

# Richmond Partnership Bulletin

Richmond  
upon  
Thames

Richmond  
Partnership

October 2015

The Richmond Partnership brings together the public, private and voluntary and community sectors to improve the quality of life for all those who live, work or visit the borough. Published monthly the Richmond Partnership Bulletin provides an update on the work of partners, links to more information and resources and highlights areas for action.

## On the agenda

### 1. Rugby World Cup 2015

Partners and residents are reminded that during the Rugby World Cup, the borough is home to 10 matches and this runs from 18 September to 31 October 2015. If you want to find out more about the business impact and the community impact of the tournament, as well as keep up with regular tweets, visit the Council's webpage [here](#)

### 2. Have your say on Village Planning for St Margarets, Richmond and East Twickenham

Have your say on the future look and feel of East Twickenham, Richmond and St Margarets, by taking part in the next stage of Richmond Council's Village Plans project. A number of consultations have been held throughout 2015 to collate information from residents about their local area, particularly key areas of interest, particular features and what residents would like to see improved. All the information gathered through the consultation, has now been incorporated into draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). These documents contain the vision for the area and planning guidance that the Council, residents, and other land owners should take into account when considering development proposals or making

planning applications in these three areas. Residents will soon be asked to review the draft SPDs and give their views before they are formally adopted early next year. An online public consultation will also be launched on 9 October on the Council's [consultation webpages](#). In addition, drop in sessions will give residents an opportunity to view and discuss the documents with Council officers & these will be held in:

- St Margarets and East Twickenham - Sunday 11 October, 10am and 4pm at Twickenham Studios
- Richmond - Saturday 7 November, 10am to 4pm at Duke Street Church

The deadline for comments will be Friday 20 November 2015. For more information on the Village Plans see [here](#)

### 3. Universal Credit is coming to Richmond

Universal Credit will start in Richmond upon Thames on Monday 2nd November 2015. This is a national policy change which, in the first instance, will only affect newly unemployed single people without dependent children.

Universal Credit will replace the following six benefits - Job Seekers Allowance (income based), Employment and Support Allowance (income based), Income Support, Working Tax Credits, Tax Credits and Housing Benefit. It is not yet known when all existing claimants of these benefits will transfer to Universal Credit.

Richmond Council is working with the DWP, the local Job Centre Plus in Twickenham, and partner organisations to make sure information about the change is promoted widely, and that people who are entitled to claim the benefit know what they need to do to make an application and manage their finances; Universal Credit can only be applied for online and is paid monthly into a bank account.

The Council will be offering training for Richmond Council staff over the next month, and Twickenham Job Centre Plus will provide training and /or briefing sessions for partner organisations. Please contact [trudy.jones@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:trudy.jones@richmond.gov.uk) or [alison.chivers@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alison.chivers@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) for further information.

For general information about Universal Credit, please visit this website - <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

#### **4. Art Sessions to Address Loneliness & Isolation**

Uplifting creative art sessions are being used by Richmond Council to stop older residents from feeling lonely and isolated within their own communities. Orleans House Gallery's 'Chat and Draw: Thursday Art Social', increases social connectivity for residents across the Borough. Working with community partners including libraries and a team of trained volunteers, Chat and Draw focuses on improving wellbeing and extending social networks through social art appreciation sessions. The sessions have proven so popular that the gallery has decided to extend the programme for another nine months. The sessions focus on art works in Orleans House Gallery's exhibitions and use conversation, socialising, and a light hearted approach to drawing as a way to engage people. The sessions are facilitated by an artist, gallery staff, and a team of specially trained volunteers. The programme was developed by Richmond Council's Art Service and Public Health Team.

It is part of the Council's five-year loneliness and isolation strategy. For more information see [here](#)

#### **5. RHP'S Positive Steps employment service**

RHP's Positive Steps employment experts are available to help their customers with tailored support and advice. They can help with CV's, filling out forms to make applications stand out and improving interview techniques to make a great first impression. This service is completely free for all RHP customers aged 16-64 looking for work and so far over 50 customers have been helped into work. For more information email [positivesteps@rhp.org.uk](mailto:positivesteps@rhp.org.uk) or call Donna on 07795 608318 or Mabel on 07795 608315.

#### **6. RACC Wellbeing Project**

Richmond Adult and Community College is leading on a wellbeing project, which aims to use community learning courses to help adults develop and improve their health and mental wellbeing and to recover from mild to moderate symptoms of stress, low mood or difficulty sleeping. These community learning courses include interesting and engaging subjects such as art and craft, mindfulness, jewellery, iPads, tai chi, exercise and cookery. Individuals who are identified by a partner organisation, or identify themselves with any of these symptoms, can be assessed and enrolled for free on a specific set of short courses which are part of RACCs general leisure, health and wellbeing offer. This project is open to individuals, carers, staff and volunteers. To find out more about our project and upcoming wellbeing events visit [www.racc.ac.uk/wellbeing](http://www.racc.ac.uk/wellbeing)

RACC also offers a concessionary rate on special Adult Community Learning Wellbeing courses. This is for learners on a household income below £27,000, and gives up to 50% discount for learners who self-declare they are:

- unemployed on benefits
- carers
- aged 65+ living alone
- Mental Health Difficulties
- Learning Disabilities or Difficulties

There is also a 25% concession for anyone over 70.

To browse RACC courses click [here](#).

### **7. Winter Warmth programme now open**

Older people and those with a long term health conditions are being urged to take advantage of the Council's Winter Warmth Campaign before the cold wintry weather bites. The Winter Warmth programme provides free home visits for advice and information on heating, insulation, financial benefits, and health and wellbeing. To arrange a visit, applicants must be over the age of 65; or have a long term health condition such as asthma or diabetes. Last year Thinking Works and Age UK, local organisations which provide services on behalf of the Council, delivered 673 home visits as part of the Winter Warmth programme. A total of £96,900 of grants were applied for to help those most in need to stay warm and well during the winter months. During the free home visit the Council will help to take action immediately or refer residents for help with the following:

- Grants for heating, insulation, and boiler repairs
- Free water saving devices worth £50
- Free radiator reflector panels and draught proofing to keep heat in your home
- Advice on free walks and healthy lifestyle opportunities in the borough
- Advice on getting involved in the community
- Free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms if required
- Free specialist advice on lowering your heating bills whilst keeping warm
- Benefits checks

For more information or to book your free visit please contact the Home Visitors on 0800 118 2327 or 0208 878 3625 or 0208 831 6070

### **8. Basic Digital Skills Training for Richmond Residents**

Community Connected scheme is running drop-in sessions through October at the Community Hub, Fulmer Close, Hampton to offer people the chance to improve their basic online skills. The scheme is based in Kingston but works across both boroughs. For details of training held in Richmond see [here](#)

### **9. Preventing terrorism training**

Local authorities play an important role in identifying and supporting people who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism by developing an understanding of key warning signs. Training is now available to all staff working in front line services, to partners in the voluntary and community sector and to contractors. Please contact [ACS.Hub2@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:ACS.Hub2@richmond.gov.uk) to book for future sessions. For more information please contact Natasha Allen, Community Safety Manager on 0208 487 5349 or email [Natasha.allen@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:Natasha.allen@richmond.gov.uk)

#### **For more information**

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