

TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE UPDATE and DATA PROTECTION

Dear friends and supporters,

Where now?

Following the recent local elections and the change of majority within the Council, one of the first decisions from the new Leader of the Council has been to put on hold the plan for the Twickenham Riverside development.

While we in RAG are waiting to see who among the Councillors will be appointed to take charge of this dossier, to lead debate on the future planning process, we thought it would be useful to restate the principles which we have previously communicated to you with regard to the riverside. The core objectives which we have expressed and - we believe - still hold good are as follows:-

- **Character:** development of the Twickenham Riverside in keeping with the existing historic village, with buildings in appropriate architectural style and size, using suitable materials.
- **Community space:** open community space, with creation of a 'town square' linking with the riverside terrace and the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. Space for community events, as well as areas for play and quiet relaxation including water sports. I.e. avoiding 'over-building' of the site.
- **Connectivity:** connectivity retained between King Street, Water Lane and the riverfront itself, and Diamond Jubilee Gardens, Champions Wharf and York House gardens.
- **Mix of uses:** creative spaces for arts/cultural interests, as well as appropriate commercial units and residential accommodation including affordable housing.
- **Location of uses:** the commercial/'economic return' elements of the site focused primarily at the King Street end, with the community and cultural elements located in the areas closer to the river itself.
- **Access, circulation and parking:** easy and balanced access and circulation, both for visitors/pedestrians, and safeguarding of the parking required to support the commercial activities and residents of Eel Pie Island and the immediate neighbourhood.
- **Consultation:** continuing close consultation with residents on the plans and their implementation.

For the above objectives to be met, it is essential that the Council/community retain ownership of the entire site - i.e. through leasing (rather than selling) the land and buildings. Sale of the riverside land to a developer (as once proposed in 2009) might appear attractive as a means of supporting the Borough finances in the short term, but experience tells that relinquishment of ownership would compromise control of the development by the Council and by the community (through its elected councillors). A sale would make it easy for a developer to alter the layout of the site and design of the buildings/quality of materials, as well as reduce the proportion of community space and affordable accommodation in the pursuit of 'developer's profit' - resulting in just one more of those commercial developments constructed in other Thames-side locations in London.

Once built, the Twickenham Riverside development will be here to stay - for generations. It must have its own distinctive character as determined by local residents.

In relation to the core objectives of **Connectivity** and **Access** above, we start from the observation that the riverside is a working environment, as well as one of leisure. During the consultations conducted by the Council in 2017-2018, we concluded - taking all circumstances into account - that there is no practical alternative to retaining the road along the Embankment. We still believe that to be the case. Other residents, however, disagree. Following the local election result, we will wait to see whether alternative options are proposed in sufficient detail which demonstrate that they can meet the above core objectives *without* creating congestion and disruption for the surrounding streets including the town's high street.

Your thoughts and comments via email would be welcome, particularly in this new situation.

Data protection

This picks up again on our recent email of 27th April. New regulations will come into force on 25th May regarding data protection and newsletters. We are grateful to all those subscribers who have confirmed that they wish to continue to receive RAG updates and look forward to your continuing participation.

We very much hope that those others receiving this newsletter will wish to continue to engage in the debate about the riverside and to receive emails from us. If have not yet confirmed that you wish to remain a subscriber, please click on the link below:

[Yes, I would like to remain on the RAG mailing list.](#)

If you would prefer not to hear from us, you can always unsubscribe from this list by clicking the 'unsubscribe' link which is included at the end of all our emails.

With best wishes,

Mark Brownrigg, Susan Burningham, Peter Newborne and Marion Vargaftig for the Riverside Action Group.