

Moormead Cricket Club

Official Club Response to Thames Water TDRA Scheme

November 2023

For the Urgent Attention Of

Thames Water Utilities Ltd
Save Our Lands And River

Cc

The Right Honourable Munira Wilson MP (Twickenham)
Cllr Gareth Roberts (Leader of the Council - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames)
Cllr Katie Mansfield (St Margaret's and North Twickenham)
Friends of Moormead

MMCC Committee Represented by

T Bird - Chair
J Bishop – Club Secretary & Senior Coach
G Walker – Joint Head Coach
J Dean – Joint Head Coach
M Wills – Treasurer & Commercial
A Bryson – Girls Cricket Champion
J Scott – All Stars & Dynamos Lead / Coach Recruitment
R McAlpine – Welfare Officer

info@moormeadcc.co.uk
www.moormeadcc.co.uk

Contents

1 - Purpose Statement	Page 3
2 - About Our Club	Page 3
3 - Key Achievements	Page 4
4 - Our Positive Impact on the Community	Page 5
5 - Overview of Concerns Regarding Thames Water	Page 7
6 - Our Concerns Regarding the Choice of Location	Page 8
7 - Our Concerns Over Safeguarding & Welfare	Page 10
8 - TDRA's Detrimental Effect on the Club	Page 11
9 - Site Maps	Page 13
10 - Conclusion	Page 15
Appendix	

1 - Purpose Statement

The purpose of this document is for us, Moormead Cricket Club, to express our unequivocal opposition to the Thames Water TDRA scheme which poses an existential threat to our very existence.

We believe Moormead Recreational Ground to be an incredibly poor choice of location for a major infrastructure project and we state our reasons below.

As a club, and as individuals, we are deeply concerned Thames Water has not properly considered all the available options or the unprecedented disruption this scheme will have on child safety, the environment and recreational activity in the area.

2 - About Our Club

Nurturing a love for cricket and fostering community spirit

The club is a non-profit volunteer operated organisation that was established in 2017 via our passion for providing inclusive and accessible cricket-based sporting opportunities for children of all abilities in the local community. Our mission is to foster a love for cricket while promoting physical activity, mental well-being, and the development of essential life skills.



3 - Key Achievements

The club has established itself as a leading force in promoting cricket in the local community, earning accolades for its commitment to excellence and its positive impact on young lives. The club's notable achievements include:

- ClubMark accreditation by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Middlesex County Cricket Club: This recognition underscores the club's adherence to the highest standards of cricket coaching and development.
- ECB All Stars Club of the Year: Moormead Cricket Club's exceptional efforts in introducing young children to the sport has been recognised with this prestigious award which was presented at Lords (see picture below).
- MJCA CCC Spirit of Cricket Award: The club's unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of fair play, sportsmanship, and respect both on and off the field has been commended with this award.
- Delivering Middlesex's largest ever girls cricket event with 110 girls and their families enjoying a fun festival of cricket on Moormead.
- Securing ECB funding for a new artificial cricket strip/wicket in 2019.



4 - Our Positive Impact on the Community

The club's impact extends far beyond the cricket pitch, positively influencing the lives of children and the wider community. These contributions include:

- **Engaging Over 300 Children:** Our vibrant programs provide opportunities for over 300 children to participate in cricket, fostering a passion for the sport and promoting physical activity.
- **Projected Growth:** With an anticipated annual growth of 10%, the club is poised to reach 500 participants by 2028, expanding its positive impact on the community.
- **Engaging Families and Community Members:** The club actively engages around 450-500 parents, carers, and extended family members, strengthening community bonds and fostering a sense of belonging.
- **Promoting Girls' Cricket:** The club is a big champion for girls' cricket, providing dedicated programs, a supportive environment, and a commitment to inclusivity, encouraging more females to embrace the sport.

The club is active year-round with coaching sessions, net practice, matches and programmes on Moormead from April through to September, plus winter nets and training.

We deliver two of the English Cricket Board's national programmes **All Stars** for children aged 4-7 and **Dynamos** for kids aged 8-11. We orchestrate competitive matches as part of a structured cricket programme from Under 9s to Under 14s in Middlesex Cricket Junior leagues.

Our programmes and teams are open to all, but we also run sessions and teams specifically for girls to drive engagement and participation.



