

[REDACTED]

From: Aidan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 13 March 2025 12:48
To: Richmond Local Plan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed Main Modifications to the Richmond upon Thames Local Plan

Categories: Consultation Response

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Sirs,

I read with alarm this morning of your intention to redefine the functional floodplain which would include Eel Pie Island.

My Mother [REDACTED] and I moved to the Island in [REDACTED] and she lived there unaffected by floods ever since. She passed away last [REDACTED] at the age of [REDACTED] having pursued careers both as a teacher at a local school, then later as a successful actress in films and television. In over forty years, she was never prevented from access or egress to the Island, and her house was never in danger of flooding, the nearest floodwater ever came was to the mainland foot of the footbridge.

My siblings and I are currently in the process of settling her estate. We have to sell our family home to cover death duties and inheritance tax; the proposed redefinition would cause us extreme hardship as it would make the property virtually impossible to sell at it's current market value.

Eel Pie Island has a colourful history and a diverse community including artists, sculptors, musicians, actors, architects, a retired submarine captain, it was the home to Trevor Baylis CBE and it is also the home to two of the last remaining boatyards on the River Thames. The proposal would have a devastating impact on that community and their businesses, making insuring or raising mortgages against their properties difficult if not impossible.

The plan doesn't make sense. I moved to Kent where an enormous amount of house building is currently happening including on genuine flood plains, for example the new development at Greenhithe, or Wharfside Close in Erith on the River Thames. Does The Peninsular at Greenwich attract the same attention bearing in mind it is on "land riverward of Thames Tidal Flood Defences"?

Eel Pie Island is currently defined as Flood Zone 3a and I respectfully request that you correct the errors in the local plan which define it differently.

Sincerely

Aidan Boulter

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Tel: [REDACTED]