

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Joanna Vincent](#)
Subject: CPO Hearing Twickenham Riverside
Date: 04 May 2023 20:31:03

Dear Ms Vincent, I understand you are the Public Inquiry Manager for the upcoming hearing into the CPO for the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

I am a Twickenham resident who often walks along Twickenham Riverside and enjoys using the Riverside space. I had been very much looking forward to Richmond Council delivering the Riverside redevelopment. The scheme resulting from the RIBA competition is the best I have seen for the site (given the practical considerations) and I particularly support the removal of car parking from the riverside and the coherent approach to the site.

I am frustrated that some residents who have become installed as Trustees of the Twickenham Riverside Trust (TRT) are blocking progress of the scheme. The TRT seems to have ousted all trustees who were in support of the proposed development in favour of appointing those who wish to obstruct the scheme in service of a minority interest.

In my opinion, the Diamond Jubilee Gardens (DJG) is currently a poor public space. Much of the usable space in the DJG is occupied by artificial grass and whenever I pass through this area is normally totally unutilised. Perhaps because it is quite visually unappealing, lacks seating and shade. In addition, the TRT seems to arrange very few events. For example, I passed through on Good Friday and there was no evidence of any events being planned over the Easter weekend. I think the last (and only) event that has been held this year was in February for the Chinese New Year. This is simply not good enough for this important riverside site and the community would be much better served by the council's proposed scheme going ahead with its much improved public space and potential wider uses.

I very much hope the hearing will find in favour of the CPO so the whole space can be improved and better utilised without further costs and delay being caused. There was overwhelming public support for delivering the scheme as a key pledge at the last local elections.

Regards

Jon Burrell

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