

## **TWICKENHAM STATION PLANNING APPLICATION 18/1495/FUL**

### **RESPONSE BY FORCE**

Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) is a locally based charity with around 550 members. FORCE has a keen interest in the community and environmental value of the River Crane corridor through Twickenham and has taken an active interest in the development of the Twickenham Station site.

FORCE has promoted the development of a public access route alongside the river, and linking Twickenham Station with Moormead Park to the east, for the last ten years. FORCE is therefore very supportive in principle of the proposals put forward in this planning application. FORCE has the following comments on the detailed aspects of this proposal:

- FORCE is supportive of the meandering nature of the path as shown in the landscape plans. We are not familiar with the detail of the materials proposed. However, we have a strong preference for the path to be constructed in a comparable way to other paths in the lower Crane valley, with a loose Cotswold gravel type finish
- FORCE has a strong preference for the pathway to be accessible 24 hours per day as per most public use paths locally. At the least we would request that the woodland pathway to the boundary of the main site (at the public footbridge) is made accessible 24 hours per day – in which case it could be considered as a western extension to Moormead Park. This would also allow the removal of the unattractive fence which currently marks the boundary with Moormead
- FORCE would like to see the woodland walk part of the open space transferred into public ownership and considered as an extension to the existing park. In our view this would simplify the management and operation of the open space as a part of the park
- FORCE is part of the Lower Crane Restoration working group, alongside LB Richmond and LB Hounslow, Environment Agency, Crane Valley Partnership and the Friends of Moormead Park and others. This group has commissioned a feasibility study for restoring the lower Crane between Kneller Gardens in Twickenham and Northcote Nature Reserve in LB Hounslow, including the Twickenham Station site and Moormead Park. This group has identified the western end of Moormead Park as a key opportunity area for large scale river restoration. This project will interface with the woodland walk detailed design as it moves forwards

FORCE is already engaged in discussions with the Twickenham Station developers and design team as well as the council parks department. A FORCE volunteer day is proposed for the site on 11<sup>th</sup> November, working together with site contractors. We welcome further engagement with the scheme as it moves forwards.