

Petersham Nurseries

Supportive letters appendix update

29 May 2024

Introduction

This document contains supportive letters sent to Petersham Nurseries. They have been sent by staff, suppliers, community organisations and local neighbours.

These are in addition to the 6,584 people who wrote or signed a petition in 2022 to support Petersham Nurseries with its planning and licensing applications, and 7105+ further recent notes of support received during March-May 2024.



Petersham Nurseries

From [REDACTED], Petersham TW10

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.

From Anne Newton, Chief Executive, Richmond Chamber of Commerce

Richmond Chamber of Commerce represents thousands of companies, global and SMEs/start-ups, across the Borough. Local firms value The Petersham Nurseries as Borough treasure - indeed their company won the Best Richmond Business 2022. That is how proud of Petersham Nurseries.

The business community values their team's contribution to the local economy, employing many in all sorts of business roles. They give back to the community in so many ways and this is so appreciated by the many nonprofits and community groups who benefit.

By its very nature, Petersham Nurseries embodies what Richmond means for so many living in and those who visit the area and that is: the natural landscape and celebration of nature; sustainability; life in concert with the environment; a relaxed vibe; along with respect for all.

The Nurseries is relied on and used by so many and the cafe sits perfectly next to the Nurseries offering customers a place to revive. Fine dining too draws so many to our riverside and this can only be a positive for our Borough both in terms of life and prosperity. We are very proud to number Petersham Nurseries as a prized local business and we support their demand for operational hours after 5pm.

From Sarah Olney, MP for Richmond Park



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17 April 2024

To whom it may concern,

Re: Petersham Nurseries

I am writing to you in advance of the local public inquiry into Petersham Nurseries set to begin on the 2nd of July.

The restaurant at Petersham Nurseries has grown substantially over the past few years from a small ancillary to the garden centre into a venue and destination in its own right. It has gained a large and loyal customer base and employs over 163 people including dozens of my constituents.

Over the past decade, the restaurant has won awards for its food, its commitment to the environment, and its support for local charities and organisations. Alongside gaining a prestigious Green Michelin Star for its commitment to sustainability, it was awarded Richmond's "Best Business" in 2021, and was shortlisted for the UK's Business of the Year in 2018.

It has played host to weddings, birthdays, and celebrations of every kind, becoming a treasured part of the lives of thousands of Londoners. The business also draws in tourists from around the world who in turn support the local economy and raise the profile of the area on the global stage.

Petersham Nurseries is not only a first-rate restaurant, it is also an excellent employer. I attach dozens of letters from workers at every level of the business who highlight the support, guidance, and mentoring they have received during their time with the company. In these letters, they often refer to their colleagues as part of their family and the Nurseries as almost a second home to them.

Since the restaurant opened, Petersham Nurseries has become an excellent addition to our community, providing a wonderful local amenity, employment opportunities, and a fine example of a sustainable business.

The local community that I represent here in Richmond Park very much values the presence of Petersham Nurseries in the area and want to see it being able to continue to trade successfully, supporting hundreds of jobs, and providing elegant, natural surroundings in which to enjoy award-winning food.

I hope the inspectorate will consider this letter during the inquiry and will review the attached letters of support for Petersham Nurseries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Olney".

Sarah Olney
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park

From Matthew Gilbert, Associate Director, Head of Residential Sales, Hamptons,

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 the Petersham Nurseries.

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

From Hamptons residential property brochure: Forge Lane, Richmond, TW10 7BF

{ THE PARTICULARS

Petersham Road, RICHMOND, TW10

£1,500,000
Tenure: Freehold

4 bedroom
2 bathrooms
4 receptions

Features
Council Tax
Council Tax Band F

Hamptons
8, The Quadrant
Richmond
TW9 1BP
richmond@hamptons.co.uk
020 8940 2772
hamptons.co.uk

{ Characterful and deceptively large house of over 2700 sq. ft.

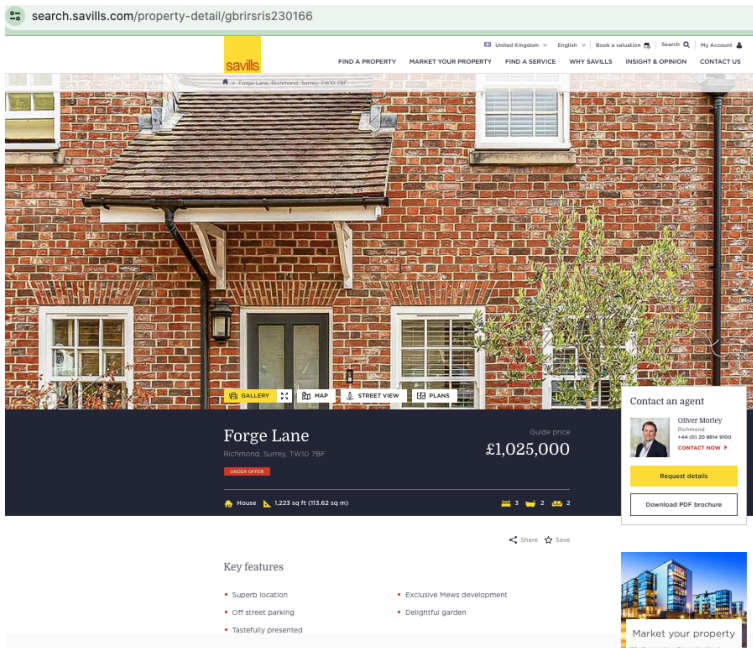
The Property
Requiring significant updating, an immensely characterful house with ample off-street parking, located in the heart of idyllic Petersham and once part of a former larger residence, of which historical roots comprise a school, a refuge for the school children of The Russell School during WWII and a church hall. The house retains much of its historical tenure with striking architectural features such as the bell tower and the arch double doors of its entrance. Positioned at a right angle and set back from Petersham Road, viewed from the street the house occupies the western-most side of this once historical residence. Inside however, the deceptively large laterally-arrange living accommodation extends to over 2700 sq. ft. (over 250 sq. m) and is arranged over just two floors. The ground floor is most impressive with four large reception rooms providing flexible living space and a sun room over-looking the wall-enclosed westerly garden. Of particular note is the vaulted ceiling dining room with exposed beams and bare walls, with garden access, and once the former school classroom. Upstairs, there is a large master bedroom suite with roof terrace access and a westerly aspect. In addition, there are three further bedrooms and a bathroom. To the front, the entire hard-standing is demised off-street parking for the house.

Location
The house is superbly located in the heart of Petersham, a leafy village just south of Richmond and north of Kingston, lying in semi-rural idyll between Richmond Park and The River Thames. The sought-after amenities of Richmond are about one mile from the house, whilst close at hand are The Petersham Nurseries and The Dysart, both of which are held in gastronomic esteem. Richmond train station offers a prompt and direct service into London Waterloo, as well as the District line tube and overland to Stratford, via north London. Local schools boast an exceptional reputation and are considered amongst the best in the country.



'The sought after amenities of Richmond are about one mile from the house, whilst close at hand are The Petersham Nurseries and The Dysart, both of which are held in gastronomic esteem...'

From Savills online residential property listing for Forge Lane property [here](#)



search.savills.com/property-detail/gbr/sris230166

United Kingdom English Book a valuation Search My Account

FIND A PROPERTY MARKET YOUR PROPERTY FIND A SERVICE WHY SAVILLS INSIGHT & OPINION CONTACT US

Forge Lane, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 7BP

Forge Lane
Richmond, Surrey, TW9 7BP

£1,025,000

House 1,223 sq ft (113.62 sq m)

Key features

- Superb location
- Off street parking
- Tastefully presented
- Exclusive Mews development
- Delightful garden

Contact an agent
Oliver Marley
Salesperson
+44 (0) 20 864 9100
CONTACT NOW

Request details

Download PDF brochure

Market your property
Whether you're selling or looking to

'Local information:

- *The sophisticated yet charming shops and restaurants of Richmond are within just one mile (via a picturesque riverside walk) and Hyde Park Corner is within approximately 11 miles. Whilst immediately to hand The Petersham Nurseries and The Dysart are held in high gastronomic esteem. Richmond train station offers a rapid and direct service into London Waterloo, as well as the District line tube and overland to Stratford, via north London.'*

From [REDACTED] former Petersham Nurseries chef and staff member

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 to 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 husband's 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.

From Chris Rhodes, Headteacher, Grey Court School, Ham Street, Ham, Richmond TW10 7HN

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.

From 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. Petersham 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.

From [REDACTED], Petersham TW10

We feel very blessed to literally be on the doorstep of Petersham Nurseries.

I shudder to think what could have been built when the previous nursery put the land up for sale! We were so grateful that the Boglioni family stepped in and over the years they have created a heavenly sanctuary that feeds the soul. The immense passion of nature's beauty and grace is felt by all who walk in.

