

Community Conversation Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside Ward

Date: 6th Oct 2020

Time: 6.30-8.00pm

Venue: Zoom

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: Rev. Simon Coupland, St Richard’s Church

Police Officers in attendance: Inspector Rebecca Robinson, PCSO Alex Molnar

Chair of the Police Liaison Group: Sir David Williams

Agenda Item One: Ward Achievements

Headline Topic: Ward Achievements	
Councillor	Achievements
Cllr Frieze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic measures being brought in to improve road safety • Russell School due to launch school street scheme • Bid made to TFL for Grey Court School to have a school street scheme • Unsuccessful bid for bridge from Ham to Twickenham • Electric vehicle charging points – two on Lammas Road, and one on Clifford Road and Meadlands Drive. 8th Oct National Clean Air Day – free electric charging of cars from Borough charging points

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ham and Petersham Neighbourhood Forum is holding a meeting with the Royal Parks on Weds 21st October in relation to car parking charges in the park and vehicle access to the park
Cllr Frost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If schools have a positive Covid 19 result they have a direct helpline from the Department for Education and Public Health England • our schools have stayed open safely throughout the whole period, and parents have been grateful for the efforts they have gone to in achieving this.
Cllr Richards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid pre-cautions at Meadlands School are excellent • Grey Court School has over 500 students cycling to school. Planning to install a bike maintenance station, perhaps at Ham Parade shops • Need for Teddington Lock Bridge to have better maintenance as there will not be a Twickenham-Ham bridge.
Sir David Williams – Police Liaison group Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1990's/2000's Ham was served by reactive policing from Twickenham. Then in 2003 the Safer Neighbourhood Teams were introduced and transformed the area with an Inspector, 2 police constables and 3 PCSO's, but now the staffing has been halved due to Police cuts. • The Police Liaison Group has quarterly meetings with the Police and produce a newsletter for residents. • Crime statistics – drug arrests have increased and race crime arrest have increased, but probably due to better tackling of these issues. 2 years ago there was a spate of break ins and car thefts. • The PLG will restart in 2021. Contact through HamandPetershamplg@gmail.com • Not holding remote/virtual meetings at present, but this is dependent on how lockdown progresses.
Inspector Robinson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager of the 5 clusters of Safer Neighbourhood Teams. • Currently using Special Constables to be deployed on street beats • Crime has reduced during lockdown • Richmond still one of the safest boroughs in London • Resourcing is still sufficient, although resourcing can be redirected to major disorder events in other boroughs. • The South West Command Unit now covers Merton/Wandsworth/Kingston and Richmond Boroughs • Police response to the Covid 19 rules has been primarily to engage with residents to inform them of need to wear masks. There is a dedicated Covid patrol car attached to the response team to deal with crowds of 6+

PCSO Alex Molner	Last 3 months stats – Ham and Petersham				
		June	July	Aug	2020
	Burglary	9	4	6	
		4	2	6	2019
	Theft of motor vehicle				
		0	2	2	2020
		0	2	2	2019
	Theft from a motor vehicle				
		13	7	0	2020
		1	3	1	2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a volatile neighbourhood dispute in Ham • Teddington Lock issues with young people jumping from the bridge. Worked with Teddington Safer Neighbourhood Team to close off island, which is owned by the Environment Agency, as young people trespassing on this land • With the schools being closed more difficult to track down young people committing graffiti offences • Patrols of River Lane taking place as large groups of young people gathering there, but tend to disappear when Police arrive 					

Agenda Item Two – open floor questions

Headline Topic Swimming in the Thames	
Question 1	Tina Butler: What’s the law in relation to outdoor swimming in the Thames?
Response	Insp. Robinson: It is legal to swim in the Thames, but there are by-laws from the Environment Agency to stop jumping off the Lock bridge. This is a safety issues as young people are often drinking alcohol and then jumping into the tidal side of the Thames. Also walking on boats and private property moored at the Lock. Police’s main concern is the safety of the young people. Currently working with the Fire service and the Local Authority to look at the situation at Teddington Lock – Water Safety forum.

	David William: The water in the Thames is polluted, risk of Weil's disease from rats. Also submerged trolleys in the river, risk of jumping onto these.
ACTION	
Headline Topic	Cruising on Ham Lands
Question 2	Christiana Reif: Ham lands is a well-established cruising area for gay couples. But the issue is that their activities are no longer hidden in the bushes but are in the open. Huge shock for dog walkers/walkers
Response	PCSO Molner: Police are aware of the situation, but situation needs to be dealt with by the Local Authority Cllr Frost: Disagree, this is a policing issue, the Council cannot police the area. Ham Lands has actually been advertised in magazines as a cruising area. Public nudity is an offence that the Police should be notified of. The Park Guard is a small team patrolling 51 open spaces
Supplementary question	Christiana Reif: My objection is to public nudity and this needs to be reported
Response	Insp. Robinson: will speak to ward sergeant on a potential joint problem solving with the Local Authority. Would advise residents to report observations on 101 or 999 if in danger. The dog walking community have set up What's App groups to report to each other, but need to also report to the Police.
ACTION	
Headline Topic	Need for lighting on alleyways in Ham and Petersham
Question 3	Many alleyways in Ham and Petersham which are very dark at night. Would it be possible to have solar powered lighting on these paths.
Response	PCSO Molner: Police would always recommend better lighting Cllr Richards: the alleyways have been neglected and are in need of maintenance Cllr Frieze: Currently working with the Housing Associations, such as Richmond Housing Partnership, as some of these alleyways are on RHP property Cllr Frost: the Council could consider solar powered lighting, which is movement sensitive which would be very effective and affordable.
ACTION	
Headline Topic:	Dumped bicycles at Petersham Nurseries
Question 4	There are many dumped dockless cycles (Uber/Ofo) near Petersham Nurseries on the pavement. Prevents access to the bus stop for the elderly and young.
Response	Cllr Frost: There is a phone number on the bike to ring the company to collect them. Cllr Frieze: often tweets location of bikes to company, but Council also needs to clear bikes to make the pavements safe. Cllr Richards: The Council dockless bike scheme was unsuccessful as it did not make any money. Currently Uber bikes being used as better resourced. Council officers can remove the bikes and charge the companies for their removal. Insp. Robinson: If there is an obstruction of the highway, Police can intervene

