

TO >> Derek Dudek LAHC - Chair and LAHC Committee Members

Please consider the following from a long time Londoner who has both a passion for the Forks of The Thames and have attended 2 of the 3 public " engagement " meetings on the Back to The River Project Phase 1 - Forks to the Dam scope.

Background

1. Clarity - I have no issues related to the decommissioning options outlined for the Springbank dam and look forward to both Londoners and Council 's direction on selection of the best option within the budget envelope .
2. I ask the LAHC Committee at this meeting to fully and completely discard any public feedback numbers supporting the selection of the " Ribbon on the Thames " options as biased from this EA Study as the public feedback forms offered up these meetings I and many other Londoners attended , only allowing feedback on which " iteration " of the Ribbon they would prefer and never provided an option to select " DO NOTHING " . Oddly - this do nothing selection criteria was offered up to all on the Decommissioning of the Dam feedback forms. I submitted an E - Mail outlining my Ribbon choice as do nothing to the Back to the River team , but have never was able to locate that in the public feedback content - MS Rammecco can confirm all # 2 point.

Offering Up Visions - My Forks of The Thames

- There is no other site in London that offers up a completely unobstructed view of the Thames River as our forefathers saw it other than the Forks of the Thames . This view offers the all season character of this Canadian Heritage River , the hues of the sunsets looking west to Wharncliffe Rd down river , the dynamics of the ice flow breakup in the spring all from almost any view line on a bike or walking in the public pathways and park areas . These views offer up London's culture and heritage viewing Labatts Park , the iron workers bridge over Ridout Street and glimpses of the historic Black Friars neighborhood .
- The proposed " Ribbon on the Thames " would block these currently unobstructed views from many and most angles in these public areas and would seriously disrupt the current ambiance of what I and many others seek when stopping to take in the views at the forks as our forefathers built out London but always preserved this area.
- LAHC needs to consider the following parallels . Would the Village of Peggy's Cove approve an elevated pedestrian causeway at or near the shoreline blocking the same historic views respected by others from behind this causeway ? Would the City of Paris allow the construction of an elevated " Ribbon of the Eiffel Tower " ring for better viewing & selfies ? Would the US Nation Parks Commission allow the build out of a " Ribbon on the Rushmore " to improve the viewing of the stone carvings of the four presidents ? Closer to London and my home - Kyle Gonyou - City of London Heritage Team makes it abundantly clear what he would do to me as a homeowner in Bishop Hellmuth district if I were to " clad " the front facade of my home to save energy and block the historic ambience/ view . (Its not pleasant)
- Ask yourself as a LAHC team , how is this " Ribbon on the Thames " significantly different then any of the scenarios outlined above ? I'm absolutely certain that if Mr Henry Cary - Golder & ASSOC was on the other side of the pay cheque in this project , he could offer up far more " no go " examples than I have (I called him and offered up my very public opinion)

Recommendation - Please consider the above input and offer up a recommendation to this Back to The River Team and Council that preserves what we have at the forks.

THXS - Chris Butler - 863 Waterloo St