



To whom it may concern,

Be Richmond (Richmond's Business Improvement District) is writing this letter to support the continuation of Richmond Petersham Nurseries' Supper Clubs.

Petersham Nurseries makes a significant positive contribution to Richmond's visitor economy, raising its status as an important tourist destination and cultural attraction that is unique to London. It drives local, national, and international footfall into Richmond in turn benefitting the surrounding businesses. This contribution includes significant sustainable economic benefits for the local economy including local spend, job creation and wider spin-off benefits for local businesses.

Be Richmond has only seen the supper clubs as adding value to Richmond's night time economy not negatively affecting it and as such it would strongly support the continuation.

Yours sincerely,

Be Richmond

Richmond Business Improvement District

Bob Kimmerling - Chair of Trustees, Vineyard Community Centre Richmond:

*“Our charity has long enjoyed ongoing support from Petersham Nurseries since 2013. We have not only received many £000s in funding, but also had opportunity to cooperate with supported employment placements for vulnerable people, and enjoyed gifts in kind donated to our community centre. Pryersham Nurseries owners and staff have always been generously supportive. We have no hesitation in supporting them and their unique, popular and iconic Richmond business as they seek to protect their evening restaurant trading”.*



To whom it may concern,

4/4/24

I write in support of Petersham Nurseries and the continued opening of its restaurant on three nights a week.

I have been a local resident for over 30 years, and I now run a mental health charity, Dose of Nature ([www.doseofnature.org.uk](http://www.doseofnature.org.uk)). I first experienced the magic of Petersham Nurseries as a busy working mum, when my favourite thing to do with a precious free morning was to cycle along the river and have a coffee and delicious piece cake in the most enchanting setting I had ever experienced. However frazzled I felt on arrival, I knew I would leave refreshed, rested and revived, full of energy and ready once again for the challenges of my far too frenetic life.

As a psychologist, I have studied the physiological and psychological effects of an increased engagement with the natural world for over 15 years. The considerable scientific evidence demonstrating nature's mental health benefits led me to leave the NHS in 2018 to establish Dose of Nature, and offer an effective, sustainable alternative to medication and traditional psychological therapies. We deliver 'nature prescriptions' to people struggling with a wide range of mental health difficulties, including depression, anxiety, trauma, addictions, bereavement and stress, and take referrals directly from all 47 GP practices across the Boroughs of Richmond and Kingston.

Given most of us now live in urban environments, our ethos is very much about encouraging people to spend more time outside in small, easily accessible, urban, natural spaces, for the significant wellbeing benefits that this affords us all. In my mind, there is no better example of a truly restorative and healing urban green space than Petersham Nurseries. As both a local resident, who has enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of this magical place for many years, and as a psychologist, who recognises the huge importance of attractive local natural spaces that encourage a greater connection to nature, I do not believe it is overstating Petersham Nurseries' value to the local community to say that it provides a healing sanctuary away from our busy modern lives, supporting the mental health and wellbeing of everyone who visits.

It is my understanding that if the restaurant is no longer able to operate for three nights a week, the business will no longer be viable, and we will lose this precious place forever. In doing so, I believe Richmond will lose one of its most cherished local places, and one that embodies all that we treasure in this beautiful Borough of ours: nature, people, and community.

Best wishes,

Dr Alison Greenwood, PsychD  
Founder and Chief Executive  
Dose of Nature



Dear Sarah

Lovely to meet you too!

For the last 18 years of my tenure at Grey Court School, numerous students have worked part-time at Petersham Nurseries. Being able to work for a local lifestyle business has had such a positive impact on them. It has also afforded them the opportunity to work and still focus on their exams. We would welcome the opportunity for students to take up part-time work at this venue in future.

I will definitely send an invitation if Declan does attend the opening of the new pavilion.

I will also keep you informed about any future site developments.

Kind regards  
Chris

Chris Rhodes  
**Headteacher**

**Grey Court School**  
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To Whom it May Concern,

I believe I have a unique perspective on the issue of evening trade at Petersham Nurseries in Richmond. (Please forgive me if this slides into a love letter, but I'm not sure that is avoidable, or advisable).

My name is Lisa Gulick and I moved to Richmond in January 2003 from Canada with my husband Alex who was relocated for work. We had a 1 year old daughter (Lauren) at the time so I took time away from work to settle into a new country. It was unexpectedly difficult. Lonely and overwhelmed I dove into exploring my new surroundings, buggy in tow.

I will never forget the first time I walked into Petersham Nurseries. It was an instant inspiration hit. The colours, the plants, the design, the beautiful, smiling employees in boho dresses and wellies. I was intoxicated by this place that seemed like a haven for the weary. And it was. I went often just to absorb the creativity in living colour. Even after just a wander around the shop, I would leave calmer, inspired, able to do the next thing needed with perhaps a little more flair. In time I had a free afternoon so I went for my first lunch at Petersham Nurseries. I have always been passionate about food and never shy away from eating alone so there I was, sitting at a table, stunned. This food was special. It somehow expressed the very essence of the place itself. Unfussy, highlighting nature, artfully prepared. I ate in silence with tears in my eyes.

