



**Ham and Petersham, Richmond Riverside Wards Community Conversation**

**Date: 28th July 2020**

**Time: 6.30 – 8.00pm**

**Venue: Zoom**

**Ward and cabinet members in attendance:**

- Cllr. Penny Frost (Ham and Petersham, Richmond Riverside wards) *Chair of the Education and Children’s Services Committee*
- Cllr. Andree Frieze (Ham and Petersham, Richmond Riverside wards) *Deputy Leader of the Green Party Group*
- Cllr. Gareth Richards (Ham and Petersham, Richmond Riverside wards) *Cycling Champion*
- Chair: Cllr. Gareth Roberts *Leader of the Council*
- **In attendance:** PC Chris Murphie, Simon Kavanagh – Richmond Housing Partnership

**Agenda Item One:** Video of Council and Community actions during the Covid 19 lockdown

**Achievements:**

<b>Headline Topic: Achievements</b>	
<b>Cllr Richards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 mph has been implemented during lockdown</li> <li>• March 2020 Royal Parks were closed to all traffic, including cyclists. Worked with Royal Parks to reopen for cyclists.</li> <li>• Ferrymoor, Hardwicke Road and Riverside Drive have all been resurfaced. If further road surfaces are poor keep reporting on the Council website to help direct resources to Ham and Petersham</li> <li>• The Tow Path has been resurfaced between Teddington Lock and the boundary of Kingston and the Ham House boundary path.</li> <li>• Submitted Liveable Neighbourhood Fund bid for active travel plan for the area, but was unsuccessful.</li> <li>• School streets to be implemented</li> </ul>
<b>Cllr Frost</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong interest in schools and special need provision as Chair of the committee</li> <li>• Mainstream schools remained open during lockdown period</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative models of remote learning and home learning skills</li> <li>• Meadlands, Russell School and St Richard’s school have had high number on site and increased remote learning</li> <li>• Strathmore is working closely with students, carers and parents with blended and remote learning.</li> <li>• Grey Court has been highly praised by parents for their virtual offer and for the year groups that have been in school.</li> <li>• The German School in Petersham opened its kitchen as soon as the lockdown started to the wider community offering cooked meals across London and to ham and Petersham SOS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cllr Frieze</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported Ham and Petersham SOS and RUILs with shopping for the vulnerable</li> <li>• As the community has come out of lockdown there has been anti-social behaviour on Ham Common with the common being used as a public toilet. Have had conversations with the landlord of The New Inn who have now opened up their toilets to the community. The Council is promoting the Community Toilet Scheme as businesses start to open up</li> <li>• The introduction of the new waste contract with Serco has had some issues with addresses being missed and the waste being collected in the wrong section of the recycling. ie food waste going into the general waste. Have checked into this and the food waste is being processed correctly.</li> </ul>

**Agenda Item Two – open questions**

<p><b>Headline Topic: School Streets</b></p>	
<p>Question</p>	<p><b>Howard Chester:</b> Concerned about Russell School parking situation is usually very crowded and discourages walkers and cyclists going to school.</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p><b>Cllr Richards:</b> School street around Russell School would effectively block the adjacent roads allowing only residents to access the area with the aim of reducing the traffic in the school area. Need Russell School to support the proposal as well.</p>
<p>Supplementary question</p>	<p><b>Howard Chester:</b> The parking situation is also difficult on Meadlands Drive on the copse side due to the number of employees from the German School parking there as there is insufficient parking on the school site. This impacts on residents.</p>

Response	<b>Cllr. Richards:</b> A CPZ could solve this problem. A petition was put forward for this in the last 2 years, but there was not sufficient support to take it further. Would need the community to get involved to back a CPZ petition.
<b>Headline Topic: Ham to Twickenham Footbridge</b>	
Question 2	<b>Adam Gatehouse:</b> question in relation to proposed foot/cycle bridge between Ham and Petersham. Received email from Sarah Olney in relation to £20 million bid for the bridge. With the location of the bridge how will it be advantageous for Ham? Will it really provide better access to Richmond park for Twickenham residents? The repercussions to Hammerton Ferry?
Response	<b>Cllr. Frieze:</b> The background to the funding is that it was offered by central Government for 'shovel ready' projects. But the bridge proposal was not indeed shovel ready. There is a lot of concern about the location, but a quick response was required for the money made available. <b>Cllr. Frost:</b> The bridge is actually not as developed an idea as it appears. The Friends of ham Lands have considerable concerns for the ecology and uniqueness of the Ham lands area.
<b>Headline Topic: Ham Parade Market</b>	
Question 3	<b>Matt Georges:</b> (Chair of Ham Parade Market) Would like to reopen on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of August. The Licensing Department have agreed this, but Highways have still to respond.
Action	<b>All Ward Councillors to pursue with Highways Department</b>
<b>Headline Topic: Social Care homes in Ham and Petersham</b>	
Question 4	<b>Mary Russell:</b> Would like to find information on the local social care homes in Ham and Petersham in terms of their performance.
Response	<b>Cllr. Richards:</b> In the Covid 19 section of the DataRich database there are reports on care homes and hospices in relation to Covid 19 excess deaths. <a href="https://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/open_richmond/datarich">https://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/open_richmond/datarich</a>
<b>Headline Topic: Active travel to schools</b>	
Question 5	<b>Justine Langford:</b> Aware of reduced capacity on public transport and potential fare charges for young people on TFL transport, which has led to increase in car use, pollution levels and greater environmental impact. Although there will be school streets, what help is there for children to get to school?
Response	<b>Cllr Richards:</b> Encourage cycling by more friendly street scene. Kew Road is an example of this, but more difficult to fit in cycles lanes in Ham. <b>Cllr Frost:</b> Travel plans have to be developed by schools. We do have quite small catchment areas for the primary schools in Ham, so it should be easier for active travel.