The club has made a significant impact on the lives of its participants, becoming an integral part of the local community's social fabric and its positive influence is evident in the numerous benefits it provides to its young members:

- **Physical Activity:** Cricket promotes an active lifestyle, encouraging physical fitness and overall health.
- **Mental Well-being:** Participation in sports enhances mental well-being by reducing stress, promoting self-esteem, and fostering a sense of belonging.
- **Sporting Endeavor:** We provide a platform for developing cricketing skills, encouraging sportsmanship, and fostering a passion for the game.
- **Motor Skills Development:** Cricket enhances motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and overall physical dexterity.
- **Relationship-Building Skills:** We promote teamwork, communication, and the ability to build strong relationships.
- **Resilience and Adaptability:** Cricket teaches young people how to handle success and failure gracefully, developing resilience and adaptability.
- **Enhanced Self-confidence:** Participation in cricket boosts self-confidence, self-esteem, and a positive self-image.

Cricket at the club, and across the world, is an exciting game that encourages participation, leadership, friendship, and teamwork. It brings together people from different nationalities, cultures, and religions. It teaches people how to compete, win and lose in the right way.

5 - Overview of Concerns Regarding Thames Water

Thames Water's appearance at the park is already a highly contentious issue given the raw sewage leak that occurred by the children's play area in July 2023. It took Thames Water a number of days to react to the emergency at the peak of our cricket season. The park reeked and a section was cordoned off for almost a month.



Add in the well documented and appalling sewage leaks into our local water ways and it becomes easy to understand why the levels of trust are at an all-time low.

The information initially offered about the scheme was generally accepted to be of mediocre quality with confusion rife over the purpose of the project and why South-West Londoners were implicated in a Lea Valley drought resilience scheme.

The consultation feels unduly complicated, and the public are being asked to provide objective feedback without Thames Water providing meaningful information relating to the impact on our daily lives. Residents are being urged to choose preferred locations rather than be able to object to them outright. In a quest for clarity, MMCC posed a series of questions to Thames Water in preparation of this document and the responses were vague and inconclusive on almost every level. See Appendix.

Latterly, in the eyes of the local public, the consultation has become besmirched by Thames Water claims that staff, who had their own security present, plus local Police, were endangered and subsequently injured during a protest from the other side of some double glazing by predominantly pensioners. This resulted in accusations of 'intimidation' by Thames Water and a withdrawal from attending a public consultation at York House in Twickenham.

The back-drop to this whole process is sadly that a large proportion of local residents believe Thames Water are a poorly run company, saddled with debt and simply not to be trusted.

6 - Our Concerns Regarding the Choice of Location

Thames Water describe Moormead as “low value grassland”. We disagree with this. It is a cherished space regularly used by thousands of people who enjoy the children’s playground, exercising, dog walking, cricket, football, running, touch rugby, tennis, personal training, the outdoor gym, the short-cut through to Twickenham station, the excellent annual St Margaret’s Fair, and last, but not least, school PE lessons. Moormead is used plentifully and is the epicentre of the community’s love of the outdoors.

It is our view that Moormead Park has not been diligently assessed and has been selected by Thames Water without the care and attention that our club and local residents deserve. There are numerous documented errors and omissions -

- Failure to mark the children’s play area proximity to the shaft site options.
- A complete lack of understanding of the recreational space needed to play a cricket match.
- The omission of the hard standings used for cricket nets.
- The mention of a football pitch which has not existed for seven years.
- The local railway station being labelled as St Margaret’s in Hertfordshire.

The Moormead site proposals are unfair and unacceptable. The alternative to the Thames Water preferred Option 1 is a second choice that merely builds off the total destruction of the first one. Both proposed options are confined entirely within a public recreational space and unfortunately both are park destroyers. Option 2 is listed as CODE RED from a planning feasibility perspective so ostensibly takes itself off the list anyway.

Geographically, the park is hemmed in by a weak bridge built in 1902, narrow Victorian roads, protected trees, the River Crane and a railway line. It is not viable for a large-scale project. Generally, there is terrible vehicle access via the bridge and tiny roads that are unsuitable for commercial transit. We assume local access will be compromised by the prospect of a temporary bridge and the high level of HGVs required for the scheme. We also assume that numerous parking spaces and signage will be lost on Hill View Road where is already a morning traffic calming restriction on this street from 0730 hours to reduce congestion.

The industrial estate in Drummond Place relies on access via Hill View Road and encounters significant difficulties with local residents over vehicle access. Approaching from East to West even medium sized vans and lorries cannot easily pass cars parked on the kink in Broadway Avenue. From the West, bigger vehicles

have problems getting over Moor Mead Bridge into Hill View Road, then struggle to turn right onto Moor Mead Rd and into the industrial estate.