Fast forward to 2010. I enrolled in a Chef's program at Ballymaloe Cookery School in an attempt to retrain. I thought I would do some catering or small scale food production so I could fit it around my (now 2) children's schedules. It was never my intention to do traditional chef work in a restaurant as I couldn't see how I would handle the time demands, but my tutor insisted I take a letter to his friend Skye Gyngell (Head Chef at the time) at Petersham Nurseries and offer to do a "stage" (volunteer work which is common in this industry) to see how it would feel. After a few days of work I was offered a job. I still didn't believe I could work there as the hours were difficult to manage but Skye made arrangements with Petersham for me to arrive late in the morning (after settling my children into The Vineyard School) and then leaving in time to collect them from the after school program with weekend days being my favourite as they didn't include that rush. My career that I never dreamed I could have was launched. I thrived and looking back I am so grateful that my start at Petersham Nurseries has pushed me forward at a rate in the industry that is uncommon simply because of its high reputation.

Not long after I started at Petersham, I remember working one of our very first evening events. I don't remember what the event was but I do remember the

care taken to ensure neighbours would not be disturbed. Days before we were told of the "Rules" of a nighttime event and how serious they were. We needed to be silent or whisper only outside of the kitchen. No excessive lights to be on. No doors slammed. No dishes thrown into the wash-up area. Bins to be emptied into metal skips with silent care. The list was long! We were giddy with excitement at being in this magical place at night. It was even more stunning at night than in the daytime! How is that even possible? At one point before service started, Skye came into the kitchen while we were cooking and insisted we turn off the stoves and come into the dining room area. There she said "Look around this place. You are cooking in the most beautiful restaurant in the world." And we were. We cooked our socks off that night and had a great time doing it. Just before the dessert course was to be served, we realised we didn't have enough strawberries so Skye and I rushed to forage in the house fruit and vegetable garden. The need to whisper while balancing torches and frantically picking strawberries in the dark and in the middle of service led to hilarity and remains a story we laugh about it this day.

I cooked at Petersham Nurseries for 8 years and then went on to cook with Skye Gyngell at her restaurant in Somerset House called Spring. It has a very different vibe from Petersham Nurseries. It is wonderful and challenging but both Skye and I swap nostalgic Petersham stories usually starting with..."remember the time Francesco came to the pass first thing in the morning in his dressing gown and velvet slippers and...."

So. The thing is, I have worked in the hospitality sector for nearly 15 years now. It has changed drastically. The combination of Covid lockdowns and more recent cost of living (cost of products, business rates, salaries, etc....) has crippled the industry. I believe with my whole heart that the health and vibrancy of a community can be seen and felt in its INDEPENDENT restaurants and shops. The places that hold the heartbeat of an area are the places that both employ its residents and inspire its visitors. Petersham Nurseries has done this consistently for over 20 years. I still go there often just to have coffee and chats with numerous employees who have been there since day 1. It holds on to its employees and that is unheard of in this industry.

I am privileged to travel the world, eating in the best restaurants (on my husbands ticket, not my chefs pay I might add), and consistently, chefs and foodies and gardeners and interiors buffs from all over the world recognise the name Petersham Nurseries. People plan entire trips to include it on their itinerary. And yet, it is not appreciated or rewarded by its own council. The very council that sees its benefits.

Fast forward to 2020/2021 and that wee baby Lauren who was in a pram on my first discovery of Petersham Nurseries, began her first job waitressing there. She met friends there who have remained her best to this day and she is presently backpacking thru Central America with her savings from that very job. So that is the second generation of a Richmond family inspired, employed

and pushed forward in life because of working at Petersham Nurseries. I owe it a lot.

Thank you Petersham Nurseries. May you thrive despite the resistance of a few to continue delighting the many.

Lisa Gulick

Dear Sarah

Thank you for the chat yesterday afternoon.

I was really saddened to hear of the further struggles that Petersham Nurseries is experiencing; the latest being the enforcement notice to stop evening activities at the site. What a great shame that there seems to be such determined (albeit small) opposition to what is nowadays very much a local institution. You have my support in your efforts to appeal the enforcement and I have signed your petition, as have several of my colleagues.

Petersham Nurseries is completely unique and offers something quite magical to the area; I've not once heard from anyone who hasn't enjoyed their experience there. I have had lunch several times there myself and coupled with a post-lunch walk across the meadow down towards the river, the sense of enjoyment is hard to beat (especially on a sunny day!) and is a real enhancement to the area and brings significant amenity value.

When we are selling houses in and around the area a mention of Petersham Nurseries is always in the particulars; it's a tangible selling point and as important, in my opinion, as mentioning the German School or Ham Polo. Please see attached example brochure that refers to Petersham Nurseries.

I wish you all the best in your appeal and please do keep me posted.

Best regards  
Matthew

**Matthew Gilbert**  
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Orange Tree Theatre  
1 Clarence Street  
Richmond  
TW9 2SA

Monday 14 February 2024

To Whom It May Concern

**Re: Orange Tree Theatre Support for Petersham Nurseries**

I am writing in support of Petersham Nurseries opening for 3 evenings a week for supper bookings.

