



BACKGROUND

Twickenham Baths were closed in 1980. Since then there have been several schemes to redevelop the site, which failed for a variety of reasons. The local community has played an important role in opposing inappropriate development of the site, while recognising the need for some residential and commercial aspects.

With a track record in environmental conservation and education and nearly 25 years of experience in finding ways to open up the borough's heritage to the community, the Environment Trust, as leader of a consortium of river-related organisations and river users, was selected through the Twickenham Challenge competition as the council's partner to oversee the community-use element of the Twickenham riverside development.

The Environment Trust and its partners are committed to providing a distinctive and sustainable community-focused building of high architectural quality as part of the regeneration of the Twickenham riverside area.

FUNDING

The site for the River Centre will be leased from the council at a peppercorn rent.

The developer of the overall site will provide the shell for the building.

The Environment Trust will be responsible for the fitout of the building and, through a management organisation or charity, for the running of the River Centre when it is open.

City Bridge Trust has provided £91,000 in funding for project development costs over the next three years.

Further funding will be sought from other charitable trusts, the Landfill Communities Fund and local donors.

WHAT WILL THE RIVER CENTRE OFFER?

- **A centre for education** about the river and broader environment, climate change and sustainability for people of all ages and abilities, provided by Richmond Environment Network, Thames Explorer Trust, River Thames Boat Project, Richmond's Biodiversity Action Plan, Thames Landscape Strategy, and other organisations.
- **A "one-stop shop" offering practical information and news** about the River Thames, sustainability and climate change, along with exhibits by the organisations with responsibility for the Thames, and displays giving information on local water-based activities and clubs.
- **A hub for environmental volunteering**, a home for the Environment Trust, BTCV Richmond and Richmond Environment Network, a base for other environmental voluntary organisations, giving them access to mentoring, advice and equipment, and a centre for volunteer training.
- **A home for HANDS** (Help a Neighbour in Distress), a charity providing the elderly and housebound with support and opportunities for social interaction, and **Richmond Volunteer Centre**, matching individuals willing to give their time with organisations looking for support.
- **Multipurpose spaces** for the activities of all of the above and for many other local organisations, such as Twickenham Rowing Club, and events, such as the Twickenham Festival, as well as a children's **playground, public toilets and a café** open to everybody.
- **Permanent displays** about Twickenham's river heritage, linking it to river-based sites in the upper Thames, such as the Henley River & Rowing Museum, and the lower Thames, such as the Docklands Museum.
- **A boathouse**, providing public boat hire, maintenance and repair, practical boatbuilding courses, water safety training, rowing for the young and those with disabilities, work experience for young people, and small boat storage, with a **waterfront pontoon** to improve access to Twickenham from the river, encourage river use and enable a ferry service linking with Richmond and Teddington.
- All in a **flagship sustainable building**, showcasing "green" construction methods and wider sustainability issues.

