

# **Twickenham Rediscovered: Community Space and Diamond Jubilee Gardens Workshop**

**Monday 5 September 2016**

**Lead Facilitator: David Allister, Head of Parks and Open Spaces**

**Chair: Mandy Skinner, Assistant Director, Richmond**

## **General Points**

Feedback from the sessions will be captured and along with all presentation materials will be published on the Council website. All workshop attendees who leave an email address will be sent a link to the relevant webpage.

Asking a question at a workshop does not preclude anyone asking questions later or in writing.

Not all questions will be able to be addressed in the workshops, but all questions will be captured and the responses will be sent out electronically and available online.

### **1. Will the development be designed by Francis Terry?**

The Council's architect is Francis Terry. All of these sessions are helping to inform the 'brief'.

At this point we aren't looking at detailed design. The focus is on the function of the space – how it is organised, what happens there etc.

### **2. If we asked for an ultra-modern design, would we get it?**

Tonight we are looking at function. Then other aspects will follow on, design will follow.

### **3. Is it possible to change the architect chosen for this project?**

The Council have commissioned Francis Terry. Tonight we want to understand people's ideas, what they would like to see on the site, how they would like the space to be used etc.

### **4. Will we be given the opportunity to give a verdict on an alternative scheme?**

There are no proposals currently on the table. There will be further consultation on proposals later in the year.

- 5. In session 2 you ask the question 'What sort of activities and events would encourage more people to come to Twickenham?' Why would we want to design something which brings more people in from outside?**

This question doesn't necessarily mean bringing people in from outside the borough or outside Twickenham. It could be about designing something which encourages local people to Twickenham rather than going elsewhere (e.g. Richmond, Kingston).

- 6. When we've had previous consultations, such as the Barefoot Consultation, we told you what local people wanted. Why do we need to do this now?**

Now we are having a deeper conversation on each topic and want to listen to the diversity of opinions in the community.

- 7. Are you presenting revised proposals? Will these be from Francis Terry?**

No, we will not be presenting revised proposals here this evening. However, once we have all of the feedback given in this consultation, we will distil this into the 'brief' before we go out to consult again on proposals. This will be made public. There are lots of different points, objectives and principles to draw out. This may take the form of a further workshop. After this, we will bring everything together and provide you with the opportunity to comment on further concept proposals. We want everyone to be able to see the journey we have been on during the engagement process when new proposals are put together.

- 8. Who will put the brief together? I thought that normally a brief would be put together before an architect is appointed.**

There are a team of officers involved from the Council including Paul Chadwick (Director of Environment), David Allister (Head of Parks and Open Spaces), and other Heads of Service.

- 9. Will the brief just relate to the site you have just bought (Santander, M&Co, Superdrug buildings) or to the whole area in its entirety?**

The site relates to the area shown in red and yellow on the site plan (this can be seen on slide 3 of the Community Space and Diamond Jubilee Gardens presentation). We are keen to hear about how the future proposals for the rest of the site might enhance the Gardens. Our intention is to not include the Diamond Jubilee Gardens in any development plan. However, the Gardens are part of the wider context of the riverside area.

- 10. Could it be suggested that you are ignoring the Diamond Jubilee Gardens by not including it in any development plan?**

We are not ignoring the Gardens and have heard this evening about the importance of having links to the Gardens. We have not heard about redeveloping them, but we can note this down as part of the discussion.

**11. I feel that the whole site needs to be looked at, rather than being looked at in pieces.**

The whole site is being looked at - this is why the title of the workshop refers to the Gardens. We want to see the right development for the site and we can't do this without the Twickenham Riverside Trust. They have a lease for the land.

**12. You are putting a constraint on this. The Diamond Jubilee Gardens aren't part of the design process. The trustees have to look out for the riverside. The trustees need to give agreement. You are constraining this project to small pockets of land.**

Point made. I am happy to meet with the Trust to have a further conversation on this.

**13. I sent a letter to Paul Chadwick, Director of Environment on this issue back in November 2015. I stated that users must be involved in the process and users were involved as part of the Barefoot Consultation back in 2010. I was pleased with this. In the next phase you omitted users' involvement. We are now being asked to comment on one design and you are telling us that the brief will be developed by one architect.**

We apologise if we did not make this clear earlier. There is no scheme currently on the table. We will give you an opportunity later on in the year to comment on a proposal or proposals.

**14. There is a boundary issue. When we talk about the riverside, we talk about the poolside as if it is the riverside. Church Street, Water Lane, Wharf Lane – they are all communities. It is important that development on one part for the community, does not negatively impact on the rest.**

Agreed.

**15. Will Francis Terry receive a brief from the Council in due course? If so, can it mention that a neo-Georgian style will not fit into the character of the Twickenham area?**

Noted.

**16. Are there any scenarios that would result in other architects being approached with this brief?**

The Council has commissioned Francis Terry.

**17. Is it possible that the briefing process can be carried out by an independent party rather than the Council? The Council could act as a stakeholder instead. This way the independent party could take a completely objective view.**

The Council has gone into this process to genuinely listen. We have delivered the online and hard copy surveys, pop-up shop and now these workshops. Currently we plan to take this forward.

**18. The previous brief (approved by two Council officers) shows that the Council are not capable of developing an appropriate brief.**

The Council has gone into this process to listen and move forward.