

Dear Madam

I am writing this letter in support of the CPO for the above.

My name is Lesley Sherrington and I have lived in Twickenham for over 30 years and brought up my son here. I am a local resident, mother, and artist, committed to the Twickenham community.

I have cycled along Twickenham Riverside for over 30 years, having to make my way through a carpark and vehicles moving in different directions. Almost every day I passed down by the river looking at the old swimming pool site, hoping something would be done with it to benefit our youth, only to be disappointed year after year, as it stood derelict, unused and wasted.

I feel very strongly that the space could have benefited local families, particularly our children, had it been put to a purpose instead of standing empty. It is too late for my son as he is now an adult, but its not too late for his future children, my future grandchildren, and the children of every family in Twickenham and beyond.

There is a noticeable lack of disabled access to many parts of the site. There is no excuse for this as the riverside should be available for everyone to use and I feel it could be more inclusive, particularly for people needing wheelchair access. I noticed a significant change in its use during the pandemic with people taking their allocated exercise there.

Once restrictions were lifted the riverside came alive with people continuing to exercise, walking their dogs, waterboarding and boating on the river, or simply sitting and enjoying the views, great for our health, mental well-being and relationships with others.

Lets build on this and make Twickenham riverside a place for people and not vehicles. It's a beautiful area with so much to offer but it does need regeneration.

I would ask that you weigh up the argument of the few who oppose the riverside plans against the benefit of the many who, like me, who have, up to now, not spoken up. There is always opposition to progress, just look at the history books, but progress is inevitable, and in most cases, embraced following its completion.

Too much time, effort and money has already been wasted for decades, but progress must go on for the healthy future of Twickenham, which continues to degenerate whilst this argument goes on (please see very recent photos attached).

The proposed plans for the riverside are outstanding and will benefit a great many people in so many ways and so much more than it does now.

I am writing this letter, not as a professional or out of self-interest, but simply as a resident, one of many, who feel, like me, that I have not been heard. I am of value, my son is of value, every single person, and future generations of Twickenham and beyond, are of value.

I, like many others, feel that we have not been listened to. Please listen now.

Thank you

Kind regards

Lesley Sherrington  
TW2