The TDRA scheme brings to Moormead very real child safety concerns with regard to road safety and reduced air quality. Locals have long battled with pollutants from the A316, in fact the nearest school, St Stephens CofE Primary School on Winchester Road, felt compelled to implement specific apparatus around its boundary to protect pupils and staff from the poor air quality. There is no doubt that dust, soil, dirt and airborne pollutants from the project's vehicles and machinery will have a detrimental effect on air quality around the vicinity.

The risks involved in building a HGV access road through a park and next to a children's play area are far clearer to residents than those who conceived the concept.

The location will be transformed from the peaceful open land we all currently enjoy into a large-scale construction site that will impinge on every aspect of the park's existing use. There will be unprecedented disruption to all recreational activity. The assessments undertaken locally have repeatedly highlighted grave concerns for the safety of the public, particularly children, should the park remain open during the ongoing work. We simply cannot see how the park is going to be safe for our kids.

7 - Our Concerns Over Safeguarding & Welfare

Moormead Cricket Club firmly believes that the proposed TDRA project directly contradicts the principles of the ECB's Safe Hands safeguarding protocol.

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/safeguarding/policies-and-procedures>

Our club, which adheres to this protocol, believes that the increased HGV movements and construction activities within a functioning park create an unacceptable level of risk.

We are a community-based cricket organisation committed to providing safe and inclusive sporting opportunities for children, and it is our view that the TDRA project introduces a multitude of hazards that threaten the safety of our children and undermine the club's efforts to provide a safe and secure environment for young cricketers.

The risk of accidents involving children is exacerbated by the unpredictable movements of HGVs operating in a public space. The reduction in air quality is also a huge concern with the presence of vehicle fumes, soil, dirt and dust particles being unavoidable in the construction environment.

Moreover, the construction site itself presents potential hazards such as exposure to unsecured materials which pose a significant risk to children's safety. Any lapse in proper supervision and safety measures at the construction site could easily lead to accidents.

8 - TDRA's Detrimental Effect on the Club

The proposal would have a significant negative impact on the club.

The construction site will encroach on the pitch and render use of the remaining land a health and safety risk. Our ability to secure the necessary insurance we need to function as a club will be nigh on impossible. Children will be exposed to enormous safety risks that could not be mitigated, and the club exposed to significant financial liabilities in the event of an accident or injury.

As a result, the club will be unable to offer cricket to new or existing members for the duration of the proposal. Therefore, no new players will join the club and progress through the ECB programmes that have been designed to develop kids towards playing the game competitively in full matches. Impact will be felt in the years leading up to the work commencing as parents/carers will see little point in bedding their children into a club that will be forced to close within a short period of time.

Most worryingly these children may just not start playing cricket at all and will miss out on the widely accepted physical and mental wellbeing benefits of social sport.

We expect to see an exodus of existing children from the club due to our inability to provide training, ECB programmes or matches during this period. It is a fair assumption that most of these players will not return to the club, or worst still leave the sport, as no child likes to be uprooted to a new environment for no good reason.

The development of the club has involved huge sacrifice and investment from members of the community. Momentum and participant numbers have built year-on-year and parent/carer feedback is consistently excellent. TDRA will stop this in its tracks, and once momentum is lost it will be almost impossible to regain to the same level.

The ongoing project to fundraise for practice nets on Moormead would be severely limited thus extending the negative legacy of project, as the club's ability to provide additional safe and enjoyable practice capacity for the children would be delayed indefinitely. Thames Water propose an HGV access road across the section of the park where the hard standings for nets are situated. It sounds farcical but children would have to run across the HGV road to bowl into the nets.

It is our expectation that income from membership subscriptions and sponsorship will fall to zero if the proposal goes ahead putting the club in a perilous financial position, ultimately forcing the club to close. We are a well-run club but we are predominantly funded by the subscriptions of our members, plus a small sponsorship that covers kit, and the occasional donation. We certainly do not have the financial capability to allow zero income to flow through.

