

Twickenham Riverside

Newsletter



Issue number two

July 2009



Artist's impression of the plan

Dear Resident,

There have been numerous failed attempts over the years to find a fitting use for the site of the former pool on Twickenham Riverside.

Following public consultation and a thorough selection process, we have now chosen national house builder, Countryside Properties, to work with the Council and the Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames, to deliver our plans for the site.

We aim to deliver a scheme that will enhance the riverside and contribute to the town centre, striking the best balance between new public open space, improvements to the embankment, a new children's playground, a new River Centre with a café/restaurant, public toilets, and private homes.

Illustrations of the Countryside scheme, designed by local Eel Pie Island architect Clive Chapman, are shown over the page.

As well as providing a well-designed River Centre, around 42% of the land will be devoted to accessible public open space. The scheme will be funded by

new homes built to the rear and side of the site, taking up little more than a quarter of the available land. Arranging the project in this way means there will be no capital cost to Council Tax payers. In addition, the scheme will provide an important boost to the local economy.

It is hoped that the scheme will achieve planning permission towards the end of the year and that work will start early in 2010.

From this summer, people with learning disabilities will be running the temporary café serving the children's playground at the Wharf Lane end of the site. The playground and café will remain open until construction is about to start.

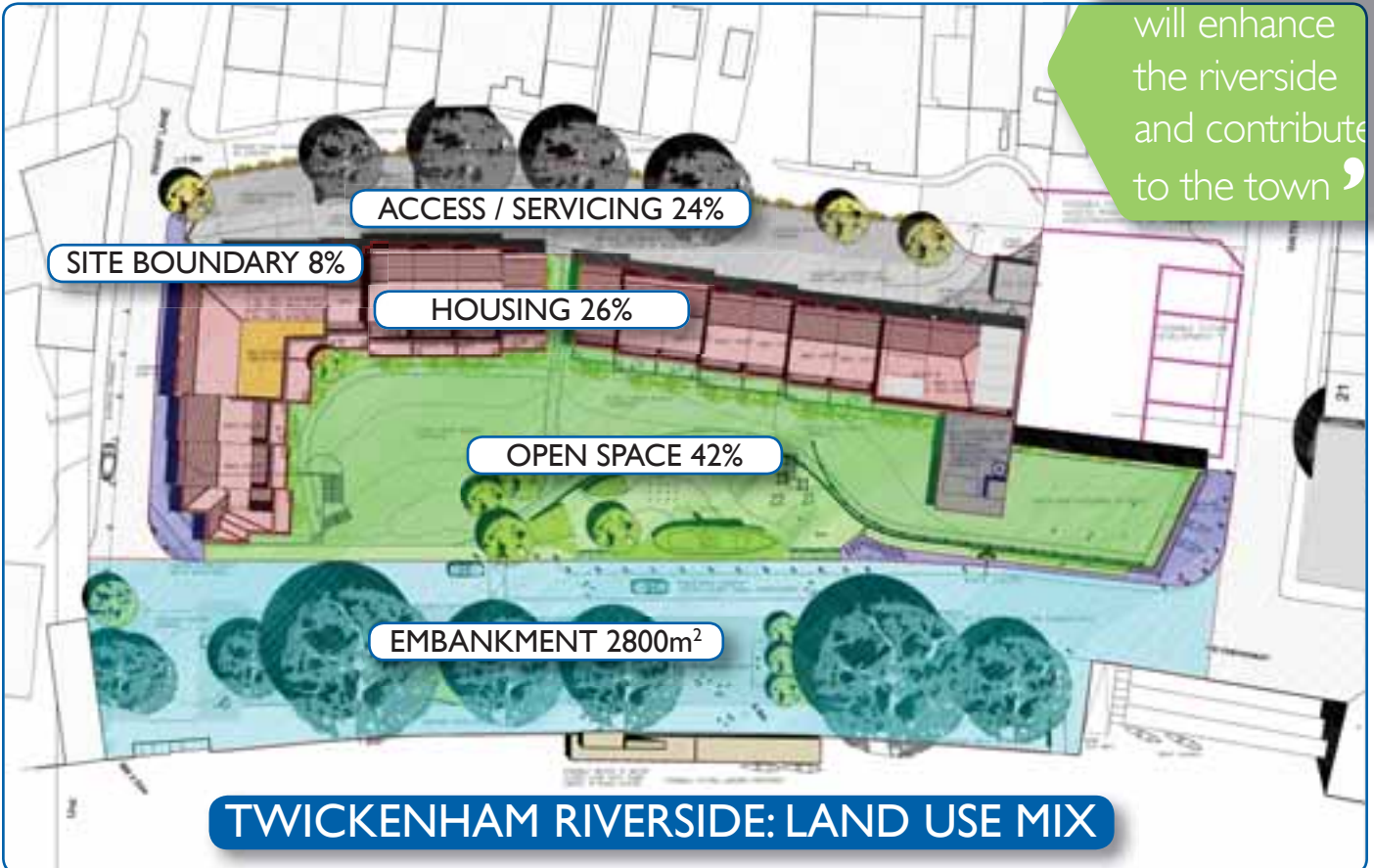
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Serge Lourie'.

Cllr Serge Lourie, Leader of the Council



“A plan that will enhance the riverside and contribute to the town”



Q&A

Q. How much of the site will be available to the public as open space?

A. About 42% of the site will comprise public open space and a children's playground. In addition, £0.5m is being used to upgrade the adjacent embankment.

Q. Why are private houses being built on the site?

A. This element is paying for all the other improvements including the children's playground, river centre, landscaping and £1/2 million to improve the embankment as a result of the development. The total value of the scheme to the public is well in excess of £4m. In the current economic climate the money required is not available from any other source.

Q. What will the River Centre do?

A. It aims to help everyone to enjoy the river and learn about its biodiversity. The plans include a boat-house, Thames aquarium and education centre and will celebrate the riverside heritage of Twickenham.

Q. What will happen to the Café and Playground?

A. Both of these will continue to be operated by the Council until that construction works commence, which will be as early as possible in 2010.

The Council's parks department will open and close the playground every day while Power Employment, the Council's service for adults with learning disabilities, will operate the café from July.

Next steps

With the selection of the Countryside design, work has begun on completing their appointment, finalising the development agreement and preparing the planning application for the detailed scheme. Planning approval is hoped for towards the end of the year and a start on site early in 2010.

An animation of Clive Chapman's exciting design can be found at:
www.richmond.gov.uk/riverside_redevelopment_video.htm