	<b>Cllr Frieze:</b> Have written to Government and London Mayor in relation to charging young people to travel. The capacity on buses has been a problem. The Council need to encourage bike infrastructure, especially around schools.
<b>Supplementary question</b>	<b>Justine Langford:</b> Although the primary schools have school route planning, Grey Court has a larger catchment area and the Petersham Road and Richmond Road are problematic. The Liveable Neighbourhood Bid could be used to alleviate this problem including the Ham Street area.
<b>Supplementary question</b>	<b>Katherine Von Schubert:</b> Could there be a dedicated cycle lane on Petersham Road to join with the Kingston cycle network. Could there be a temporary solution for Ham St and Sandy Lane, at least. Who should we lobby to achieve this?
<b>Response</b>	<b>Cllr Richards:</b> The Active Travel Group could be lobbied. Officers have said that the roads need to be wider to accommodate cycle lanes, and they would not support just road markings as they have little impact in terms of safety. There is a need for a physical barrier for the safety of the cyclist.
<b>Supplementary comment</b>	<b>Katherine Von Schubert:</b> Kingston has cycle lane road markings only after Ham Parade, we could have a similar path for Ham.
<b>Agenda Item 3: Powerpoint presentation on the Local Area Fund by Cllr Penny Frost</b>	
<b>Headline Topic: Maintenance of Public areas of green</b>	
<b>Question 6</b>	<b>Sophia Welsh:</b> The maintenance of green verges on Sandy Lane was very neglected during the lockdown and there was increase of graffiti on bus stops, street signs and utility boxes.
<b>Response</b>	<b>Cllr Frieze:</b> At the beginning of lockdown staffing levels were a problem, but there is also an argument to leave verges unmown for biodiversity. If sightlines become a problem for residents on Sandy Lane then this would be a reason for cutting. Graffiti is an ongoing problem and lockdown hasn't seen any reduction in this. Please report online to the Council, or Twitter to @LBRUT_help. <b>PC Chris Murphie:</b> Graffiti is an ongoing problem and the Police have had little success in tracking down the perpetrators. The Police Liaison group has raised this many times and the local Police continue to stop and search anybody suspected of carrying graffiti equipment. Keep reporting to Crimestoppers, 101 and on the Police website.
<b>Headline Topic: Speed control on Riverside Drive/CCTV</b>	
<b>Question 7</b>	<b>Florin Borlea:</b> three questions – 1) is it possible to have speed bumps on Riverside Drive 2. Is there the possibility of more CCTV on the parades in Ham.3. Can we have more of these types of meetings?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Cllr Frost:</b> There is not a lot of appetite for speed bumps, and Riverside Drive is better than it used to be. Speed bumps are expensive, can damage cars and impact on air pollution.
<b>Supplementary point</b>	<b>Florin Borlea:</b> I am aware of CCTV near Tesco's Express and Sainsburys, and at the BP Petrol Station.
<b>Response</b>	<p><b>Cllr Richards:</b> The cost of monitoring the CCTV tends to be the bigger issue</p> <p><b>PC Chris Murphie:</b> Budgetary restrictions on CCTV, but the Police can deploy rapid deployment cameras for specific problem areas, but there has been ASB all over the Borough during lockdown. A permanent solution is not in the hands of the Police.</p> <p><b>Cllr Roberts:</b> Also there are the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and OWL which may be the best way to monitor and report crime.</p> <p><b>Cllr Frieze:</b> There was a community conversation at St Richard's before. But which would residents prefer, in person or online?</p> <p><b>Florin Borlea:</b> Online meetings have more traction.</p> <p><b>Cllr Frieze:</b> once a week would be challenging, but we do hold 2 surgeries a month, one alongside the Ham Parade Market in the local café on the first Saturday of the month and on the last Weds of the month in the evening at Ham Library.</p>
<b>Headline Topic</b>	<b>Traffic control in the Parkleys area</b>
<b>Question 8</b>	<b>C. Taylor:</b> There is a need for a modal filter for the rat running from Barnfield Avenue into Parkleys. There is need to close the road or place bollards to stop through traffic. Currently have 81 signatures on the Council petition site from both Kingston and Richmond.
<b>Response</b>	<b>Cllr Richards:</b> Not a large number of cars going through this cut through so should be possible to close off for a play area.
<b>Action</b>	<b>Cllr Richards to raise at Active Travel Group</b>
<b>Headline Topic</b>	<b>Safety on Teddington Lock and accessibility issues during lockdown</b>
<b>Question 9</b>	<b>Victoria Nurse:</b> 1. Teddington Lock issue with safety on hot Summer Days with no social distancing, drinking and jumping into the Thames. What's being done to oversee the situation? 2. Cyclists on the lock bridge, especially for disabled/hard of hearing. The paint has worn off asking cyclists to dismount. 3. In Richmond Park without vehicles it has been great for wheelchair users as they can use the roads rather than the gravel or grass paths. 4. Richmond Hill pubs opening for takeaway drinks has led to customers sitting on the pavements or cyclists using the pub leaving their bikes on the pavement. Makes it impossible to pass for a disabled resident.

