



North Richmond and South Richmond Community Conversation

Date: Thurs 1 November

Time: 6.30 – 9.00pm

Venue: RHACC Parkshot Campus

Ward members in attendance:

- Cllr Nancy Baldwin: North Richmond, Liberal Democrat Party
- Cllr Richard Pyne: North Richmond, Liberal Democrat Party
- Cllr Richard Warren: North Richmond, Liberal Democrat Party
- Cllr Peter Buckwell: South Richmond, Conservative Party
- Cllr Pamela Fleming: South Richmond, Conservative Party, Joint Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party
- Cllr Bill Newton Dunn: South Richmond, Liberal Democrat Party

Headline Topic - Basement building and flooding / underground streams and wells on Richmond Hill		
Question	Nobody knows where the streams are under Richmond Hill and it's too expensive to find out! People are excavating basements and it is dangerous.	
Response	Residents need to submit a full planning application when building basement extensions as they are not permitted development.	
Response	Resident: Strategic Flood Risk Assessments are being used to justify the lack of under-ground water even though geologists have said that there are water and wells underground.	
Actions to be taken	This needs to be pursued with officers, at the very least a discussion with cabinet members and senior council officers is needed.	By whom: Cllr Fleming
Headline Topic - Meadow Hall site		

Question	What is happening with the Meadow Hall Site?	
Response	Demolition was delayed for various reasons including bats and asbestos. The site has now been demolished and hopefully an affordable housing planning application will be proposed.	
Headline Topic - Recycling		
Question	What measures are the Council taking to ensure that all households are recycling on a weekly basis?	
Response	The Council has plenty of capacity to deal with recycling and are committed to encouraging residents to recycle more.	
Headline Topic – Money from filming in the borough		
Question	What happens to the money made from filming in the borough?	
Response	The council gets paid for the parking suspensions and a small donation is given to local societies in the area – Friends of Groups etc. This then gets fed back into the local areas.	
Response	Resident: Film companies should be made to pay more. The council need to be more proactive in securing more funds from rich film companies.	
Response	We need to be aware that there are other areas that are just as willing to have filming in their borough and it is great publicity for the borough.	
Actions to be taken	We will get the information for how much the council makes from filming and where the money has been spent.	By whom: Cllr Fleming
Headline Topic - The area around RHACC Parkshot is badly lit and has broken pavements		
Question	The area around RHACC Parkshot is badly lit and has broken pavements. This is dangerous especially for people with mobility difficulties that use RHACC. Lots of meetings also take place here. What can be done about this?	
Response	All agreed.	
Actions to be taken	Council officers need to investigate this.	By whom: Cllr Buckwell
Headline Topic – Bollards in Richmond do not comply with current legislation		
Question	The town centre in Richmond is full of bollards – I have a vision impairment and fell over one on Hill Street 10 years ago. I complained to the council and contacted the RNIB who said that these bollards do not comply with current legislation. 10 years later these bollards are still there and have never been replaced.	
Response	Cllr Buckwell – This is the first that I have heard of this. Street clutter is a problem overall, it is being looked at especially in Richmond town centre as part of the Richmond BID.	
Actions to be taken	We will investigate this.	By whom: Cllr Buckwell

	Conversation to be had between the resident and Cllr Buckwell.	
Headline Topic - Houses of multiple occupation (HMOs)		
Question	Houses of multiple occupation – why do they only pay one council tax per building?	
Response	We have already investigated HMO's and have an extensive map of HMO's across the borough. This borough doesn't have a big problem with HMO's.	
Headline Topic - The material used to fix pavements is not a good standard		
Question	The material used to fix pavements is not to a good enough standard – why is this?	
Response	Cllr E We use a standard material, anything more than 50ml will cost more. 50ml is the ideal ratio between money and standard.	
	Resident: The quality of roads is terrible – what commitment is being made regarding this?	
	Road and pavement repairs are now being driven by need and not popularity (We have removed the roads and pavement fund) – the worst will be addressed first.	
	Resident: Repairs from utility companies are shoddy – what is being done about this?	
	We need residents to report this to us more. We will then send out officers to take a look at the work carried out and call the utility company back if we need to.	
Headline Topic - Why are there so few public toilets in Richmond?		
Question	Why are there so few public toilets in Richmond? This causes both local people and visitors a lot of anxiety.	
Response	Public toilets are very expensive to maintain. We have a borough wide scheme that allows people to use shop toilets.	
Headline Topic – What is happening to Village Planning?		
Question	I would be interested to find out why the Council is scrapping the Village Planning as this seems to have been a very positive thing. What is intended to replace it? Why? How much money was spent in consulting on and implementing the Village Planning schemes and SPDs. Will this not now be wasted? Please explain the benefits of what the new scheme will be.	
Response	Cllr. Fleming: Village Planning and the information the council gained from this will not be lost. The new administration has decided to engage Wards via the Community Conversations.	
Headline Topic – Richmond council should take responsibility from TfL for the roads in the borough		
Question	The sharing of responsibilities for our roads does not work and is not cost effective. That TfL should have a strategic overview of our arterial routes is appreciated but they should leave design and maintenance to the respective local authorities.	
Response	Cllr. Warren: Agreed. The matter has been raised previously with TfL at senior level, but they have not supported this change.	