	<p>PCSO Molner: The policy of the companies is that the user can leave the bike anywhere. Police constantly picking up vandalised bikes.</p> <p>Resident: The red bikes actually stop working at the Petersham Nursery bend as they are out of range of the tracking device.</p> <p>Peter Burrow-Smith: (From the Safer Neighbourhood Team executive) The Royal Parks are banning the dockless bikes in the parks, so they are often being dumped at the gates – issue at Sheen Gate, maybe Petersham gate as well?</p>
ACTION	Cllr Frost to check with companies if the tracking range can be increased and to remind them to come and remove bikes
Headline Topic: Police on Nextdoor	
Question 5	Positive that Police are commenting on Nextdoor, but certain posts are causing concerns as there is inappropriate naming and shaming of crime. Led to a lot of commentary on Nextdoor as the comments by the Police were very flippant.
Response	Insp. Robinson: will follow up with officer involved. But also please report crimes to Police directly, not through Nextdoor
ACTION	Insp. Robinson to talk to officer concerned with Police Social Media
Headline Topic: Cycle paths in Ham	
Question 6	In Martingale Close a cyclist was knocked off their bike and motorists constantly over run this junction. There is a need for a cycle route across Ham Common and a need for re-modelling of the junction to provide an East to West cycle route.
Response	Cllr Richards; Two years ago there was a TFL plan to join Teddington through to Wandsworth with a cycle lane, but TFL now in a funding crisis from lockdown. Dukes Avenue and Hardwick Road were built up at the junction awaiting this cycle lane but did not proceed. Sept/October 2020 work is due to start on this junction by the Council.
ACTION	Cllr Richards to follow up works at that junction
Headline Topic: Curb crawling at River Lane	
Question 8	Julia Bailey: On the tow path on River Lane cars are parked and curb crawling passer-by. Would like the Police to patrol this area.
Response	PCSO Molner: River lane is known by the Police and wherever possible is visited twice during a shift. Plain clothes team also patrol this area.

Headline Topic: The Hand and Flower noise/anti social behaviour	
Question 9	Tina: Noise and anti-social behaviour with customers walking into the road drunk.
Response	<p>PCSO Molner: The Police have received complaints from residents on Dukes Avenue and in relation to the door staff being quite forceful. Licensing Team will need to liaise with the Police to review the pub's opening hours.</p> <p>Cllr Frieze: There is a lot of reporting on Nextdoor and by email, but need to gather evidence for the Licensing team to be able to follow up.</p> <p>Cllr. Frost: There are planning restrictions on the building which planning enforcement team are checking. But currently they are operating in a legal framework.</p>
ACTION	Cllr Frost: will check with licensing team to see if they have received complaints from residents. License can be reviewed if there are specific infringements, including using the garden after restricted hours.

Headline Topic: Cycling on Pavements	
Question 10	David Willis: Cycling on pavements has increased, many near misses on the pavement. Those that are poor sighted are particularly at risk.
Response	PCSO Molner: stop cyclists on the pavement to give them an 'attitude test' to educate and warn them of their liability to a fixed penalty notice if fail attitude test.
Supplementary Question	Christina: cycle path near Ham lands is a shared path with pedestrians and can cause problems. Why is there a need for a shared path on such a wide road as Riverside Drive.
Response	Cllr Frost: The shared path for walkers and cyclists was created with support from Thames Landscape Strategy funding, with a view to reducing the width of Riverside Drive and discourage speeding drivers. David Williams: From Teddington Lock along Riverside Drive the shared path could be separated by a ridge of some kind. As the number of cyclists increased during lockdown, there is potential for more conflict on these shared paths. Cllr Frost; The Shared path is well used by families cycling with children and is clearly demarcated. Residents need to be more respectful of each other David Williams; they could be separated with a ridge.
ACTION	
Headline Topic: Utility works on Petersham Road	
Question 11	There is a need to coordinate traffic lights from works with Highway traffic lights as causing chaos at present with tailbacks. And holding up buses for school journeys.
Response	Cllr Richards: It is a utility company not Council road works
Supplementary question	Cyclists are using pavements because of roadworks and Richmond Park closed after dark, a cycling lane is needed
Response	Cllr Frost: The Neighbourhood Forum has looked at solutions for the Petersham Road on many occasions. Justine Langford has put together a proposal for the area working with Sustrans for a 24/7 lit cycling route in conjunction with the North Kingston Neighbourhood Forum. Unfortunately, with Covid 19 TFL funding is now at a standstill. Major Khan is more focussed on Lower Traffic neighbourhood and Public transport, than cycleways. Insp. Robinson: There is a need for Police access and emergency vehicles that need to use Petersham Road to access Petersham and Ham Cllr Frost: Need for through traffic from Kingston Gate to Ham gate to relieve traffic pressure on Petersham Road. Join the Neighbourhood Forum virtual meeting with Royal Parks on the 21 st October to discuss this issue.