I implore Richmond Council sees reason and grants permission for the evening dinners. In times of uncertainly it's of the utmost to protect businesses such as Petersham Nurseries.

From Be Richmond, Richmond Business Improvement District



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



Email: info@doseofnature.org.uk
Website: www.doseofnature.org.uk
Phone: 07804 067 584

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). 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



From Andrea [REDACTED], Chief Operating Officer, Petersham Cellar and supplier

I am writing to you with a heavy heart regarding the troubling situation with the license at Petersham Nurseries in Richmond. This issue deeply concerns us, and I feel it necessary to convey the grave implications it holds for our operations.

As a primary supplier to Petersham Nurseries Café, our business is significantly reliant on your company, accounting for approximately 25% of our annual turnover. Last year alone, our transactions amounted to £500,000. The potential discontinuation of this revenue stream is alarming and would have severe repercussions for our staff and their families. Should we face this loss, it would regrettably force us to consider laying off four of our six full-time employees, all of whom are supporting families.

Additionally, our proximity to Richmond means that a reduction in our operations would not only affect our company but also the local and national economy. It would lead to decreased expenditures with local suppliers, including wineries, packaging services, warehouses, and shipping companies.

It is crucial to underscore that the survival of our company is in jeopardy. As one of our key clients, the continuation of our partnership is vital for our future prospects. The potential fallout from this situation poses a dire risk to our sustainability.

Thank you for considering the gravity of this situation. We are hopeful for a resolution that will allow us to continue our partnership and support the livelihoods of those associated with our operations.

*Kind Regards,
Andrea*

From [REDACTED], Petersham TW10

To whom it may concern,

Having been born at Queen Charlotte's in 1958 I was brought straight back to our family house in Petersham where I resided with my family until my father was posted away for NATO. We kept the house and I settling back to live here permanently in 1982 I so I have a huge love, interest and knowledge of the area and felt very privileged to also be able to bring up my 3 children here.

From the moment Petersham Nurseries first opened its doors we have been regular visitors and have held many of our families special occasions there over the years, occasions made all the merrier by the attentive and polite staff, exquisite food and the beautiful decor - it is unlike anywhere else I have been and we never tire of it.

From the very beginning it was obvious that the place was set up and run with huge affection for the plot itself, the local area and residents and its visitors and it has never felt like someone trying to make a fast buck or take an easy route to making a successful business. In consideration and efforts made by the Nurseries over the years, the incredibly high standards of everything they do and to the hundreds of local children who have had or are having their first taste of work there is

tremendous and should be applauded, encouraged and helped to be able to keep it open.

Since Covid we have seen so many businesses though out this country collapsing and Richmond town centre has been no different, the high street seems decimated when I drive through it but the Nurseries is huge local attraction, one that I recommend to everyone who is visiting London, I sing the virtues of taking the train to Richmond and walking from there to the Nurseries, its such a delightful day out and I can only see that it would have a positive effect on other local businesses.

I have visited Petersham Nurseries for openings, purchasing plants, buying presents and eating meals and I have done that at night, in the day, at weekends and in the week by both car and on foot and it has always been spotlessly clean and I have never found it to be rowdy or had trouble with traffic or been unable to park, in fact in all the time since it opened I have been held up more times behind horse riders than by Petersham Nurseries traffic.

Lastly I have to say that I am very confused and concerned as to who the Ham and Petersham Association are speaking on behalf of in this matter as they certainly do not speak for me or my family. They have never once canvased, written, spoken to myself or my family about our thoughts and feelings towards Petersham Nurseries so I am confounded as to who's opinions are actually being voiced by them under the auspices of it being gathered 'Local Opinion.'

To sum up, I want to whole-heartedly and enthusiastically support their application.

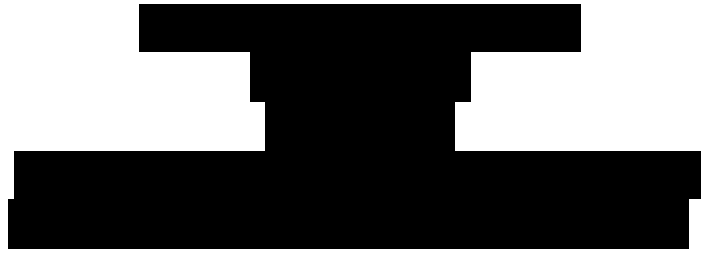
Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

From [Redacted] Petersham, TW10

We buy plants and with 10% Petersham Hort. Society discount there is a big selection of unusual and eco friendly range of plants available to just over £3.00. No other garden centre does that. The food in the cafe, not restaurant is affordable and super, served in a wonderful setting. The partnership with the Russel School for parking brings much needed income for the school. We take most visiting friends there just to show them the beauty of the place, anyone can walk in for free. We are privileged to live in this amazing neighbourhood, let's share it and occasional evening openings are well managed and not a problem.

From Serge Lourie, local councillor, Kew ward (1982-2010) and Planning Committee member, Deputy Leader/Leader of Council (2001-2002 and 2006-2010), London Borough Richmond upon Thames



21 March 2024
Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

My ref.: SL24/planning inspectorate 240321

Dear Madam/Sir

**Representation on Enforcement notice appeal: APP/L5810/C/24/3339372
Petersham Nurseries Ltd, Petersham Road, RICHMOND, TW10 7AB
Richmond upon Thames Reference 18/0025/EN/BCN**

I am writing to support Petersham Nurseries Limited in their appeal against the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames' decision to issue an enforcement notice in relation to the above decision by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 13 September 2023. In addition to this letter, I am making identical representations on your website.

I am a long-standing local resident; a former councillor from 1982-2010; a former member of the Planning Committee; and former Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council for nine years.

In my opinion, the economic benefits to the borough in terms of employment and to the Visitor Economy, which is the main economic driver of Richmond upon Thames, far outweigh any damage caused to local residents in the immediate vicinity of Petersham Nursery. This does not seem to have been considered in the decision making by the Council. Since the COVID epidemic, businesses in the borough have suffered serious damage as evidenced by the number of restaurants and shops that have had to close down because of the economic downturn. Petersham Nursery has survived and should be encouraged in the harsher post COVID environment.

Policy 22 of the emerging local plan "The best for our borough" Draft for consultation 9 June 2023 refers to the need for "Promoting jobs and our Local Economy". Petersham Nursery is a very successful local business, built from almost nothing, to provide a significant number of jobs in

the nursery, shop and restaurant. It also makes a major contribution to a number of local charities including the local foodbank.

Policy 26, Visitor Economy, states A "The Council will support the sustainable growth of the visitor economy for the benefit of the local area by: 1. supporting proposals which promote and enhance the borough's existing tourist attractions including the unique historic and cultural assets that are connected via the River Thames.

I consider that Petersham Nursery has supported an enhancement to the local tourism offer in a way that is "of an appropriate size" and does not damage the local environment or the amenity of local residents. The owners have created another important local tourist attraction that provided significant benefit to local people.

On reading the minutes of the Planning Committee at which the decision was made, I was surprised by this:

"Some Members expressed a view that the restaurant element of the operation appeared to have outgrown being part of a nursery and that there was not a shortage of other venues in the Borough from which Petersham Nurseries could operate as a restaurant. Members noted that there were empty restaurants in the Borough from which Petersham Nurseries could operate if they wished. In addition, any vacant Class E property in the Borough was available for them to move into and that operation as a restaurant would be an authorised use without the previous requirement to apply for a change of use."

In my opinion, the key test is to consider the economic benefits of the present arrangements against the harm done to local residents. I would urge the inspector to turn down the enforcement notice.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch. If it would be a help, I would be happy to give oral evidence.

Yours faithfully
Serge Lourie

From Nataliya Leventsova, Business Development Executive, HRUC (Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges) | Richmond Campus

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned members of the dedicated team from Richmond upon Thames College HRUC, are writing to express our sincere concern regarding the potential closure of the Petersham Nurseries Restaurant. We are deeply invested in presenting this invaluable establishment, as it holds significant importance not only for us personally but also for the broader community it serves.

Each of us has had the privilege of experiencing the unique offerings of the Petersham Nurseries Restaurant firsthand, and we can attest to the exceptional quality of both its cuisine and ambiance. Our individual encounters with the restaurant have left a lasting impression, and we are united in our desire to ensure that future generations could enjoy its unparalleled hospitality.

Furthermore, we wish to highlight the vital role that the Petersham Nurseries Restaurant plays in supporting our students' educational and professional development. The restaurant has been instrumental in providing valuable work experience opportunities for our students, both in front-of-house roles and within professional kitchen environments. Additionally, it has served as a valuable resource for aspiring chefs by offering positions for Production Chefs, thereby contributing to the growth and success of our local culinary talent.

Beyond its educational contributions, the Petersham Nurseries Restaurant serves as a cornerstone of economic development within the local community. Its presence not only attracts visitors from far and wide but also generates employment opportunities and fosters a vibrant atmosphere that benefits businesses and residents alike.

