

KEY FEATURES OF A NEW BRIEF FOR THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT

As identified by Mark Brownrigg, chairman, in his summing up at the end of the RAG public open meeting on 24 September 2016 in Clarendon Hall in the light of the points made by residents at and before the meeting

1. Open up the river to the public in a manner which links any improvement of the riverside site to historic and modern-day uses of the river and connects with the beauty of this particular stretch of the Thames.
2. Create a public open space which can be enjoyed by residents and visitors and which will draw people to Twickenham and help create a town centre.
3. Ensure that any new design fits in with the historical, cultural, riverine, musical, artistic, scientific, and other heritage which makes up the unique character of Twickenham as a significant town on the Thames.
4. Acknowledge that any renovation of the site needs to provide a genuine economic return in the context of both Twickenham itself and the wider borough, while meeting the wishes of the principal users – i.e. residents – and meshing in with local retailers and businesses in a practical and reasonable way.
5. Ensure that actions in response to 3. and 4. take account of the deep concern of residents that any project must be of the right physical scale and fit in with (rather than dominate) the landscape. This was critical.
6. Ensure that plans for building and landscape take account of the entire riverside site including spaces currently occupied by the Diamond Jubilee Gardens and the public thoroughfares.
7. Ensure that any renovation provides proper amenities for public open space, including sufficient parking for immediate residents and their visitors.
8. Involve the local community – both professionals and residents – directly and fully in future decision-making and implementation relating to the riverside project through the supervisory body which oversees those.
9. Finally, concern was expressed by all contributors that the confinement of the development of any new design options to a single architect, and particularly the present one, was not what was wanted. The clear message was of a strong hope that – facing this historic opportunity for Twickenham – the Council would be open-minded on the future choice of architect.