

Hello everyone,

## **Objections to the Council's Compulsory Purchase Order of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens submitted to the Secretary of State by the Twickenham Riverside Trust (TRT)**

This is to notify you of a significant new development in relation to the proposed re-development of Twickenham Riverside.

In our recent newsletters we noted that, following its planning application for the redevelopment of the riverside, the Council had recently formalised its intent to launch a compulsory purchase order (CPO) of land and new rights on the site – including of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

The Twickenham Riverside Trust (TRT), which is responsible for the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, under the 125 year lease granted to the TRT by the Council in 2014, has now issued objections to the CPO.

The case by the TRT against the CPO is made in two letters addressed to the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities. The first - [HERE is the link](#) - sets out five reasons why the TRT is objecting.

The second letter - [HERE](#) - focuses on one of those in particular, namely the issue of 'public open space'. The TRT explains in detail - on the basis of an independent surveyor's assessment - why, if the CPO were to proceed, the quantity and quality of public open space that would be 're-provided' by the Twickenham Riverside Development in the form proposed by the Council would not be as good ('equally advantageous') as that which is currently provided by the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

The content of the letters is dense. As a guide to your reading, here are the five reasons copied-and-pasted from the first letter:-

1. No compelling case has been established for a CPO at this stage and it is not an act of last resort.
2. The Council has not proved its case that the public open space has been increased and improved – either in the re-provisioned gardens or in the scheme itself.
3. The trustees are duty-bound to contest the CPO.
4. The Council has not yet secured planning permission for its proposed development of Twickenham Riverside.
5. The acquiring authority is unable to demonstrate that it has the funds required in order to implement the scheme being promoted by its CPO.

On the basis of the above, the TRT calls upon the Secretary of State to reject the CPO on the Gardens.

We encourage you to read what the TRT is saying.

In case you wish to refer back to the Council's CPO, it is available as before on the Council's website: [the Council's CPO](#).

As ever, we welcome your comments.

Best wishes,

The RAG team