In the light of these considerations, we respectfully urge you to reconsider any plans that may jeopardize the future of the Petersham Nurseries Restaurant. We believe that with the continued support of the community, stakeholders, and decision-makers, it can not only endure but thrive for years to come.

As a demonstration of our unwavering commitment to this cause, we have initiated a petition to rally support for the preservation of the Petersham Nurseries Restaurant. We implore you to consider the voices of those who cherish this establishment and to work collaboratively towards a solution that ensures its preservation and continued success.

*Yours Sincerely,
Nataliya Leventsova
Llinos Morris
Anna Dobbin
James Unwin
Daniele Giraud*

*Nataliya Leventsova
Business Development Executive*

HRUC (Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges), Richmond Campus, Langhorn Drive, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



HRUC
HARROW, RICHMOND & UXBRIDGE COLLEGE GROUP

From [REDACTED] local resident, author and journalist

PLANNING INSPECTORATE Temple Quay House
2. The Square, Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6 PN

April 22nd 2024

REPRESENTATION ON Enforcement Notice Appeal :APPL/I5810/C/24/3339372
PETERSHAM Nurseries Ltd Petersham Rd Richmond TW10 7AB REF 18/0025/EN/BCN

Dear Sir or Madam

It has just come to my notice that the beautiful Petersham Nurseries is involved in an appeal against the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames' decision to issue an enforcement notice in relation to the above decision by the planning Committee at its meeting on 13 September 2023.

I am writing in the strongest possible terms to support Petersham Nurseries and to explain why the council too should be doing everything in its power to support and encourage this extraordinary and valuable local enterprise which is responsible for bringing so many tourists from the UK and Overseas to the borough. The economic benefit is beyond computing at a time when the high street is collapsing and looking bereft as shops of all sorts are closing, Here is an enterprise that brings enormous good will to the entire area as well as financial rewards and great charm and beauty. It is rooted in the community, offering local employment and many beneficial schemes for the less advantaged.

As a local author and journalist who, like many in Richmond, works from home I can state categorically that there is an enormous need for places like this which enhance our working environment and offer solace and inspiration without in any way impinging on the need for peace and quiet.

I have been a local resident since 1980 so have seen many changes in those 44 years. But the coming of Petersham Nurseries has transformed the borough in a corner which was neglected and overlooked before they came especially once the cowsheds left that corner along the River Thames. I cannot believe that as a council you would now want to drive away once of the few businesses that has found an original way to thrive in challenging times, creating a valuable amenity for local residents and tourists alike, improving the environment and creating a new tourist attraction that is renowned worldwide. Above all it benefits the wider economy of Richmond.

I look forward to hearing from you and above all to seeing Petersham Nurseries continue and flourish for many years to come.

With kind regards

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED], Petersham TW10

"We live on the other side of the wall from Petersham Nurseries, and also frequently walk down Church Lane. Although I was apprehensive, when the Supper Clubs first began, that they would create noise and disturbance, I have to report that in all the years that followed they have had not the slightest impact on us. So I can see no reason to prevent the restaurant from opening every evening. I should add that the Nurseries have always been good neighbours in general."

From John Lee, The Right Honourable The Lord Lee of Trafford DL, local resident

"I very much support Petersham Nurseries dinner planning application as the overall benefits in my view far outweigh any minor local disturbance."

From Lord Ian Wrigglesworth, The Right Honourable The Lord Wrigglesworth

One of the best assets in the area which must be allowed to function properly and provide customers with services when they want them.

From Nadiya Willington, on behalf of the Ukrainian community

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

From Zac Goldsmith, The Right Honourable The Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park PC

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park



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 suppliers.

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

House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW

Email: zac@zacgoldsmith.com

From Sarah Murray, General Manager and Producer, Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond



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.

Yours sincerely

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

Sarah Murray

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

From [REDACTED], Petersham TW10

Dear Madam/Sir

Representation on Enforcement notice appeal: APP/L5810/C/24/3339372
Petersham Nurseries Ltd, Petersham Road, RICHMOND, TW10 7AB
Richmond upon Thames Reference 18/0025/EN/BCN

I am writing to support Petersham Nurseries Limited in their appeal against the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames' decision to issue an enforcement notice in relation to the above decision by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 13 September 2023. In addition to this letter, I am making identical representations on your website.

I am a long-standing local resident; I live opposite Petersham Nurseries on Petersham Road.

In my opinion, the economic benefits to the borough in terms of employment and to the Visitor Economy, which is the main economic driver of Richmond upon Thames, far outweigh any damage caused to local residents in the immediate vicinity of Petersham Nurseries. This does not seem to have been considered in the decision making by the Council. Since the COVID epidemic, businesses in the borough have suffered serious damage as evidenced by the number of restaurants and shops that have had to close down because of the economic downturn. Petersham Nursery has survived and should be encouraged in the harsher post COVID environment.

Policy 22 of the emerging local plan "The best for our borough" Draft for consultation 9 June 2023 refers to the need for "Promoting jobs and our Local Economy". Petersham Nursery is a very successful local business, built from almost nothing, to provide a significant number of jobs in the nursery, shop and restaurant. It also makes a major contribution to a number of local charities including the local foodbank.

Policy 26, Visitor Economy, states A "The Council will support the sustainable growth of the visitor economy for the benefit of the local area by: 1. supporting proposals which promote and enhance the borough's existing tourist attractions including the unique historic and cultural assets that are connected via the River Thames.

I consider that Petersham Nurseries has supported an enhancement to the local tourism offer in a way that is "of an appropriate size" and does not damage the local environment or the amenity of local residents. The owners have created another important local tourist attraction that provided significant benefit to local people.

On reading the minutes of the Planning Committee at which the decision was made, I was surprised by this:

"Some Members expressed a view that the restaurant element of the operation appeared to have outgrown being part of a nursery and that there was not a shortage of other venues in the Borough from which Petersham Nurseries could operate as a restaurant. Members noted that

there were empty restaurants in the Borough from which Petersham Nurseries could operate if they wished. In addition, any vacant Class E property in the Borough was available for them to move into and that operation as a restaurant would be an authorised use without the previous requirement to apply for a change of use."

The country is in recession and the country needs, and politicians demand, growth. Between 2006-2023 Petersham Nurseries has paid over £34 million in salaries, over £7.3 million in VAT, over £7.1 million in PAYE and National Insurance. Petersham Nurseries has spent almost £1 million in costs regarding planning and meeting other council demands. Presumably the council has mirrored these costs and this would appear to be a serious misuse of tax payers money.

In my opinion, the key test is to consider the economic benefits of the present arrangements against the harm done to local residents. I would urge the inspector to turn down the enforcement notice.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Letters from Petersham Nurseries staff members

Samantha [REDACTED] Head of Events



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

My name is Samantha [REDACTED], and I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for 10 years; my current position is Head of Events.

The owners of Petersham Nurseries have created a magical, unique haven here in Richmond and it is a pleasure and a privilege to work in such beautiful surroundings.

I have been offered support and flexibility when my children were younger, which for women in business is absolutely essential in order for us to be able to grow our careers alongside parenting. Two of my daughters have also worked here at the nurseries in a part-time role while they were studying. It is a family business that supports the families of its employees!

Staff are offered the opportunity to grow and evolve, many of us began in one role and over the years have moved into completely different areas of the business, I truly believe that we would not have had these opportunities in any other business.

We are very aware of our residential location and ensure that we, as a team respect our neighbours. The majority of staff walk or cycle to the nurseries and we are constantly reminded to do this in a quiet and respectful way. We always encourage guests to do the same. The team at Petersham Nurseries are like an extension of my family, it would be devastating for us and all the many guests that visit us if we were no longer able to spend our days in this beautiful and unique family business.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha [REDACTED]

Noriko [REDACTED], Site Florist



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am writing to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to work at Petersham Nurseries in Petersham for the past six years as a site florist. It has been a source of immense pride and joy to be part of a company that is so passionately committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

At Petersham Nurseries, sustainability is not just a buzzword; it is ingrained in every aspect of our operations. From the restaurant where leftover food is composted to the tea house where used coffee beans are repurposed for winter fire logs, and from the green shop to the gardeners who meticulously separate green waste for composting, every effort is made to minimize our environmental footprint.

As a florist, I am particularly proud of our commitment to using only seasonal flowers sourced from UK growers and avoiding the use of oasis and other environmentally harmful materials. It is rare to find a workplace that is so dedicated to creating beauty in harmony with nature and showing such profound respect for the environment.

Having previously worked in floristry environments where imported flowers laden with chemicals and environmentally unfriendly oasis were the norm, I can attest to the unique and special ethos of Petersham Nurseries. It truly stands out as a beacon of sustainability and ethical business practices.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of Petersham Nurseries and sincerely hope that more companies around the world will follow its example. It is not just a workplace but also a sanctuary—a place where nature, beauty, and sustainability converge in perfect harmony.