Petersham Nurseries have historically been incredibly supportive of The Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond. We are an independent theatre that receives no core government funding and therefore rely solely on public support to sustain our community work and productions.

We have held fund raising dinners in 2016 and 2018 where Petersham Nurseries not only provided the table flowers, but also then donated the flowers and vases so that we could auction them off at the end of the evening. Thereby raising considerable amounts for the Orange Tree Theatre.

Now more than ever, small local businesses must support each other, and I can wholeheartedly support Petersham Nurseries wish to open 3 nights a week for supper bookings, thereby securing local jobs and providing an exceptional and beautiful dining experience.

If you wish to contact me further my email address is [Sarah.Murray@OrangeTreeTheatre.co.uk](mailto:Sarah.Murray@OrangeTreeTheatre.co.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Murray', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Murray

General Manager & Producer  
The Orange Tree Theatre  
Charity number: 266128

## The Planning Inspectorate

### COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

### Appeal Reference: APP/L5810/C/24/3339372

#### DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference	APP/L5810/C/24/3339372
Appeal By	PETERSHAM NURSERIES LIMITED
Site Address	Petersham Nurseries Ltd Petersham Road RICHMOND TW10 7AB

#### SENDER DETAILS

Name	MRS TAMARA BENJAMIN
Address	2 Rutland Drive RICHMOND TW10 7AQ

#### ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- Appellant
- Agent
- Interested Party / Person
- Land Owner
- Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- Final Comments
- Proof of Evidence
- Statement
- Statement of Common Ground
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

## **YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE**

As one of the Nurseries' closest neighbours, I can honestly say that we have not been impacted in any way by the evening openings at Petersham Nurseries. The dinners in the main Glasshouse are quiet and we have no issues with them. Our initial concerns and previous objections were based on fear and, at that time, a lack of trust.

Over the last two years the company has worked hard to speak and listen to the concerns of the community and have addressed many of our issues. Furthermore, I believe that the evening openings are beneficial as they bring people into the Borough, boost employment in the area and provide a wonderful setting and food for the people who live nearby.

Honestly, we are more impacted by Ham Polo Club due to the volume and regularity of helicopters and loud thumping speakers.

Dear Petersham Nurseries Team,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ukrainian refugee community to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support and opportunities you have provided. Your kindness and generosity have made a significant difference in our lives during a time of great uncertainty and upheaval.

The morning coffee gatherings you hosted, complete with delicious cakes and pastries, have been more than just a treat for our taste buds. They have served as a sanctuary where we could feel a sense of unity and companionship. In a foreign land, away from our homes, you gave us a place where we could gather, share our stories, and find new friends. These moments have been invaluable in helping us cope with the challenges of displacement.

Moreover, the information sessions on benefits and other support mechanisms available from the UK government have been incredibly helpful. Navigating a new country's system can be daunting, and your guidance has been a beacon of hope, making the transition smoother and less intimidating.

We are also immensely grateful for the job opportunities provided at Petersham Nurseries. These roles have not only helped many of us to become financially independent but have also given us a sense of purpose and belonging. Working in your beautiful nurseries, surrounded by nature and warmth, has been therapeutic and uplifting. The evening dinners and events have provided invaluable employment for the members of our community who have children or are studying during the day. There are still lots of Ukrainians living in Ham and Petersham and so this source of local employment with above average wages is simply life changing.

Your actions have embodied the spirit of community and compassion. You have not just seen us as refugees but as individuals with dreams, hopes, and the desire to contribute meaningfully to our new community. Your support has been a critical stepping stone in our journey to rebuild our lives.

Please accept our deepest thanks for your unwavering support and kindness. Petersham Nurseries will always hold a special place in our hearts.

With immense gratitude,

Nadiya Willington  
On behalf of the Ukrainian Refugee Community





Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

12 April 2024

Dear Planning Inspector,

Re: Petersham Nurseries Enforcement Notice Appeal : APPL/L5810/C/24/3339372  
Petersham Nurseries LTD, Petersham Road, Richmond, TW10 7AB  
Richmond upon Thames Notice Ref: 18/0025/EN/BCN

I am writing to support Petersham Nurseries in their appeal against the LBRUT Council decision to issue an enforcement notice on Petersham Nurseries suppers.

As the former MP for Richmond Park and North Kingston (2010-2019), I have long been incredulous at the council's historic lack of support for this wonderful, unique and extraordinary business. The importance of enterprise when our high streets are dying, the economic development that Petersham Nurseries bring to the locality, bringing footfall from *far and wide - not to mention the employment opportunities for many local and young people*. I have attended their supper evenings on numerous occasions and seen first hand how smoothly they run and without any discernible harm to the neighbours or the Metropolitan Open Land.

This is a morally upstanding business - which has deep ties into the community and local charities. Petersham Nurseries represents a huge success story in Richmond - and should be lauded from the rooftops - not having to continue this historic battle to open 3 evenings a week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Zac Goldsmith'.

Lord Zac Goldsmith of Richmond Park