

Brenda Taplin

From: Brenda Taplin
Sent: 12 June 2023 19:05
To: Brenda Taplin
Subject: FW: Twickenham Riverside Development - Letter of Support

From: Caroline Rayfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 6:18:00 PM
To: Joanna Vincent <Joanna.Vincent@gateleyhamer.com>
Cc: Neden-Watts, Julia (Cllr) [REDACTED] >
Subject: Twickenham Riverside Development - Letter of Support

Dear Ms Vincent

I understand from Cllr Neden-Watts that the deadline for comments about the proposed development of Twickenham Riverside has passed however we are still able to write in to support the council's plans - so I hope you are able to accept this email.

I have lived in the Twickenham Riverside ward since December 2011, and my husband for 8 years longer than that and the subject of what will happen to the riverside has been a subject for debate for at least as long. In fact I remember asking him about posters in a nearby window shortly after moving here which said "Save Our Riverside".

I have subsequently lived through several consultations with seven years of Conservative leadership and five years of Liberal Democrat leadership and this is the closest anyone has come to a workable plan for the riverside.

I fully understand the concerns that some people have with what is being proposed, having stood for local council twice myself, I am aware its a hot topic in the Twickenham Riverside ward and feelings can be very strong.

That said, in our household at least, we have come to the conclusion that anything - anything at all - would be better than what we currently have, with derelict buildings, unsafe brownfield space (so poorly fenced off that the dead badger is still discussed amongst my daughter's friends brave enough to climb the fence to see it) and even Diamond Jubilee Gardens has been disappointing - a playground without a single swing and a large, barely used paved area not quite big enough to properly learn to ride a bike on... at least the concrete "lane" markings in the grass have been removed which has made the lawn area actually usable.

No one is claiming that the proposed plan is perfect, which it isn't, but we would really, really like to see this development go ahead so that we can have a shared, useful and appealing space to revive our struggling high street and give us a town centre to be proud of. Our intention is to stay in Twickenham for the foreseeable future, and it would be really nice to see the riverside rejuvenated in our lifetime, something which has seemed genuinely unlikely until now.

Many thanks
Caroline Rayfield
[REDACTED]