Yours sincerely,

Noriko [REDACTED]

Aiste [REDACTED], Product Merchandiser



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for over 3 years. First as a restaurant host/reservations agent, then followed by my current role for over two years as a merchandiser for our retail.

Petersham Nurseries is not only a job but a place I love coming to and I have a lot of thank you's to say to this business and people behind it.

As Covid hit I was laid off from a retail manager job by a known retailer and had to look for a new opportunity. Even though I had a lot of retail and management experience, I did not have any hospitality experience at all. I had interviewed for the restaurant host/reservations agent job and had gotten it and excelled in it by transforming and using the skills I had.

Further down the line I had interviewed for a new role, assistant merchandiser/stock controller at the time. The role matched my skill set and experience much better but it was still a leap of faith that was taken by Petersham Nurseries trusting me with the position.

I am now over 3 years in the business with a role of Product Merchandiser.

Petersham Nurseries gave me a chance when I needed one desperately and I have been shown a lot of trust and compassion over the years. That is the kind of place that Petersham Nurseries is and I fail to see how our Petersham family could be viewed negatively.

Myself and I am sure many of my colleagues want nothing more than to preserve everyone's livelihood. With many employed by the restaurant, losing our suppers would have a negative ricochet effect on all of us.

Yours sincerely,

Aiste [REDACTED]
Product Merchandiser

Bobby [REDACTED], Operations Manager



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked at Petersham Nurseries for 14 years, I started with the company as Teahouse manager and progressed to my current job role as Operational Manager.

I call Petersham Nurseries my 2nd home with my extended family having worked at Petersham for some many years.

The natural and organic family environment the Bogleione family have created for employees and guest to enjoy is world known and one of a kind.

I am absolutely shocked by the way the council have treated this unique business over the Years, it is a business Richmond is proud of to have in their district, but the recent enforcement speaks a different language.

From an economy perspective, and where unemployment figures are at the highest it has ever been in the country, surely Richmond should be supportive of a thriving business ? which employs people from the local community and surrounding areas and is also a massive supporter of local business, Charities, and schools & colleges.

The Richmond council behaviour over the last 10 years has caused unnecessary stress and worry not only to me, but most importantly to all employees who make Petersham what it is today.

The proposed enforcement which includes the loss of the 3 evening per week, would not only have a massive effect on the business financially, but my biggest concern is the impact and effect this would have on the employees lives and wellbeing who depend on a guaranteed income. The result of evening cuts would not only mean a reduction in hours available for the employees resulting in less income for the month to pay bills etc, but also for some of my Petersham family their job positions will be in jeopardy and will result in job losses.

In my 14 years of employment, Petersham Nurseries has never been visited by the police or any Environmental officer relating to alcohol or noise disturbance, due to this we granted a license to serve alcohol for 3 evenings per week. How can an establishment be granted to serve alcohol for 3 evenings per week and not be granted premises license to serve food ?

This does not add up.

I do hope that the enforcement is reviewed and reconsidered, and that Petersham Nurseries is still able to continue with 3 evenings per week to mirror the same as other businesses within the surround area, without imposed restriction. I would very much like to bring some positive news to the staff and to guarantee job safety for them in the future.

Yours sincerely,

██████████
*Operations Manager
Petersham Nurseries*

Benjamin ██████████, Head of Retail



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

My name is Benjamin ██████████ and I have been working at Petersham Nurseries since April 2022. I used to work in central London and have completely changed my career as I am passionate about plants and nature. I always wanted to work in an environment surrounded by nature and beauty allowing me to ground as a human being and be happy.

Petersham Nurseries means family to me, it is my happy place to come to and experience joy. I am excited every morning to cycle to work along the river and my aim is to transmit to our customer the positive energy this setting is providing to all of us.

There is much to be said about a place not far from the hectic London life, where people can completely escape and recharge. It is a healthy place for the mental health too.

I really hope this place will continue to survive and that our jobs will be saved, but not only for us employees, but also for the wellbeing of the customers visiting us.

Thank you,
Best regards,

Benjamin ██████████
Head of Retail

—

PETERSHAM NURSERIES
Church Lane, off Petersham Road
Richmond, TW10 7AB
T +44 (0)20 8940 5230

Viktorija [REDACTED], Horticultural Retail Manager



Petersham Nurseries

To the Planning Officer

I'm reaching out to express how important Petersham Nurseries are to me and my Family.

Long before I started working at Petersham Nurseries, I was a customer. We were visiting this place as an escape from London – a very special place with its unique vibes where the world seemed to be a better place.

In the years of a lockdown and doing what I did at the time wasn't an option for me any longer, I took a turn in my carrier and surrendered to doing more of what I loved – being in nature, outdoors, working with plants, watching the nature do what the nature does. I studied horticulture and had a dream to join this special place. Dreams come true. I started from the bottom as a retail assistant, working part time while studying and being a mum to a young child and worked my way up to become a Horticultural Retail Manager.

While working here, I met so many incredible and inspiring people. People who appreciate the Nature, who love their plants and their food, appreciation of quality and lifestyle. Food as is- no chemical treatment, no artificial additives – healthy for you and the environment.

Every now and then we, as a family, come here for dinner. We love having this option to have a great meal in a very unique environment. It is a place like no other places in the world. It would be really sad to lose it. It would break my heart to see my colleagues losing their jobs and the consequences for their families.

Thank you for your time reading my letter.

*Kindest regards,
Viktorija*

Iona [REDACTED], Waitress



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I will have worked here a year come June.

Petersham Nurseries, has not only become my family but has given me the opportunity to fulfil my dream of becoming a solicitor. Working here allows me to fund my legal practice course. It is an amazing environment with a wonderful team, which has supported me in a multitude of ways.

The impact of closing our evening suppers will cause a significant detriment, not only to our customers and team but for the local community. I myself will suffer personally due to the fact that I work most dinner sittings, as this allows me to attend university whilst providing flexibility to ensure I am on top of my studies before I start work.

Since working here, the supper setting is by far the most memorable. I have witnessed several special occasions; such as engagements, graduations, anniversaries, birthdays and those remembering a loved one who once held Petersham Nurseries close to their heart. It would be truly incomprehensible to stop our evening service.

Yours sincerely,
Iona [REDACTED]

Jane [REDACTED], Ecommerce Support Manager



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham and have worked here for nearly three years, firstly as a retail assistant and now in Ecommerce.

I started work here part time after having been made redundant at the start of the covid pandemic. I have been able to grow within my role here and I am enormously grateful to Petersham Nurseries for giving me the opportunity to regain my confidence at work and fulfil my potential in a creative & supportive environment.

The business is made up of an enormously talented and hard-working group of people who are passionate about where they work, me included, and who strive to give our customers the best possible experience when they are with us.

When I meet people outside of work who know Petersham Nurseries the comments are always the same: What a magical place, there is nowhere like it.... etc and they are right.

One of the elements of Petersham Nurseries that I am most impressed with is the genuine care they have taken to support local charities and also welcome & support our amazing colleagues from Ukraine.

On a more serious note, my income here is essential to support my family. Any threat to the operating of the business to its full potential will have a direct impact on the livelihoods of the people who work here.

*Your sincerely,
Jane [REDACTED]*

Berenika [REDACTED], Reservations Agent



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for almost 3 months as a Reservations Agent.

Petersham Nurseries is more than just a garden centre, restaurant, or a place to shop for plants and decor. It's a sanctuary where you find solace amidst nature's beauty. It's a special place where you can escape hustle and bustle of everyday life and discover inspiration in every corner. Petersham Nurseries represents a retreat where you can reconnect with yourself and the natural world, fostering a sense of peace and rejuvenation.

The closure of evening suppers at Petersham Nurseries will leave me feeling disappointed as I believe those events likely provided our guests a unique opportunity to enjoy delicious meals in charming setting surrounded by nature. Not having them anymore feels like a loss of something special. The closure of the restaurant in the evening will affect me personally, as my job is restaurant related.

With kind regards,

Berenika [REDACTED]

Alfie [REDACTED], Sommelier



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for 1.5 years as a sommelier. I have absolutely loved my job here, and the amazing colleagues that I have met along the way. The evenings are a magical time in the restaurant, and my personal role tends to be much more interesting in the evening service. Aside from that, there are 3 of us working as sommeliers, and cutting 3 out of the 9 shifts would significantly reduce our working hours. I sincerely hope that we can continue providing dinner service at the restaurant.

Yours sincerely,

Alfie [REDACTED]

Milli [REDACTED] Waitress



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here 16 years in various positions in the restaurant and Teahouse as a waitress.

Petersham Nurseries plays a huge part in my life bringing not only an income but fulfilment. If the nursery was to lose its evening trade it would have a substantial effect on my income.

