

Tom McKeivitt

From: Robin Walters [robinwalters@beeb.net]
Sent: 05 November 2003 11:02
To: Tom McKeivitt
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Subject: OLD POOL SITE

STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Reply to: 4(b)Wellesley Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, TW2 5RS

Tom McKeivitt
Development Manager
LBRuT

15 January 2003

Dear Mr McKeivitt,

We commend the Cabinet decision to put a low scale, low density development on this site with a significant element of public open space. And, we welcome the decision to carry out the work in two stages.

We have reservations, though, about bulldozing the facade of the existing building at this stage, and replacing it with temporary landscaping, while a design for the whole site is prepared.

We have a presence on the Twickenham Society Coordinating Committee for this site, and, in line with that Committee's policy, we keep an open mind on the detail of the final development. So, it seems questionable to us, and undesirable in terms of need and cost, to destroy a significant part of the old structure at this stage.

In our view, the scheme put forward by the Terrace Garden Group has some merit, and could form the basis of a perfectly good first stage project without compromising future plans for the site as a whole. This could reasonably be accommodated within the Cabinet's existing recommendation. And, it will leave open the option to incorporate some or all of the Terrace Garden Scheme in the final development, if thought a good idea later.

The costs of the whole Terrace Garden Scheme are very much in line with your own for removing the old changing room building and landscaping part of the site. And if, at stage two, it is decided to clear the site in favour of a better overall development, nothing will have been lost. We will, after all, be looking at a very small additional sum in the difference between dismantling your short term scheme and removing the Terrace Garden Scheme, if it comes to it.

We appreciate that stage two may well include improving the access road

behind King Street, and providing parking away from the river frontage for residents of Eel Pie Island. But, we are sure that, with a little ingenuity, the Terrace Garden Scheme, if adopted as a first stage project, need not compromise these important long term options.

We trust that the proposed breakthrough from King Street has been scotched once and for all. The riverside is not the town centre, although we accept that it could incorporate a few retail units (remember they will have to survive the long Winter months). And, revival of the town centre is not likely to be encouraged by adding excessive competition on the riverfront.

The best prospect for the town, in our view, is a riverside setting that is a joy to visit, and one which engages the long-term involvement (loving care, if you like) of local amenity groups. Twickenham riverside is a focal point of community pride; get the development right and the town will prosper.

We would very much appreciate your comments on our concerns at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN S. WALTERS
SHRA, Planning Liaison
c.c. TSG
Ron Chappell, TGS

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