

The Twickenham Coalition – 'Love our town'

Twickenham Riverside - the Council's or the Community's?

In January Richmond Council presented their plans and designs for green open space overlooking the river in Twickenham, affordable housing, etc and priority for people over cars on The Embankment. A fairly promising start, but the Council have fallen far short in so much of what they promised to deliver.

The Twickenham Coalition is a growing number of residents and community groups who want the best for Twickenham and hold Richmond Council to account to do what they said they would do for this unique spot along the Thames in Twickenham. We call on Richmond Council to pause their reckless dash to submit a planning application and instead present full plans for proper public consultation.

Here are just a few of the large number of issues that need to be rectified by Richmond Council -



The Council said: (quote)

The buildings should be of the appropriate style, scale and massing, sympathetic to the surroundings [so that] adjacent buildings are not overbearing/ towering over [the Diamond Jubilee Gardens].

What they did:

The plans showed a monolithic five-storey building built on part of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, completely out of place in its setting and overshadowing the adjacent gardens and terraces. Plus a further four-storey block along Water Lane.

The Council said: (quote)

The design must create a focal point for the town (e.g. town square or similar) that accommodates activities and events as well as day-to-day use.

[Note 1: A town square for social activities, occasional events and exhibitions has been loudly called for by residents in consultations going back at least ten years.]

[Note 2: This focal point is a 'must': it is not optional.]

What they did:

Council officers 'suggested' that the tiered amphitheatre, as the architect called it, would be the new public/town square for Twickenham – in a far corner of the site, a very small area crossed by a route for cyclists and the occasional HGV passing along The Embankment.

Councillors have approved that our town will be without this promised focal point.



Quotes are from Richmond Council's Invitation to Tender, July 2019.



The Council said: (quote)

Site to be fully accessible, for example for wheelchair users, those with mobility issues and pushchairs.

What they did:

The 'amphitheatre', as they called it, with steps and tiered seating is inaccessible to young families and many others and also dangerous for young and old alike.

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Proposals published by Richmond Council in January were incomplete, poorly thought out and in conflict with what the Council had promised to deliver, less than two years ago.

The objective of regenerating and strengthening Twickenham's business economy has been largely overlooked.

Our shared goal is to persuade Richmond Council

- to do what they said they would do and table new proposals – in full - for public scrutiny,
- before proceeding with a planning application
- and before more time and money are wasted on defective and unsustainable designs for this very special spot on the Thames.

To learn about The Twickenham Coalition and riverside scheme, email us - hello@thetwickenhamcoalition.org