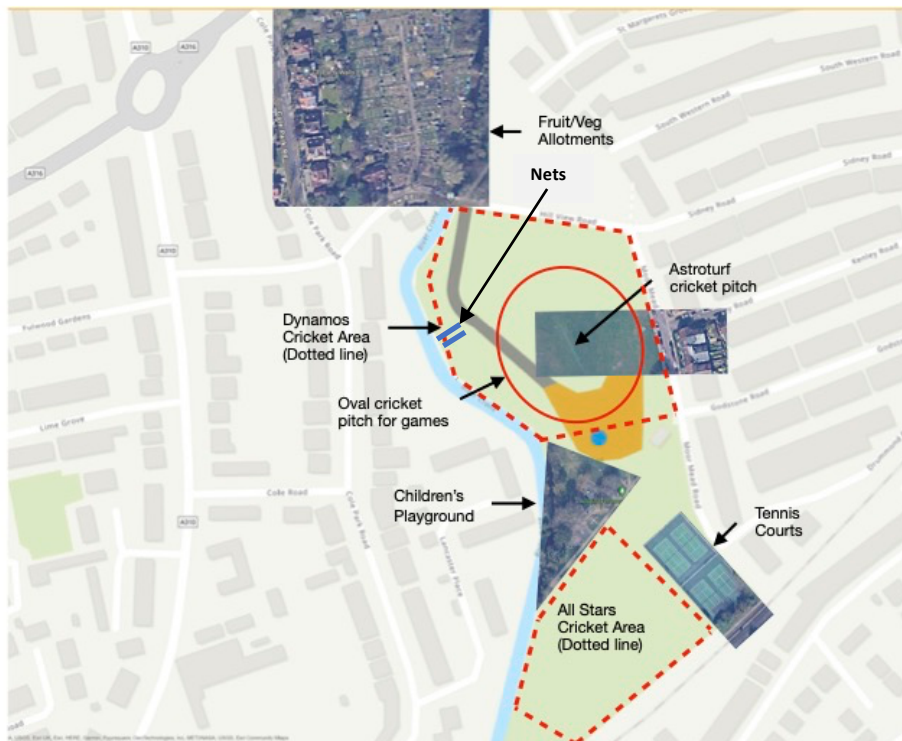
We rely on our artificial pitch to play matches. We cannot simply up sticks and move - we need a regular pitch we can call our home. You can't play cricket next to a construction site – despite the road safety concerns, cricket is a game that requires nuance and excellent communication between the team captain and his or her fielding side and between those batting together. In addition, the lack of pitch size allocation offered on the site options to play the cricket matches is an embarrassment to the sport. Nobody will want to play a fixture there.

In addition to the damage this scheme will inflict on Moormead CC, it will have a wide-reaching impact on the cohesion of the local community, particularly when the impact is multiplied across school PE lessons and other junior sports clubs at the park such as Moor Mead FC, Twickenham Saints and Moor Mead Junior ParkRun.

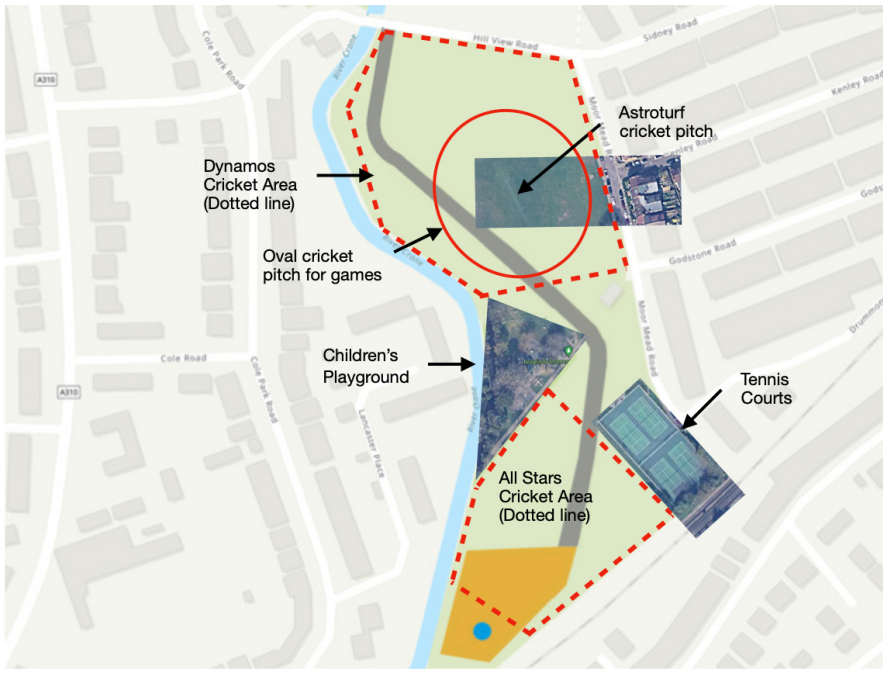
9 – Site Map

Please see below Option 1 and Option 2 site maps. These show where our club uses the park space and the associated areas of risk when the access road and construction site intersects with junior sport.