	Action find out why TfL said no....	
Action to be taken	Find out if TfL would be willing to for the council to take over responsibility of the roads.	Cllr. Warren
Headline Topic - North Sheen station is not very assessible		
Question	North Sheen station is not very assessible, can anything be done about this, especially considering the new development on the Homebase site. Can it be linked to the underground? Can the station be moved to the rear of the Homebase development site?	
Response	This is a SWT and Network Rail issue, there is not a lot that the council can do. I doubt that the station can be moved. We can have a conversation with SWT and Network Rail about this though.	
Actions to be taken	Discussion with SWT and Network Rail regarding accessibility issues.	By whom: Cllr. Baldwin
Headline Topic – How are you ensuring that Community Conversations are reaching all residents?		
Question	Bruno Meekings of RCVS: How are you ensuring that the Community Conversations are getting to hard to reach people.	
Response	Richmond council’s community engagement team have been out and about in the community talking to people and groups that don’t often engage with the council.	
Actions to be taken	Cllr Baldwin to discuss with Bruno Meekings of RCVS ways of engaging all residents and groups.	By whom: Cllr Baldwin

20mph consultation Questions from the floor

Headline Topic - 20mph will lead to closer speeds between cars and cyclists causing friction		
Question 1	Cyclist would rather have faster traffic, 20mph will lead to closer speeds between cars and cyclists which will cause friction	
Response	Cllr. Ehmann: Richmond cyclists support this. 20mph makes the roads less hostile to cyclists and other road users.	
Headline Topic - Need traffic calming measures too – as well as signage		
Question 2	Need traffic calming measures too – as well as signage. I don’t believe that a blanket 20mph is helpful, it’s clumsy.	
Response	Cllr. Ehmann: Even with signage alone drivers do 1-2% lower mph. There are currently no plans to introduce traffic calming measures.	
Headline Topic - Who will enforce the 20mph?		
Question 3	Who will enforce the 20mph? Cyclists will go a lot faster than this - there is no speed limit for them on this.	

Response	Cllr. Ehmann: Enforcement lies with the police.	
Headline Topic - Have you consulted with TfL regarding the buses		
Question 4	Have you consulted with TfL regarding the buses – will they drive at 20mph too? Have the bus journey times been re-modelled to allow for this?	
Response	Cllr. Ehmann: The impact on bus route timings will be modest as it's rare that vehicles including buses do 30mph anyway. TfL support this.	
Headline Topic – 20mph road signs		
Question 5	Will you be erecting 20mph road signs every 50 metres?	
Response	Cllr. Ehmann: We will do whatever is legally required	
Headline Topic - Kingston Bridge road is 40mph, will this change?		
Question 6	Kingston Bridge road is 40mph – this will mean halving the speed limit for that road which is too much.	
Response	Cllr. Ehmann: Data shows that a blanket 20mph across the borough will work better than having varying speed limits on the roads. Data shows that accidents decrease and have less severity the slower people drive. This is better for people and is cost effective for the borough, and therefore for the tax payer (referring to data on the cost of accidents to the borough)	
Action to be taken	Find data on where accidents occur across the borough for the next meeting. Find data on accidents that have occurred on Kingston Bridge which is 40mph.	By whom: Cllr. Ehmann
Headline Topic – Is 20mph a ‘done deal’		
Question 7	If the public votes ‘No’ what happens? Is this a ‘done deal’	
Response	Cllr. Ehmann: We will analyse the data and listen to the public, but it was clear in our manifesto that we want to introduce 20mph across the borough and people voted for us and therefore this.	
Headline Topic – Accidents that happen in Richmond Park should not be included in the data presented		
Question 8	Your data on accidents reflects accidents that have happened in Richmond Park (and other royal parks). This data needs cleaning and these accidents taken out of the presentation.	
Response	Cllr. Ehmann: I will do this, though I am still confident that the data will still show that more accidents happen on our faster roads.	
Action to be taken	We will look at this and take this data out. We will have a map of the borough showing where accidents take place and the severity of these accidents.	By whom: Cllr. Ehmann
Headline Topic – Will the speed humps be removed?		

Question 9	Will the speed humps across the borough be removed as they won't be needed anymore?
Response	The current costs to implement the 20mph scheme do not include this. We may look at this if we have the funds, but I doubt it due to the costs.
Headline Topic – Large trucks are constantly driving down very small, residential roads.	
Question 10	Large trucks are constantly driving down very small, residential roads.
Response	Residents need to help with this – they need to ask for smaller trucks when moving and receiving deliveries.