone else I need to email? I feel very passionate about the need for social housing in the Borough, and would like to speak to that point in particular.

I hope the Council will be successful in this application and thank you very kindly for your time and attention.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Purton