<b>Response</b>	<p><b>Cllr Frost:</b> Young people do not realise the strength of the currents in the Thames, but since the swimming pools shut the Teddington beach and river swimming has increased. Grey Court School has spoken to parents about the problem at Teddington Lock.</p> <p>Cyclists on the bridge, signs do need to be replenished. Posters were put up, but were ripped down, need for more substantial posters to be pinned up.</p> <p><b>PC Chris Murphie:</b> This has been an ongoing concern for the Police that has risen in lockdown. The ward team do attend regularly, especially now they are based at Teddington Police Station. But it is still a low-level offence compared to other ASB in the area.</p> <p>In relation to Richmond Hill and the Terraced Gardens area, the Police resource has been directed at the level of drinking outside within the guidelines of Government guidance. Any obstructions to the highway can be picked up by the Police.</p>
<b>Headline Topic Level of traffic on Petersham Road</b>	
<b>Question 10</b>	<p><b>Kathryn Barlow:</b>(Petersham Road resident.) The traffic is terrible along Petersham Road, especially with Richmond Park closed to traffic. There also seems to be more traffic because of the limitations on numbers on public transport.</p> <p>Questions, 1. When will the Royal Parks open up to traffic? 2. Will the motorbikes speeding on Petersham Road be dealt with 3. The huge number of emergency vehicles using Petersham Road with lights and sirens 4. The amount of plastics for takeaway drinks from cafes and pubs, seen increase of plastic littering from Ham Common litter pick.</p>
<b>Response</b>	<p><b>Cllr. Richards:</b> Have lobbied Royal Parks about their decision on closing the Park to traffic, but unsuccessful so far, even getting cyclists back in the park has been difficult. Previously there was good progress made on plastics, but the lockdown has seen it return to previous levels.</p> <p><b>PC Chris Murphie:</b> Emergency vehicles on Petersham Road have to use sirens and lights as they need to make themselves visible and heard through difficult lines of sight on this road. It is the main link from Richmond to Kingston. The Traffic Police are addressing the issue of speeding motorbikes, although it is easy for them to get away. Please send any footage of speeding motorbikes to the Met Police website as they always need further evidence.</p> <p><b>Cllr. Frieze:</b> The Corona Virus has seen a step back in the reduction of plastics. Have previously spoken to landlords and supermarkets.</p> <p>The Royal Parks are about to open up to traffic, but only on week days and only for certain gates and car parks. There has been lots of positive feedback on making the park car free and the Park will need to consult on this.</p>
<b>Headline Topic - Richmond High St vacant shops and George St traffic management</b>	
<b>Question 11</b>	<p><b>Beth:</b> What is being done about the many vacant shops on Richmond High Street and the traffic management on George St.</p>
<b>Response:</b>	<p><b>Cllr Roberts:</b> We were evaluating the traffic management for Richmond, but lockdown has delayed the process. There has been the 'Save the High Street' campaign and targeted work to help independents with 'Shop Local' and getting Government support packages to businesses as quickly as possible.</p>
<b>Headline Topic – Cycling infrastructure</b>	
<b>Question 12</b>	<p><b>Yolanda Bryant:</b> the cycling infrastructure for the Borough has been talked about for a long time. Is it possible to have a commitment on the timeframe for the plan to be implemented.</p>

**Response:**

**Cllr Richards:** The complete plan for the Borough is still a work in progress. The Ham and Petersham Neighbourhood Forum's active travel plan can only be implemented when suitable funds are found. Need for residents to lobby councillors and MP's to deliver on the plan.