The nursery offers opportunities to several people from all cultures, and disabilities. It is a unique business with unique individuals.

*Yours sincerely,
Milli*

Mark [REDACTED], Sales Assistant



Petersham Nurseries

I've worked for Petersham Nurseries for nearly 30 years. It's a way of life and I'm grateful for the job. this is also a beautiful working environment.

Yours Mark [REDACTED], Sales Assistant

Emma [REDACTED], Office Manager



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for 6 years as Office Manager.

Petersham Nurseries means so much to me as I spend most of my living week here and it has become such a huge part of my life in such happy, positive ways. We are a great, big, lovely family

here which brings so much comfort and warmth to me every minute that I am at work. I work with really amazing, hardworking and talented colleagues who would sadly be gravely impacted by the closure of evening suppers so I am really praying that we are able to carry on with offering our loyal customers our beautiful evening service at our special restaurant.

Yours sincerely,

Emma [REDACTED]
Office Manager

Samuele [REDACTED], Waiter



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries. I have worked here for on and off 5 years. I came back full time 2 years ago.

In my career I worked in different restaurants from Venice my home town, around Europe and UK, nothing it's like Petersham Nurseries.

From a waiters prospective, I love Petersham Nurseries especially in the evening, so calm and charming, our guests are amazed at the surroundings, it looks like you are under a sky full of stars. If it's like that for them imagine for us working together every day on this set up, it's a dream! We provide excellent quality of food and services, this is as well a place where young people can learn new skills or start a career in this industry like I did 20 years ago in my home town.

Petersham Nurseries has given me the opportunity to apply for a mortgage, which is very difficult to do in these days.

As a waiter if we are not able to do evening service, this decision will impact on my hours, salary, and because I have a mortgage to pay, I will need to find another job in another restaurant, this is something I would be unhappy about.

I hope we can find a solution to keep our evening service open.

Regards

Samuele [REDACTED]
Waiter

Katharine [REDACTED], Shop Assistant



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I started working here in 2019 as a stock controller then progressed to Shop Manager. I was so lucky that when my mother needed care with her terminal ill health, Petersham Nurseries gave me the opportunity to take time off to care for her. I am now back full time in the lifestyle shop and so glad to be back and part of an amazing team of people the shop, the plant nursery the teahouse and the beautiful restaurant all of which make for the wonderful place that is Petersham Nurseries.

We are a family at Petersham with exceptional customer service at our heart. Driven forward by Francesco and Gael and their 4 inspirational children. The restaurant particularly the evening service is a vital part of the Petersham experience.

We strive to compliment our Customers Evening Dining Experience with the opportunity to browse and buy in our beautiful lifestyle shop closing the restaurant evening service would result in disappointment for our customers who wish to have a full experience of Petersham Nurseries, fine dining and fine shopping in the hours when they would otherwise be at work.

Petersham Nurseries is so unique and brings joy to so many. To close a vital part of it, the restaurant evening service, would be a very sad day for us all.

*Yours sincerely,
Katharine [REDACTED]
Shop Assistant*

Manuel [REDACTED], Assistant Sommelier



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for 2 years as a assistant sommelier.

Petersham Nurseries has been a place of personal, professional and economic growth.

If we will not be able to stay open during evening shifts anymore, this will result in hours cuts or, in the worst case scenario, staff cuts.

Also this will affect my personal life directly since I am getting married in September, so I am really watching pounds and pennies. If my hours are reduced I will find myself under a huge economic stress.

Please, let us operate during dinner and save our jobs.

*Yours sincerely,
Manuel [REDACTED]
Assistant Sommelier*

Tracey [REDACTED], HR Administrator



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am employed as HR Administrator at Petersham Nurseries I have worked here for since 2016.

I live locally and walk to work, it is a visual delight to enter the Nurseries every morning.

Over the years, both of my daughters have worked at Petersham Nurseries whilst studying at university and they too have enjoyed working here.

It's inspiring working with staff from all areas of the business, this is quite a unique place to be employed.

Yours sincerely,

**Tracey [REDACTED]
HR Administrator**

Fabio [REDACTED], Reservations Manager



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I hope this email finds you well.

As an employee of Petersham Nurseries for the past 7 years, I have had the privilege of witnessing the essence of this unique establishment for a while and I really like working in such beautiful environment - we are like a family here.

I just would like to share my thoughts on what Petersham Nurseries means to me and the potential impact of the closure of evening suppers. Petersham Nurseries is a place of calm, in tune with nature and positive living, something truly exceptional in Richmond. As the reservations manager, I understand the delicate balance between daytime and evening operations. Losing the evening trade would have immediate repercussions, potentially leading to job losses, which is one of my biggest concerns. Our team, which includes around 200 dedicated staff members, relies on the continuity of our services. The restaurant area has evolved greatly, we are very committed here, and its closure would force us to make difficult compromises.

While we invest significant effort in minimising disruption to our neighbours, we recognise that perceptions vary. Petersham Nurseries has become an integral part of the community, and the support we receive from visitors and locals alike is heart-warming – you will see it when reading all the lovely comments made in the cards of the survey we worked on in the past few weeks.

Please let us continue to nurture this oasis of greenery, amazing experiences, and positive living.

Thank you for your attention.

*Best regards,
Fabio*

Fabio [REDACTED]

Reservations Manager

Charlotte [REDACTED] Events Coordinator



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am writing to you as an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham.

Though I only started working for Petersham Nurseries in September 2014, I visited much earlier, having grown up locally in the Ham/North Kingston area. Petersham was always a fun place to go to and explore and with my family, we have been coming to the nurseries for years.

After finishing University, I didn't know what I wanted to do, but I wanted to start working. So, after afternoon tea and cake stop with my mum, I asked if there were any job openings, and before I knew it, I was serving that same tea and cake from the Teahouse and never looked back. Petersham took me under their wing and since starting in the Teahouse, I feel it gave me a very quick understanding of the company both from an employee point of view and as one of the places to go to within the community.

Almost 10 years later, I've not only progressed within the company, transitioning from a Teahouse waiter to Teahouse Manager, including working on the diverse projects we undertook during the COVID years, but I've also ventured into the world of Events, challenging myself professionally. Alongside these progressions, I feel I have grown as a person along the way outside of the Nurseries.

Petersham Nurseries is a family-run business and when working here, with the Boglione Family and the many colleagues, who are now friends, you can't help but feel part of this big family. The beautiful plants and flowers around the Nurseries are so changeable through the seasons, which continues to make this place such a unique place to work. So much so that for my wedding last year, our flowers had to be done by our talented florists, so I could have the "Touch of Petersham Drama" with me on our special day.

Closing our Evening Suppers not only will have an impact on the business financially, but will also be impacted personally by the losses of jobs for many friends and colleagues. Before my time in the Events Team, though I managed the teahouse, on many occasions I helped the restaurant with their supper clubs and evening events.

All our supper clubs and evening events, such as Weddings, are carefully managed right from guest arrival to departure, to ensure the guests have a beautiful time enjoying that unique evening atmosphere of dining within the greenhouses, whilst creating minimal impact on the neighbours,

both bordering our property and within the neighbouring residential roads. I have also dined on many occasions in the evening, enjoying celebration dinners with family and friends, you can't get over the allure and charm of the Restaurant atmosphere during the evening. Now working in the Events team, I am even more aware of the hard work that goes into ensuring our evening dinners and events go off without a hitch, from that initial communication with the guests on enquiry through to saying goodbye at the gates as they depart, quietly in their pre-booked transport.

Petersham Nurseries is not just a special place for its employees, but the whole community and the closures of the evening suppers will be keenly felt and a loss to Richmond.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

*Thanks,
Charlotte*

Charlotte

Events Co-Ordinator

Isabella, Manager



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I have been an employee at Petersham Nurseries in Richmond for the past 11 years.

Petersham is like my second home and Boglione family like my second family. I have started my journey here when I was 18 and I progress from food runner who didn't speak any English to restaurant manager.

Losing our evenings will mean losing my job as well, as this evening hours are helping me to work my required 40h as a manger and also being able to spend the days with my 5 year old son and save on childcare. At Petersham we have an amazing dedication for our jobs and we are such a brilliant team that put their heart into everything. Please look after our jobs and do not take away our evenings.

Best regards,

Isabella [REDACTED]

Caroline, Green Team Member



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for almost three years as a member of the Green team in the plant shop and outside.

I want you to know that this unique and beautiful business should be receiving encouragement and support rather than having to fight these battles against the voices of nimbyism.

We cannot go backwards or stand still. If we did PN would not thrive and flourish and what would Richmond be without this place. Very different, very ordinary. My philosophy is always say yes. No leads to stagnation and then inevitably to the end. Saying yes is the right decision in the view of the majority. Saying yes to the suppers at PN gives people work. And happiness to the visitors. I work on the cart displays near the entrance and the gasps of surprise and delight on people's faces as they enter makes me feel so happy that I work somewhere that can make people happy and relaxed. Do we not need a unique calming oasis? Yes. So yes, please say yes.

