

Ham and Petersham Ward Community Conversation

Date: 30th Sept 2021

Time:

6.30-8.00pm

Venue: Zoom

AGENDA:

Agenda Item One: Update from Councillors

Agenda Item Two: Presentation (on video/Slides shared with attendees)

Agenda Item Three: Key theme breakout discussion groups

Agenda Item Four: Open floor questions

Ward members in attendance

Cllr. Penny Frost (Ham and Petersham, Richmond Riverside ward)

Chair of the Education and Children's Services Committee

Cllr. Andree Frieze (Ham and Petersham, Richmond Riverside ward)

Deputy Leader of the Green Party Group

Cllr. Gareth Richards (Ham and Petersham, Richmond Riverside ward)

Cycling Champion

Chair: Paul Clement, independent

Agenda Item One: Update from Councillors

Headline Topic: Ward Achievements	
Councillor	Achievements
Cllr Frost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teddington Lock – funding for refurbishment secured, but waiting for next financial year to start • Fencing being dismantled on Teddington Lock Island • Police surveying lock area • Grass verges grown for bio-diversity, but wet weather has resulted in rapid growth. Some verges have become too high and residents cannot see clearly when coming out of their driveways onto the road • Emergency double yellow line temporarily on Ham Gate Avenue when the gates were closed to the Park. car parking charges in Richmond Park may also create a parking problem on the Avenue.
Cllr Frieze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Ham Gate Avenue a letter was sent to all residents on Church Road to Latchmere Avenue in relating to parking issues. • Church Road to Upper Ham Road has had smooth tarmac path laid, as there had been issues with pedestrians waling in the road as the previous path was difficult to negotiate. Church Road to Ham Farm Road has also been re-laid.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ham Polo Club applying for new equestrian track, keeping a check on the planning application. They are getting rid of the previous track as made up of plastics, but the Environmental Department want to ensure correct disposal of the plastics. • Electrical charging points have been requested and the possibility of paving over driveways to allow for charging cars from home. There have been issues with allowing for a drop curb for access as many of the Ham drives are not sufficiently wide to allow for a drop kerb. You can go online to request charging points for your road and they are allocated according to demand levels. • Ham Close regeneration is progressing with a recent visit to Rectory Park in Northolt as an example of good practice in new social builds. On the 19th/20th November there is a further consultation at St Andrew's Church.
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Agenda item two: development of High Streets/shopping parades and the Local Plan

<p>High Street Rejuvenation</p>	<p>Paul Clement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of High Streets has had its ups and downs, but current changes are unique due to the Covid 19 pandemic. • The pandemic has had a devastating impact on business and sped up the evolution of the High St. • In the last 18 months there has been an opening up of the local neighbourhood and reconnection with the values of local community. • People have been travelling less and appreciating their local services. • People's lifestyles have changed with hybrid working and thereby spending more time in the local area moving away for out-of-town retail options. • The Homogeneous High Street is breaking down. • Points of difference have become more important appreciating independents and living/working closer to their local offer. • The Council's part is to provide leadership and a plan of action for business, but they cannot solve all the problems. <p>The Council Partnership Conference in May 2021 came away with 5 key themes for the development of the High St:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People wanted town centres to be a destination point 2. People wanted walkable/pedestrianised, green spaces in their High Streets. 3. People wanted a more balanced usage in town centres – including civic uses 4. The local authority needs to have a creative approach to town planning and repurposing spaces
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	5. Need for digital offer on the High St – embracing mobile revolution
Local Plan Presentation	Grace Crannis talked through the current consultation on the Richmond Local Plan that offers a detailed outline for local development. Presentation is available on the Community Conversation website page of the Richmond Council website. www.richmond.gov.uk

Agenda item three: Key themes arising from discussion groups

Theme Retail / Hospitality	Group's Key Comments
Suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for under cover shopping due to inclement weather • Need for shops to be open in the evenings and weekends to improve the offer of Ham, need for anchor shop to attract shoppers • Community ownership of Ham Parade developing from Ham Market, so that local people can set rents/business charges • Zero waste shop/refillable shop – Ashburnham Parade? • Café spill out onto St Richards Square, Ashburnham Road – homeworkers community spot • Need encouragement for start-up businesses with lower rents/co-operative approach Some of the shops away from the Parade are rather isolated and have safety concerns ie Ashburnham Rd parade, Ham Street parade Use empty shops for charities or young people's provision • Need for Post Office/bank
Existing positives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local shops excellent for necessities, hardware shop seen as particularly valuable, but main shop and evening restaurants in Kingston or Richmond town centres • Independent bookshop and delicatessen on Ham Parade are invaluable • People use the local shops because they can park – Tesco's car park/street parking • Ham Market offers quality goods although rather more expensive