Moormead Site Option 1



Moormead Site Option 2



10 - Conclusion

We believe this project is an existential threat to Moormead Cricket Club and the many benefits it brings to children in the vicinity. We provide an invaluable service by providing a safe and enjoyable place for children to play cricket, thereby helping to develop their physical and social skills, and providing them with a sense of belonging.

It is our firm belief that the TDRA scheme will cause damage to the environment, destroy our vibrant recreational community, and most relevantly significantly increase the risk of injury and harm to our children. Our club stands committed to developing junior cricket and safeguarding the well-being of everybody connected to our pitch at Moormead where we will continue to advocate for the safe enjoyment of sport.

We urge Thames Water and the relevant authorities to reconsider the proposed construction project and to explore alternative solutions that do not compromise the safety of our wider community and will not deny children their right to a safe recreational space.

The notion of keeping the park open in tandem with a major infrastructure construction site and an access road a few metres away from a children's play area, plus maintaining public park use alongside cricket, football, ParkRun, school PE lessons and the St Margaret's Fair in our opinion is quite frankly ridiculous.

The well-being of our younger generation must remain a top priority, and we must ensure that they can enjoy their time at the park without fear of harm.

Thank you.

MMCC, November 2023.

APPENDIX

TDRA responses to seven questions posed on November 5th 2023

Thank you for your email. The project team have responded to your queries below in blue. We'd like to encourage you to respond to the consultation by completing our online questionnaire at <https://ipsos.uk/TDRA>, or emailing TDRA@ipsos.com. You could also write to us at Freeport TDRA consultation.

1 - are the TDRA team aware there was a significant sewage leak a few months ago next the child's play area in the park? Some residents, kids and dogs ended up traipsing through raw sewage. What is the likelihood of significant ground works causing this to happen again?

- Thank you for letting us know. As part of our assessment work over the next two years we will be investigating the potential relationship between our works and any existing infrastructure, both above and below ground. This will allow our site, construction and development design to take these issues on board as we prepare our planning application.

2 - are TW aware that aside from the numerous sports clubs that use the park, a few local schools use Moormead Park for their PE lessons. The closest is St Stephen's Primary School who walk the young children in to the park along the path from the end of St Margaret's Grove and onto the grass area where Thames Water are proposing HGV access. What are the Health & Safety considerations required to allow the school PE lessons to still take place during your proposed construction period?

- As part of our selection of sites and development of site design we will be liaising with existing users of sites to establish appropriate site footprints and controls during the use of those sites. This will include measures to ensure the safe movement of vehicles. This work will be progressed during 2024 and 2025 to inform our planning application.

3 - are Thames Water able to clarify why the preferred option right in the middle of Moormead Park is better than the alternative option which isn't in the middle of the park? It seems counter intuitive to prefer an option that causes the maximum amount of disruption to a public area. It can't be because of transport as both options propose to drive through the middle of the park. Some clarity on this would probably help locals understand why (what appears to be) the more disruptive 'Option A' is preferred.

- Our conclusions at page 57 of our site appraisal report sets out our reasons. If there are other issues that you feel should be considered we would welcome your feedback on these as part of the consultation process.

4 - why is it not possible to use vehicle access via the industrial estate on Drummond Place which already caters for large vehicles? It is possible to use a road that is presumably comfortable with large vehicles rather than drive right through the centre of the park?

- Thank you for this suggestion. We will review this as part of the outcomes of the consultation process and as we prepare our approach to EIA Scoping for Spring 2024.

5 - are Thames Water aware that vehicles are not allowed down Hill View Road on weekday mornings from 0730hrs - this restriction is to alleviate rush hour congestion. Is the plan to move vehicles before 0730hrs which might be antisocial, or only start driving vehicles through the middle of the park after the restricted hours?

- At this stage our construction methodology, and associated site and delivery hours have not yet been developed. These will be reviewed and prepared as an initial intended approach to inform our EIA Scoping process for Spring 2024, and will take account of local restrictions.

6 - is the bridge over the River Crane on Hill View Road safe and suitable for HGVs turning right onto the grass? I believe it's 125 years old.

- The age of and weight restrictions associated with the River Crane bridge on Hill View Road have informed our appraisal of the use of the site and continue to be reviewed as part of preparing our EIA Scoping Report for submission in Spring 2024.

7 - are TW aware that the surrounding area and proximity to the A316 already suffers from poor air quality. Local schools have felt compelled to invest in infrastructure to improve air quality for their pupils and staff. Will the Thames Water construction vehicles and machinery add to the local air pollutants in any way?

- Impacts from the project in respect of air quality have been identified and will form part of a detailed assessment for all sites selected following the close of the consultation.

ENDS