Caroline

Elizabeth [REDACTED] Sales Assistant



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for one year as a sales assistant in the lifestyle shop.

Petersham Nurseries is a fabulous and calming oasis. I have worked for the company for four years (in Covent Garden as well as Richmond). It plays a vital part in the community and I believe many locals would be upset to see the restaurant close. It offers people an immersive experience where you can wander around the unique shops and enjoy a bite to eat in a truly magical restaurant. After twenty years of being open, Petersham Nurseries holds a special place in Richmond.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth [REDACTED] (Sales assistant - Lifestyle shop)

Mary [REDACTED], Restaurant Host



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector

I am writing to you in my capacity as both a local resident and an employee at Petersham Nurseries restaurant. I have lived and worked in the neighbouring Kingston borough for 30 years as a freelance self employed musician. My work as a musician, like many during covid, was severely impacted resulting in huge financial losses in my household. I applied for a part time job with Petersham Nurseries and have been working as a host in the restaurant since August 2022. As I am often the first point of contact for our guests, I am hugely aware of the regular local customers who frequent the restaurant as well as those who have travelled across the world to visit us. I often have time to chat to our guests as I walk them to their table. Many come to Petersham nurseries as a planned part of their itineraries to include visiting the 'Ted Lasso' film locations in Richmond, Ham House and Kew Gardens. We are very much a part of their experience of the area and not just an 'add on'. Petersham Nurseries is known all over the world.

I am so proud to work as a host at the restaurant. I do my best to bring my 40+ years of work experience to create a calm, inviting and memorable experience to every guest. Petersham Nurseries offered new employment for me (aged 58) which gives my household financial stability whilst also offering flexibility around my work as a community musician which is highly valued in the Kingston Borough. As an employer they offer work to so many, regardless of age or background. I am very proud to work alongside some truly remarkable young people, many of whom are at the start of their careers who work well with those of us who bring other experience. We learn from one another. The evening closure will impact many of the employees, including

myself, as well as leave a huge hole for those visiting us who wish to dine in our one of a kind restaurant as part of their UK travels

Yours sincerely

Mary [REDACTED] (restaurant host/Petersham Nurseries)

Hector [REDACTED], Waiter



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked in here for about 9 months as a waiter.

Working at Petersham Nurseries has been more than just a job; it's become a place where I've found a balance between nature and hospitality. It's a unique environment where I get to work amidst the greenery and floral beauty, witnessing the changing seasons firsthand.

What makes Petersham special is its unique sense of community and attention to detail. From understanding and recommending food from an ever-changing seasonal menu to ensuring every table is set impeccably, I've learned the importance of creating memorable experiences for our guests. It's about more than just food and drinks; it's about making people feel at home in this tranquil setting.

The potential closure of evening suppers at the restaurant would definitely have a significant impact on me as a part-time student worker. It's not just about losing shifts; it's about losing a valuable source of income and a sense of connection to the place and its community.

Yours sincerely,

Hector [REDACTED]

Tristan, Nursery Salesman



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for 6 months as a salesman in the plant nursery.

Petersham is a place I am surrounded with likeminded passionate people. It is a collection of people from all walks of life working together with a common goal of providing a memorable experience.

Tristan.

Paula [REDACTED] Restaurant General Manager



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I have been a Petersham Nurseries, Petersham employee since January 2016. I started here as assistant restaurant manager, and I have progressed to Restaurant General Manager, and I have lived in the Richmond borough since 1993. From an employees' perspective the refusal to grant us planning permission to open 3 evenings a week will cause a severe impact on us , we would lose one third of the 9 shifts that we operate, and that is a considerable cut on the number of employees needed.

In the same way that I have had the opportunity to grow professionally, we have college students that started working in our restaurant as a 'in between jobs', and that have now started their careers as sommeliers. Our focus on professionalism has inspired many local young people to pursue a career in hospitality, as they can witness the commitment to excellence that seeps down to every team member from the Boglione family. The care and attention to our team members, their dedication to environmental awareness and determination to never compromise in quality makes Petersham the ideal workplace for anybody who takes pride in their work.

We also have an international appeal, where Hollywood A listers personal assistants have our personal telephone numbers and contact us directly to secure a table. These guests arrive at Petersham is awe of the beauty of our nurseries, the carefully crafted menu and the professional service they receive.

As part of my job, I greet and talk to our guests, and I often hear how visiting Petersham Nurseries is a life time wish for them. I have had guests from Ireland surprising their spouses for their anniversary, because of our Instagram posts and stories. I have had 3 friends flying from Australia to spend 3 days in London with their terminally ill friend, and part of their wish was to bring their friends to dine with us. We witness proposals, birthdays, weddings, and memorials. The impact of the pandemic on our industry highlighted that hospitality is more than serving tables, it is creating memories and reconnecting with loved ones.

The loss of employment and the closure of a destination of international appeal would be a huge loss both to me personally, to my team, and to the borough, one that can never be replaced, as we are often told, that there is nothing like a dinner at Petersham Nurseries in the world, be it winter, spring, summer or autumn.

Yours faithfully,

Paula [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Restaurant General Manager

Thomas [REDACTED], **Director of Horticulture**



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I have been an employee at Petersham Nurseries for the last 14 years, where I have progressed to the role of Director of Horticulture.

I joined the nursery in 2010, my first job in horticulture after leaving the world of aviation, which had been my career for many years.

I quickly became an integral part of the nursery, where I was immersed in horticultural excellence, nurtured by knowledgeable colleagues and welcomed by loyal local customers.

After a few months, I was promoted to Assistant Manager of the 'Green Team', subsequently working my way up through the ranks to Director of Horticulture. As the business grew and developed, so did my career and knowledge.

The Boglione family have been pivotal in building the careers of many who are new to the working world, career changers and those returning to work after a career break. They quickly welcome staff members into fold, trusting their professional integrity and building them into strong professionals and managers. For so many, Petersham Nurseries is where the cut their teeth in the food and beverage, horticultural and retail industries; many of whom remain with the business after many, many years. We have welcomed many young horticulturists through the years, many who have gone on to forge successful careers in the industry.

Without the trust of the Boglione family and being a part of this unique business, I would not be in the position that I am now. I have become a well known member of the wider horticultural community in the U.K. and often contribute nationally on behalf the nursery, promoting the core values of slow and sustainable gardening. Petersham Nurseries has enabled my career to blossom.

As part of my role, I was able to develop The School of Garden Inspiration - a series of workshops throughout the year, dedicated to creativity, organic garden practices and most importantly, imparting the importance of a sustainable lifestyle that benefits the environment. Through this, we have built a dedicated following of local attendees and welcome newcomers on a regular basis, all of whom leave feeling inspired and better gardeners, taking away important information on how to build a better and sustainable future for the planet.

The loss of the evening dinners would have a detrimental effect on the future of the nursery. Without this vital source of revenue in the evenings, we would be prevented from providing vital employment for local people, a strong launchpad for career development and most importantly the loss of a service to the local and wider Richmond community.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas [REDACTED]

Director of Horticulture, Petersham Nurseries.

Tiziana [REDACTED], Bar Manager



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham.

I have worked here for twelve years.

I started to work part time in the teahouse , then part time as food runner and drink runner in the restaurant , it's 6 years now I work full time at the restaurant bar as bar manager.

Petersham Nurseries means a lot to me because gave me the possibility to grow and to work in a place so beautiful , unique and well known in all the world .

I really hope the closure of the evenings suppers will not happen , I want to keep working in Petersham Nurseries and I really need to work in the evening as well .

*Yours sincerely ,
Tiziana [REDACTED]*

Byron [REDACTED], Gardener



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

My name is Byron [REDACTED] and I am a Gardener at Petersham Nurseries. I have been working at the nursery since July 2023. However, I am a resident of Richmond and have been supporting and visiting the nursery since it opened, and feel it has always been a place of great inspiration to me over the years.

Since joining the team just over 9 months ago I have come to understand just how vital the nursery is to the local community and also its standing on the International stage - it truly is a unique place to visit and work.

For my colleagues who work in the restaurant, kitchens and car parks the closure of evening suppers would be a devastating blow to their income in times of increasing economic uncertainty.

Also, the wider impact on our suppliers who are vital to the quality of the food and beverages we proudly produce. Finally this closure would be devastating for our customers, whom by night get to experience another side to the nursery, one of calm, quiet and candle-lit magic.

I truly believe that Petersham Nurseries is both a unique day and night destination for Richmond, and should be celebrated and protected for years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Byron [REDACTED]
Gardener

Nikki [REDACTED], Visual Merchandiser



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I have been working for Petersham Nurseries for over six years as a Visual Merchandiser in the Lifestyle Store.