Theme Leisure / Arts / Cultural Events	Group's Key Comments
Suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for updated youth provision, design an app to link up provision for young people • Bands in the evening, licensed music premises • Integrated health service on one site – GP/health checks etc • Soft play café in Ashburnham Parade, similar to Teddington • Place to sit where people can chat, rather than just transactional

<p>Existing positives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinema/big screen on the Common/gaming area for young people/basketball • Wild swimming in the reservoir/youth provision to detract from issues at Teddington Lock • Underused current playground, turn into skate park • Art installation to attract visitors • Outdoor heated pool in the vicinity of Ham • More destination restaurants in the area/evening opening of cafes • Ham Fair is very successful and a real draw to the area, need more festivals like this • Le Bistro café is a social hub
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<p>Theme Transport and Traffic</p>	<p>Group's Key Comments</p>
<p>Suggestions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More bike parking/storage • Active travel link from Ham Parade to Ham Common – well-lit and also Petersham Rd. cycleway needs to well-lit for the Winter months, lit way to Ham House for cyclists • Connectivity to Richmond from Ham is not great, Kingston is easier • Don't remove current car parking – especially needed by elderly • Pedestrians are in danger crossing to the common because of parked cars • Ham Parade is dominated by cars and traffic – pedestrianize • Electric shuttle to Richmond town centre, with stops on the way • Towards Russell School in Petersham need for one way system to alleviate congestion/danger created around German School/Russell School (also creates danger in Meadlands Ave with overspill of parking) • Twickenham link bridge from Ham? • Businesses use cargo bikes instead of Deliveroo etc • Petersham by-pass? • Something to separate the main seating areas from road – green screen

<p>Theme Look and Feel</p>	<p>Group's Key Comments</p>
<p>Suggestions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More aesthetic bins/recycling bins • More seating areas and place to gather • Landscape the pavements • Need public toilets in Ham • Green area near crossroads at Ham Parade needs improving

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term planting to be sustainable • Bins near Sainsbury's (Ham Parade) need improving/removing due to excessive fly tipping • Water fountains
Existing positives	Retailers are making a real effort to improve the look of the area

Agenda item four – Open floor questions

Headline Topic	Attract more food/drink/restaurants to the local area
Cllr Frieze	There is a need to do more, but has not been discussed locally
Cllr Frost	Ham and Petersham, Richmond Riverside recognised need for more mental health facilities for young people. Potential at grey Court to offer Off the Record counselling services and at Ham Youth Centre. Need for young people to get more involved in open spaces and conservation activities.
Cllr Frieze	Need to stop using cars and thereby reducing air pollution, but the Borough still has the highest ownership of cars in London. There is an increase in cycling, but often club cycling which has seen some abusive behaviour and clashes of road users with the public realm areas. BMX track needs developing, and provision of basketball court would be good. The Beaufort Road football pitch needs upgrading.
Cllr Richards	Changes are needed due to the decarbonisation global programme, preference to public transport and active travel. Need for reduction of car ownership through the younger generation leading the change.
Headline Topic	Teddington voted best place to live in London
Question 2	Simon Kavanagh: What can we learn from Teddington which has been voted the best place to live in London?
Response	Cllr Frost: Teddington does have a wide array of independent shops including clothes shops and has a large stretch of shopping areas, but it is also the most expensive place to buy property. Ham was originally an affordable area, but now young people are being priced out of the area. There is a need for more social housing in the area. Chair: But has there been improvement due to the gentrification?
Headline Topic	Lack of Toilets
Question 3	Lack of public toilets in the Ham and Petersham area
Response	Cllr. Frieze: The Royal Parks are due to reopen the public toilets at Ham Gate with pressure applied by the local Councillors and MP. The New Inn is part of the Community Toilet Scheme but building a new public toilet provision is very unlikely. Other businesses have joined the Community Toilet Scheme such as Costa, Studio 123 and L'Amandine Café.
Headline Topic	– electric car charging points
Response	Cllr.Richards: third party contractors build charging points and are less inclined to build in Ham Michael Walker (Resident): Currently can only charge electric car at home, but not on the High St which is off-putting for electric car ownership Cllr Frost: At the Council Meeting last Tuesday there was a discussion of making charging points in existing lampposts, but this was problematic in Ham due to the location of lampposts/driveways etc. Why are so many cars needed per household?

	<p>Mr Chester (resident): the inadequacies of the the charging points and the fact that there is only 4 lamppost charging points in Ham compared to larger provision in Kew and Barnes. Riverside Drive would be ideal with lampposts near the road and generally there is less parking there. Networks should be keen to put charging points in the High St.</p> <p>Cllr Frieze: Cllr Frost/Frieze raised the proposal of Riverside Drive at the Council meeting but told there was no commercial interest in Riverside Drive.</p>
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