

Voluntary Sector Forum

19 April 2023, 10:00 – 12:00

Clarendon Hall, York House, Twickenham

Notes of the meeting

1. Welcome

CLlr Nancy Baldwin (Cabinet Member for Equality, Communities and the Voluntary Sector) welcomed attendees to the Voluntary Sector Forum.

2. Mike Jackson, Chief Executive, Richmond Council

Mike Jackson introduced himself as Chief Executive of Richmond Council, having started in the role in October 2022. He thanked the Voluntary Sector for their ongoing response to the Cost of Living Crisis and highlighted the importance of partnership working and information sharing.

A question was raised on the availability of further Cost of Living funding. There is a small amount remaining in the original pot and Council will be reviewing what has and hasn't worked before making a decision on further funding. Those present expressed it would be useful to know about availability of grants as soon as possible and that the review and impact report is shared with the broader voluntary sector.

3. Great Big Green Week

Georgina Creighton (Richmond Council) introduced the Great Big Green Week, a national week of community action to tackle climate change and project nature, to take place from 10 to 18 June. There will be a microgrant available to support activities during the week and organisations are encouraged to get in touch about their initiatives.

See slides for details

4. Richmond Arts & Ideas Festival

Tim Corum (Richmond Council) introduced the Richmond Arts Service and the Richmond Arts & Ideas Festival (16 June to 2 July), which includes 70+ events involving 55+ organisations over the borough.

Voluntary Sector organisation were invited to get involved in this and future festivals. There was a request that information on venues' accessibility is made available.

See slides for details

5. Promoting your event in Richmond

Angela Ivey (Richmond Council) introduced VisitRichmond and invited organisations to submit events for promotion via the [VisitRichmond website](#). Leaflets can be displayed at VisitRichmond's Information Kiosk at Richmond Station. The Richmond What's On guide provides a free page each month for charities to promote events. To get hold of copies of the What's On guide or to provide leaflets for VisitRichmond to display, please contact Angela. Stories can also be submitted to the Council's [Community news pages](#).

See slides for details

6. PATCH – 42 York Street

Varun Vassanth (Patch) introduced the new co-working and community space at 42 York Street. The building is due to open in July and will provide work desks, meeting and event spaces.

See slides for details

7. Borough of Sanctuary

Jamie Fisher (Richmond Council) introduced the Borough of Sanctuary initiative, a formal accreditation scheme to recognise and celebrate the organisations who go above and beyond to welcome people seeking sanctuary and gave an update of the progress the Council has made to date. Organisations are encouraged to share their ideas on the changes the Council could make to improve the lives of sanctuary seekers in Richmond. Organisations are also invited to get in touch if they would like to become a 'sanctuary' or a member of the group and join the quarterly meeting.

See slides for details and submit ideas on the [Jamboard Site](#)

The meeting also discussed the following:

- the Ukrainian work-match event – this was cancelled in the summer due to the heat wave but rescheduled a few weeks later.
- If there are people who can help cascade messages down to sanctuary seekers about services available, please let Jamie know

8. Open Forum

- Update from Richmond CVS:
 - 27 April – funding advice sessions
 - 2 May – Introduction for organisations on using data
 - GLA has given some funding to set up a food network in the borough – the first meeting will be on 3 May
 - 25 May volunteers' fair – stalls have all been taken
 - June – RCVS will be running training sessions on partnership and collaboration
- Age UK Richmond is running a [Travelling Companions' programme](#)
- The [Real Junk Food Project](#) launch at the Cambrian Community Centre went well
- It was suggested that businesses and Cllr Giesler could be invited to speak at a future forum to talk about how businesses work with the voluntary sector locally