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From Denis Browne, Chairman,

At Chatham House,  
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Tel: 020 8560 7548  
8 July 2009

Dear Gross Max,

**Thames Landscape in Brentford.**

BCC462

It was good to meet you at the TLS party in Syon House yesterday and to hear that you have been appointed both to prepare a master plan for Kew Gardens and for TLS in Brentford.

I very much look forward to working with you and I hope you will feel that we are here to help as far as we can.

**The BCC.**

It might help if I said whom we are. The Brentford Community Council was set up in 1989 to provide a focus for all local issues in this part of Hounslow (from Kew Bridge to west of Syon Park and up to the Ealing boundary. The Planning Consultative Committee, which I have chaired for many years, is currently the focus of BCC activity. We have been meeting monthly and advising Hounslow Council on the innumerable plans and applications for Brentford and our unpaid and limited skills have been increasingly respected as we have participated in the planning process including many appeals.

The key people you should meet include Nigel Moore, who lives and works on the river, Matthew Rockel, who runs a small development company and Chris Richards a skilled local architect. I am myself a "retired architect/planner who was Head of Planning Departments (the London Boroughs of Islington and Hammersmith) and I now run a small family practice here. I was for 20 years also chairman of the TLS Community Advisory Group working with Jason.

**Brentford.**

The key document is the Brentford Area Action Plan. It sets the strategy for Brentford development and gives some ( but not enough) guidance which could, and we think should, lead to clear planning briefs for all the major sites.

There is no overall urban design strategy and so densities and heights have been arrived at by negotiation, through repeated applications/refusals/appeals. Currently many sites, where appeals have gone against the developer, are currently subject to new applications or the skirmishes common at pre-application stage.

**Albany House.**

One such (relatively small site opposite the Brentford gate to Kew Gardens) is Albany House) which will be on our agenda on Thursday July 16. It could be important as it is opposite Lots Ait (where the derelict boat yard should be re-opened) and it lies between Goat Wharf (now for sale) and the Watermans Arts Centre (eventually to be re-located in the new town centre). These three sites make up most of the river frontage between the completed Ferry Quays site and Watermans Park. We believe proposals for each site should be in the context of a master plan which includes the river walk which is here reduced to narrow passages within water edge buildings.

**Current Position.**

If you look at your plan for Brentford you will note the following sites where important decisions are being made.

Scottish Widows Kew Bridge.	9 flr residential	application to Cttee on Aug 3. Officers Expected to recommend approval.
Lionel Road	20,000 stadium Fountains Centre, + 2 hotels + conf Centre + 1000 flats	Council support scheme in principal developer reviewing viability. Local concern
The Hollows	Riverside walk	No proposals.
Watermans Park	Efforts to improve moorings failed	
Thames Water	16 flr residential	Has planning consent. Work not started.
Holland Gdns British Gas site	11 flr residential	Complete
Watermans Art Centre	Funding problems Hope to move To town Centre and be re-financed.	Possibility that costs of relocation would require over-development of site.
Albany House	1 <sup>st</sup> scheme rejected On appeal for over- Development. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Scheme being Discussed.	Access poor, building onto river wall incorporating river walk in gallery.
Goat Wharf	For sale	

Ferry Quays	Scheme recently complete Except for Lots Ait and Restaurant on promontory	
Heidelberg	Riverside walk isolated	
Town Centre	Ballymore (major developers) Have purchased sites + options But no timetable for design	
Commerce Road	Isis team (will be at July 16 mtg) have just appointed Master Plan team.	1 <sup>st</sup> scheme (15 flr residential/ commercial failed on appeal

In addition there are several schemes (including the former Alfa Laval site and tower) away from the river which will affect the urban design/traffic etc context which are in the planning pipeline.

**July 16 Meeting.**

This is likely to be a small group with a big agenda (draft attached) The presentation on 2 Kew Bridge road at 7.15 is for an infill site near Kew Bridge. I think Albany House will come up about 8pm.

The meeting will be on the first floor of the Methodist Church rooms in Clifden Road opposite the old baths. Clifden Road is off the junction of Boston Manor Road and Windmill Road.

I hope this gives you some background. If you decide to come on July 16 or on another occasion you will be most welcome.

Yours sincerely

Denis Browne  
Chairman, Planning Consultative Committee  
BCC

Cc to Jason Debney, Keith Garner, Nigel Moore, Matthew Rockel and Chris Richards.