Petersham has been very special to me for many years, even before I became an employee, it is a wonderful place that is truly unique.

Customers come from all over the world to experience this magical place, strolling around Petersham Nurseries with its inspiring stores and garden centre, enjoying a meal in a beautiful restaurant, it is an oasis which has become a favourite for so many locals.

Most of the staff at Petersham Nurseries live locally, keeping Petersham open is not only vital for myself and my colleagues but for our customers who I believe would be very upset to see our very special and unique restaurant close.

Petersham Nurseries has been in Richmond for twenty years, a magical place that is very much part of our community, please keep us open.

Yours sincerely,

Nikki [REDACTED]
Visual Merchandiser

Daniela [REDACTED], [no job title given]



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for 1 year.

Before I joined as an employee, I used to always come here as a customer and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. A trip to Petersham Nurseries felt like a visit to heaven and was always a calming, inspiring experience. I have had wonderful celebrations in the restaurant for dinner service and brought friends and family to visit this gem.

In the short year I've been an employee at Petersham Nurseries, I learnt so much about sustainability and gained deeper appreciation towards the environment. It's incredible how much research we are encouraged to do to ensure that every decision we make is in tune with nature - from the crockery we serve our food in to the ingredients we use and the suppliers we partner with. In all the 6 years I've worked in the hospitality industry, I have never witnessed such passion and commitment to living peacefully amongst nature. If all hospitality businesses put in the same effort, the world would be a much nicer place.

I feel so proud and privileged to be part of this community and beg you to preserve Petersham Nurseries!

*Yours sincerely,
Daniela [REDACTED]*

Renata, Senior Waiter



Petersham Nurseries

Dear planning inspector,

I am an employee in Petersham Nurseries and I have worked in this company for two years as a Senior waiter.

Petersham means a lot to me personally but just as much to the customers who visit it all the time. Where every day is special with the wonderful place that reminds you of the countryside in nature.

Kind regards,

Renata

Poppy [redacted] [no job title given]



Petersham Nurseries

Dear planning inspector,

I have been working at Petersham Nurseries for the past 4 years as a waitress. The experience has been so rewarding in teaching me so many new skills and allowing me to gain confidence!!

I have made friends for life and always look forward to returning back to work at Petersham on my breaks from university.

Yours sincerely, Poppy [redacted]

Fei [redacted], Horticulture Sales Assistant



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for 17 months as a horticulture sales assistant.

Petersham Nurseries is an icon for the area as it has stood here for a long time as centre for inspiration, and families to gather for a hearty dinner.

It would make sense to keep it going especially for the supper club, we have always had good

reviews and people love to come enjoy the healthy organic food that's sourced locally. There are also people travel from afar to visit the supper club, it adds reputation for Richmond as place of attraction.

I personally enjoyed working at Petersham Nurseries, people are very friendly and considerate, to close the supper club means I will lose some good friends that I have been working with, they will lose their jobs and also it will impact on the business as a whole, and affect our earnings as well. So please let the supper club keep running, it's good for the community in every aspect.

Yours sincerely,

Fei ■

Margot ■ Teahouse Supervisor



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for a year and a half as a waitress and now as a Teahouse Supervisor.

Petersham means a lot to me, I discovered such a nice and peaceful place. With lots of very kind people.

The evening suppers are lovely, and important to customers as well as employees. It is an even more beautiful place at night, a good environment that customers can enjoy.

Yours sincerely,

Margot

Prosper, Head Waiter



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee in Petersham Nurseries, and I have worked here for a year and nine months as a head waiter.

Petersham means a lot to not just me but many amongst us, and working here these past year(s) has made a great positive impact on me.

Kind regards,

Prosper

Heather [REDACTED], Finance Director



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector

I am the Finance Director at Petersham Nurseries and have worked here for a year and a half.

To put it bluntly this business is nothing short of incredible.

It is a family business through and through, it empowers and develops employees to the very best of their ability. The company genuinely cares about the environment and sustainability and ensures we work with suppliers who have the same ethos, rather than just working with the cheapest suppliers. The company has always worked in this way and that has always been at the heart of what the Boglione family have set out to do rather than the current “green washing” we see so many other companies do. We work with the community on local outreach projects, we train apprenticeships, we offer work experience to local schools, we worked with Ukrainian refugees and we have also grown and developed some of the best talent in UK restaurants – e.g. Skye Gyngell founder of Spring restaurant started her career here.

The evening suppers are key to the profitability and trading ability of the company. We simply are not profitable without them, we cannot offer employees the shift patterns and full time contracts they need without them. The closure of evening suppers means redundancies, as Finance Director that’s particularly close to my heart. It’s my eyes they look into when they lose their job, my eyes they look into when they realise they can’t pay their rent that month or feed their children. You never forget the person who has made you redundant, please don’t make me do that to so many of our brilliant employees.

Thanks
Heather

[REDACTED]
Group Finance Director

Nikoleta [REDACTED] Barista



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for 6 months now as a Barista.

Petersham Nurseries is a place where nature, creativity, and community plus service meet! Many people want to enjoy a beautiful evening with their loved ones outside of their homes after long days at work, and if they didn't have the opportunity to enjoy nature or outdoor setting during the week or daytime, an evening meal or a drink at the Petersham's Restaurant and natural setting is very comforting and good option for that occasion!

I think having access to a place like this, and a reasonable amount of activity for this time of day where both human and nature is positively impacted and management is mindfully operating a system of work, it's having on for the local community!

Nikoleta

Mary [REDACTED], Waitress



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am a waitress at Petersham Nurseries and have been working here for a year but visited the nursery often as a child.

Working at Petersham is truly a wish fulfilled, amongst the vines and flowers, it creates an environment that feels very grounding and nurturing, you can feel like you are out in the elements, when so many jobs are tied to a desk, depressing and lonely.

Petersham attracts a team that feels like family, working into the evening and doing long shifts is challenging, but it's the working those shifts that really bonds us and makes us stronger, it has given me the opportunity to be a better waitress.

Losing the evening service, would be detrimental to our jobs, we will lose a chunk of our salary and we will lose staff because of it.

I hope you can see, that Petersham is more than a job, it's a home.

*Yours sincerely,
Mary ■*

Retzina, Waitress



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for 2 years as a waitress.

Petersham is a good place to work.

If the restaurant closes there will be more people fighting for shifts which results in less hours for us all. I need to work 8 hours a day in order to pay my bills.

*Yours sincerely,
Retzina*

Armand [REDACTED] Head Waiter



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have been working here for two years and eleven months as head waiter.

Petersham has been an excellent place for me to work and hone my skills in hospitality. Working here we are a family and a community. I have been lucky to meet so many wonderful people along the way.

The impact of this closure to me and my colleagues would be astronomical, potentially meaning some of us no longer may have a job. I implore you to think cautiously about the effect this will have.

Yours sincerely,

Armand [REDACTED]

Katarina [REDACTED], Senior Pastry Chef



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I have been working at Petersham Nurseries for almost a year now. I am the Senior Pastry Chef.

Petersham Nurseries is a wonderful place to work and I have made amazing friends who are my work colleagues and many of these people work in the restaurant. It would be a travesty for our

staff if the restaurant were unable to serve our lovely customers in the evening. Please don't stop our evening suppers as my friends need the working hours in order to pay their bills.

Kind regards,

Katarina [REDACTED]

Lorenzo [REDACTED] **Group Executive Chef**



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am writing to you as the Executive Chef of Petersham Nurseries in Richmond.

Over the course of my tenure, spanning various years, I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the transformative power of this establishment. Beyond being a workplace, Petersham Nurseries has become an integral part of my life and my family.

The ethos and philosophy that underpin Petersham Nurseries resonate deeply with me. It's not merely a place of employment; it's a community built on shared values of sustainability, creativity, and a profound appreciation for nature's beauty.

As the Executive Chef, I've had the honour of contributing to the culinary experience that Petersham Nurseries offers its patrons. The closure of evening suppers, if implemented, would not only disrupt this experience but also jeopardize the financial viability of our business. The revenue generated from these suppers is essential for sustaining the operations of Petersham Nurseries and supporting the livelihoods of our dedicated staff.

The potential consequences of such a closure extend far beyond the confines of our establishment. It could lead to job losses and, ultimately, the closure of Petersham Nurseries itself. This would not only disappoint our loyal customer base but also leave over a hundred families without a stable source of income.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the significant impact that the closure of evening suppers would have on Petersham Nurseries and the wider community it serves. Your thoughtful consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Lorenzo [REDACTED]
Group Executive Chef
Petersham Nurseries

Yulia [REDACTED], [no job title given]



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I have been at Petersham nurseries for almost 2 years now, Petersham means a lot to me, after all the trouble and problems I had coming from Ukraine, I feel like I've found somewhere welcoming where I can grow as an individual and where I feel I've found my family.

The closure of evening supper clubs to me would create extra stress and struggle, with the current issues with the economy.

