

## **NEW HEART FOR TWICKENHAM, RAG WILL CONTINUE TO RESPOND ON BEHALF OF ITS 3000 SUPPORTERS**

Following the press release from Cllr. Pamela Fleming, Cabinet Member for Environment, Business and Community on the subject of Twickenham's Riverside, the Riverside Action Group (RAG) welcomes the Councillor's apparent effort to engage with local residents in the form of 'workshops'.

While RAG hopes all residents will respond to the invitation to participate in the workshops, RAG notes that the Council statement reads: 'Richmond Council and Francis Terry have been considering all views and revising the original proposals...' There is no reference to the other designs submitted by the other architects and paid for through local taxes. Nor is there a proposal to allow the public the opportunity to scrutinise the work and motivation behind all the architects' work.

RAG deeply regrets that the workshops described are to be presided over by Council officers rather than independent professionals and are to be curtailed to a limited number of days and hours between 19th July and 30th July. RAG reminds the Council its methods are already under scrutiny by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

RAG expects that any discussions with members of the public are independently recorded and evaluated. Without this future Council claims cannot be validated.

It is regretted that the Council persists in its disingenuous claim that 3,000 people took part in the 2015 consultation. 3000 people may or may not have visited the pop-up shop (there is no record), barely more than 700 were sufficiently interested in the Francis Terry design to complete the questionnaire. Of the 700, 88% rejected the Francis Terry design and requested the Council to look at alternatives. The Council ignored residents.

**In the light of the Council announcement RAG will continue to campaign for residents' rights to have a say in their riverside and will be providing further information and insights into riverside designs in order to fully inform public debate.**

### **Further information:**

If you are a journalist and would like further information of the Riverside Action Group's Campaign please contact Susan Burningham on 07807 176287 or Cathy Thompson at [riversideaction@gmail.com](mailto:riversideaction@gmail.com).