

New lido is perfect solution

Improving congestion

Sir – Twickenham lido pool – proposal ignored by Lord True.

With interest, I read that Coun True does not want to “enter into an argument with Teresa Read of Twickenham Alive” and that “she is obviously upset”.

I think it is fair to say, that Twickenham Alive members are not the only people who are upset. An attempt

to put forward an excellent proposal for a lido, to replace the “public toilets” and ugly car park, has once again been overlooked by Richmond Council, which is, at best, hinting that the plot will be dedicated to even more shops, apartments and restaurants.

Does Twickenham not have a sufficient number of shops and restaurants?

Business is not exactly booming down Church Street, so why should trade be any different along Water Lane?

The proposal for a lido sounds a perfect solution for this plot of land, which the council has struggled to make a decision on, for what seems like decades.

It would seem that Coun True and his colleagues

have, once again, elected to ignore the views of residents, who have waited to see the restoration or replacement of the beautiful art deco swimming baths, that were sadly closed and left in a state of ruin for nearly 30 years, largely due to the endless dithering and inability of council leaders being able to engage and actually listen to the views of

borough residents.

We wait for the public consultation; with little trepidation, as the outcome is predictable; insipid shops, pointless cafes and new builds; no doubt in keeping with Coun True’s desire to continue turning Twickenham into a concrete ghetto.

CHULA BYRNE
Hampton

Sir – Thanks to Richmond Council for highlighting the congestion and lack of safety in Sandycombe Road, Kew, and announcing that they are now consulting on measures to try to improve this.

Sandycombe Road, Kew, leads to Manor Circus roundabout on the A316, where the new primary school for 420 children, Deer Park School, is to be located.

Sandycombe is a heavily congested bus route where vehicles often have to reverse or climb on to the pavements to let approaching traffic, including buses, pass.

If the council thinks Sandycombe Road is so busy and unsafe as to need these measures now, then what does the council think about the congestion and safety aspects at Manor Circus, on the A316 on which the Deer Park Primary School is intended to be built?

This is a red route where traffic is backed up at rush hours (school opening and closing hours), and even more so when the level crossing in Manor Road close to the roundabout is down; where accidents are certainly not unknown; and where when the traffic is not backed up, it flies down the A316, up the slope and round Manor Circus from both sides.

See the concrete barriers on the roundabout, after several accidents where vehicles ploughed into the wall guarding the drops off the roundabout to the ground below.

Think about the additional traffic jams when 420 children are set to be delivered to and from school.

Even more, think of their safety crossing this roundabout and such busy local roads to get to school and to local parks, which the school says it will need to use for play, the site having no parking or playground.

DAVID PIPER
Via email

ALICE SHACKLETON
Address supplied

Poor cycling

Sir – I appreciate the current interest in cycling, both for exercise and enjoyment, but am I alone in noticing the increasing aggression of modern cyclists, and the danger they represent to themselves and others?

I am a careful motorist with many years’ experience, my driving mostly consists of taking my daughter to school across Richmond Park. I am, therefore, doubly watchful, which is just as well for many of the cyclists I encounter.

They swarm behind vehicles, stay in the “blind spot”, overtake, undertake, ride two or even three abreast and occasionally dart 4ft offline into traffic to overtake

And yet if any motorist, who in my view at that time of day are a careful bunch, toots a horn in warning or complaint, they are subject to obscene gestures.

Even a look of reproach gets the same treatment.

Many cyclists seem to expect motorists to anticipate their every move, no matter how unexpected. However, in the event of an accident I have no doubt at all that the default position would be that the car driver is to blame.

When I was young there used to be something called a cycling proficiency test.

It would be no bad thing if this was reintroduced, it would help to educate cyclists to safer habits.

ALISDAIR LOW
Richmond



Jonathan Ward got this shot of azaleas in bloom in a Hampton garden. If you have a picture you would like published in our weekly Borough View slot, email it to lettersrtt@london.newsquest.co.uk.

Cones and sandbags left by unruly rugby fans

Sir – I reluctantly have to put up with the excesses of the RFU and their customers. I try to take it with good grace.

On the corner of Heathfield North/Whitton Road, the following items have been left

from the last rugby match:

- Six pedestrian barriers
- Two parking restriction cones
- A large cone
- A large road closure sign
- Two sand bags

I have contacted the rugby union and asked them to remove the items (without any acknowledgement).

My road is not alone. There are similar items all over the area.

How long do the long suffering residents have to wait to get their streets back to normal?

DAVID PIPER
Via email

ALICE SHACKLETON
Address supplied

Funding for pool not an issue as company to foot bill

Sir – In the past two weeks articles in the RTT have mentioned information on Twickenham Alive websites in relation to development on Twickenham Riverside.

In a letter from Lord True (June 5) he mentions three consultations which took place in 2010. Of course, there is also the referendum that I organised in 2009 on Twickenham Riverside and the old pool site was saved for the community because of this.

As a member my role in the current Twickenham

Riverside competition was to work in a voluntary capacity with an architectural company to find out what people in Twickenham would like to see adjacent to Diamond Jubilee Gardens. This role was accepted by the council.

Since 2010 Twickenham Alive as an organisation and as individual members of other groups have been involved in a number of heritage projects.

To find out what people would like to see on the new Twickenham Riverside site

Twickenham Alive arranged meetings and simply asked the question in completely open ended style. The idea to reinstate a lido came from interviewees. Twickenham Alive’s original interest was in reinstating boathouses on Twickenham Riverside. Initially we did not think a lido would fit into the site until we remembered the “court-yard” style lido.

We also thought funding would be an issue, but the lido company is willing to pay for, build and run the

lido. Following the Barefoot in 2010 Coun Pamela Fleming said: “This administration has promised to listen to local people and consider what they want before we make major decisions” and during the Twickenham Conference, Lord True reminded the audience he wanted to see the site handed over to the people and he wanted to hear the views of the community and push those forward.

TERESA READ
Twickenham

High tides at Richmond Bridge

Hammersmith Bridge 26 minutes earlier; Kew Bridge 12 minutes earlier

	time	ht.m	time	ht.m
Friday	1139	6.6		
Saturday	0001	6.4	1245	6.7
Sunday	0107	6.5	1347	6.8
Monday	0206	6.7	1441	6.9
Tuesday	0257	6.9	1528	7.0
Wednesday	0344	7.0	1611	7.0
Thursday	0429	7.1	1652	7.0
Friday	0512	7.1	1730	6.9

National Severe Weather Warning Service 01344 856264.
Floodline 0845 9881188.

The Port of London Authority (PLA), Bakers’ Hall, 7 Harp Lane, London EC3R 6LB.
020 7743 7900, portoflondon.co.uk. Environment Agency floodline information environment-agency.gov.uk/floodwarning.