Yours sincerely,
Yulia [REDACTED]

Manuel [REDACTED], Groundsman



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I have been working here for 11 years as a Groundsman and I love this place so much. It would be amazing to still have the suppers in the evenings as I really need the shifts and the money so that I can pay my rent.

Yours sincerely,

Manuel [REDACTED]

Jake [REDACTED], Chef



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries at Petersham. I have worked here as a chef for 2 and a half years.

I have always enjoyed the close team and community spirit working here. Also I have never worked in such an environmentally conscious kitchen where all food waste is considered and recycled/disposed of properly. As a chef that is the most important to me. If we closed our evenings many customers will miss the opportunity to experience the restaurant.

Yours sincerely,

Jake [REDACTED]

Jessica [REDACTED], [no job title given]



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries for almost a year now.

This place has been like a reminder of home to me. Being from India this place has so many beautiful things that remind me of my culture. It is very inclusive place, that makes everyone not

only the employees but also the guests feel welcome. People from all over the world come to visit us for the unique gardens which provide a sense of escape from the buzzing high streets.

The evening services especially are gorgeous. There is a unique sense of calm and comfort in our evening services. It also helps many of us with our livelihood as it provides few extra hours of pay as well. If we close in the evening it would be a missed opportunity for the guests to experience a once in a while atmosphere and some delicious food.

*Yours Sincerely,
Jessica [REDACTED]*

Kate [REDACTED], Reservation Team Member



Petersham Nurseries

To whom it may concern, I am writing in support of Petersham Nurseries.

I am a local resident living on Ham Common and I have been an employee of Petersham Nurseries for the past 17 years. I have three children, all of whom have also worked at Petersham during school and university holidays alongside numerous other young locals.

More often than not, it will be these young people's first experience of paid employment.

Petersham Nurseries customers are also largely made up of locals who visit for a little tranquillity and inspiration, but it also attracts guests from further afield who have read about Petersham Nurseries and its national and international reputation in the press, and are keen to experience the unique surroundings for themselves. I find it extraordinary that this battle continues to drag on after so many years. This is a business which the Borough Council should be proud of and it is hard to understand why they continue to make it so difficult for the business to operate in the same way that other local restaurants are able and allow them to offer more frequent and regular dinner services. Surely after the trials of Brexit, the Pandemic and now the cost of living crisis, the council should be going out of their way to support local businesses, their employees and their local suppliers, who will also feel the pain if the restaurant is forced to close in the evenings.

In the seventeen years I have worked at PN, not once have I been aware of any public nuisance issues. Our guests are respectful and do not cause incidences of anti social behaviour. As a member of the reservation team, I personally handle restaurant bookings, and can assure the council that guests are advised to visit using public transport or on foot wherever possible. In the evenings, guests who do travel by car are instructed where to park by parking attendants whose job it is to ensure that neighbours are not disturbed by lights, noise, or car doors slamming. Guests depart respectfully under the parking attendant's watchful eye and any noise within the restaurant is not audible outside. I only wish the same could be said for multiple venues in Richmond town centre

where the atmosphere can be loud, threatening and drunken and where anti social behaviour regularly spills out on to the street, making it an intimidating place for residents to be late at night.

When I walk home from my work shift on summer evenings, I regularly hear music booming out from Ham Polo and reverberating around the neighbourhood. In contrast, PN does not play music in its restaurant.

In addition, for consideration, Petersham Nurseries have an enviable reputation for their environmental efforts: A Green Michelin Star award in recognition of their sustainable practice and also Best Business Award in 2020. They support local charities, foremost The Vineyard Community who support the homeless in the area, alongside Grey Court and The Russell School and the Petersham Horticultural Society.

Petersham Nurseries employ well over 100 staff, the majority of whom are local and some of whom are Ukrainians displaced by the war in Ukraine. I implore the council to think of the potential hardship that would be experienced by these locals if their jobs at PN are threatened. I therefore kindly ask that you grant their planning application, thereby providing certainty to Petersham Nurseries and their many employees.

Kind regards,

Kate [REDACTED]

Yevhenii [REDACTED], Chef de Partie



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I have been working since November 2023. I really like this restaurant because I am constantly developing and learning something new. We absolutely love our team, everyone is very friendly and always ready to help. Evening shifts are important to me because I came from Ukraine and earn more, I need to support my family and help Ukraine.

Yevhenii [REDACTED] chef de partie

Zouhair, [no job title given]



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am an employee of Petersham Nurseries in Petersham. I have worked here for 1 month.

Even though I have not been at Petersham Nurseries for that long but the welcome I have received from the team and the working environment I already feel like part of the family. They have been accommodating with my personal needs and very friendly.

The impact of the closure of evening suppers will have a significant impact on hours and salary. I am responsible for my family and elderly parents and loss of hours will make life a struggle especially with cost of living crisis.

*Kind regards
Zouhair*

Annaliese [REDACTED], Group Operations Director



Petersham Nurseries

Dear Planning Inspector,

I moved from Southampton to Richmond in January 2023 to start in my new role as Group Operations Director for Petersham Nurseries. The Nurseries presented an opportunity to work in a truly unique environment within a business whose values aligned with my own - a family for whom people and environment were not a second thought, but a core focus underpinning 20 years of acclaimed success for Petersham Nurseries in Richmond.

I remember it was a frosty January morning when I walked down from Richmond station, as so many of our customers do. The sky was a piercing blue, not a cloud above and the sun glistened down onto the Thames giving it a glass like appearance, could this really be a short journey from

central London? As I passed through the Petersham Meadows a tranquil oasis awaited me with many smiling faces and a sense of calm.

20 years in hospitality has shown me that people are the single most important factor to creating a thriving business, and it was clear on that first visit that there was a unique people culture here. When I first interviewed for this role I made it very clear that people were my priority - I have found a home and an opportunity to put people at the forefront of everything I do within the Nurseries, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to make such a positive impact.

Hospitality can be a gruelling and challenging environment, notorious for long hours, poor work / life balance, and all too frequently poor mental health. Petersham Nurseries represents a different style of hospitality employer, where people are respected and valued as individuals, where shifts are given with work / life balance as a priority, and most importantly where strong mental and physical wellbeing are championed - team welfare is paramount.

In the past 12 months we have made several investments into private counselling for team members, offering qualified support through some of our employees most challenging periods of their lives - this is only made possible through a creating a profitable business, where the financial success supports additional services for our colleagues. To remove our evening trade is to cut the cord of commercial viability, and in turn threatens something that should be cherished and championed in a borough that desperately needs to stimulate its visitor economy.

It is widely publicised that Richmond Council, like central government, are cash strapped. We know that successful business stimulates the economy, so it's utterly ludicrous that Richmond Council deem it appropriate to spend phenomenal sums of money fighting to ruin one, and in turn take away the livelihood of 135 people. Since this latest enforcement notice I have struggled to stand in front of my team members and reassure them - the concerns surrounding the future of the Nurseries has rippled throughout our employees causing stress, fear and anxiety.

I'd like to tell you a little bit about more about these 135 people, as I believe they deserve to be humanised and not represented as a figure or a percentage. My team are committed, passionate and environmentally conscious employees, for many this is their first job and exposure to the working world. For others, Petersham Nurseries enables them to support their families, or care for relatives and children through flexible shift patterns made possible through daytime and evening shifts, and for a few it's a genuine oasis away from challenging home environments that offers safety and security. Through a shared love of our surroundings, colleagues here at Petersham nurseries are like family investing into a sustainable, slow ethos dining experience.

When I arrived in Richmond, I was asked to join Be Richmond, the town's Business Improvement district, an organisation that seeks to support levy paying businesses. Being a director of Be Richmond has afforded me a unique insight into the challenges the town centre currently faces, namely footfall, the visitor economy, and the increasing number of empty shop units. It is a priority for Be Richmond to support the councils under funded visitor economy strategy. Petersham Nurseries is well known for encouraging footfall to travel through the town centre and past neighbouring businesses on the Thames path, in fact for many it is an end destination having visited a number of other businesses beforehand. Our recent internal survey evidenced over 60% of visitors to Petersham Nurseries will have visited a local business either before or after their visit to us. In addition to acting as a gateway, Petersham Nurseries is also internationally renowned and this widespread publicity benefits Richmond as a borough, in both reputation and the local visitor

Finally I'd like to share the under represented restorative power of nature and environment that comes without a price tag at Petersham Nurseries. Guests visit to enjoy an oasis of calm and to gently stroll through the beautiful grounds - an experience we offer for free, no purchase necessary! When I first brought my mother to dinner here she likened it to Disney for adults, and felt she had been transported to a magical land with twinkling lights and sprawling wisteria, a dining experience like no other. It was truly touching to see the pure and simple joy that Petersham Nurseries brought to her that evening, and brings to many on a daily basis.

*Annaliese [REDACTED]
Group Operations Director*