

NEWS: Ham Close latest to be 'Uplifted'

Residents will be asked their thoughts on potential plans to rejuvenate an area in Ham this month.

Ham Close, off Ashburnham Road in Ham, is owned by local housing provider RHP and is home to 192 people. As part of the Council's Uplift programme to rejuvenate the Whitton, Hampton North, Barnes, Mortlake and Ham areas of the borough, the Council and RHP have been working together to explore the feasibility of potential options and investment in the future of Ham Close.

To begin this project, they have commissioned The Prince's Foundation for Building Community to create a vision for the area in response to what local people think is important. Throughout January, the Prince's Foundation will work with local residents and stakeholders to gather information about what they think a possible redevelopment could look like. Depending on residents' feedback, proposals could consider a wide range of improvements from refurbishment of existing buildings to regeneration of a wider area.

Residents can have their say about how they think Ham Close should look in the future at a number of events in January. These include:

Drop-In Sessions | 15, 16 & 17 of January in Ham Library from 2pm to 5pm

Share your views and comments in an afternoon drop-in session run by the Prince's Foundation.

Public open session | 20 January at Grey Court School from 6.15pm

Share your views and comments on Ham and hear a presentation from the Prince's Foundation on sustainable development.

Following the Prince's Foundation consultation, the Council and RHP will consider the results and present back proposals for further consultation and engagement with the community. Any proposals would also be subject to financial viability and planning permission.

David Done, RHP's Chief Executive, added:

"We want our customers to live in high quality homes in areas that they are proud of. We're excited about the potential to enhance the living environment in Ham Close and we look forward to hearing our customers' views and ideas. We will be working closely with Richmond Council and the Prince's Foundation to make sure there is clear communication throughout the consultation and that there's a real opportunity for the people of Ham have their say."

Cllr Pamela Fleming, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, said:

"Our Uplift project aims to improve five key areas of the borough that are in need of redevelopment. Whitton and Hampton North have already benefited greatly from their ongoing projects and we now hope to be able to do the same in Ham."

"We are still some way off any formal proposals, but we want to work with residents in the local area early on in the process to ensure their views help shape any potential improvements in Ham. Ham is a unique area with great character and the Prince's Foundation specialises in putting people and communities at the centre of any design proposals."

"We know that ideas from the public will vary. and we want to know from everyone who lives or works in the area how they think we can improve the quality and appearance of the housing provision, increase the amount of

affordable housing and create better access and delivery of community services.

“We look forward to residents sharing their thoughts on the potential redevelopment opportunities for Ham Close and realise our commitment to improving not just people’s homes but also the surrounding area.”

If you are unable to attend the events then make your voice heard when the Council’s dedicated consultation website goes live from Monday by visiting www.consultation.richmond.gov.uk/environment/ham-close

For more information about the project, go to: www.richmond.gov.uk/uplift

For more information on The Prince’s Foundation go to: <http://www.princes-foundation.org/what-we-do>