



**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 29 March 2012, 7.30pm  
The Little House, Ashburnham Road, Ham**

**Present**

Mark Brand (Chair), Andrew Beedham, Sarah Perrett, Justine Glynn, Jill Lamb, Briony Rowland, Danielle Coleman, Justine Glynn, Cllr Sue Jones, Cllr Sir David Williams, Katherine Henry, Angela Moore, Geoff Hyde.

**Apologies**

Jean Loveland, Carole Hegedüs, Chas Warlow, Peter Rixon, Anne Powell, Cllr Brian Miller, Jose Medina, Colin Cooper, Chris Hunt, John Hatto, David Lawton, Penny Frost.

**1 Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. In the absence of Carole, Mark also took the minutes.

**2 Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2012 were accepted, although specific mention of the South West London Environment Network was asked for in relation to the Low Carbon Zone and bids for further funding.

**3 Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting**

- David Williams highlighted the discrimination against suburban outer London in favour of inner-city areas for grant funding for carbon reduction initiatives, and has taken this up with the Energy Secretary, Ed Davey.
- Andrew Beedham had also taken this issue up with Richmond MP Zac Goldsmith and the Minister of State for Energy, Greg Barker, to protest the distribution of the LEAF energy assessment funds in favour of central urban areas, rather than suburban areas like Ham & Petersham.

**4 Update and Discussion**

- **HUG Village Plan**

- o The Village Plan is still in early draft, with 4 out of the 10 intended sections having been submitted in draft form.
  - o Community Cohesion – David Williams
  - o Food – Andrew Beedham
  - o Employment – Peter Rixon
  - o Water & Energy – Chas Warlow
  - o Travel & Transport – Danielle Coleman
  - o Street Scene – Andrew Beedham and Mark Brand
  - o Major Projects & Development – Mark Brand
  - o Open Spaces & Biodiversity – John Hatto
  - o Recycling & Waste – James Heather
  - o Education & Youth – Brian Miller

Those sections already progressed were summarised by section editors:

- o Travel & Transport:
  - o Cycling: Cycle parking additions (e.g. St Andrew's Church Hall, Back Lane), improved road surfacing for cyclists, and better towpath surfaces for cycling are proposed. It was pointed-out that flooding restricts what can be done here, although resin-bonded gravel can be used.
    - David W emphasised the dual pedestrian-cyclist use of these paths, while Sarah P emphasised the importance of quality surfaces to allow child buggy accessibility.
    - The meeting agreed the importance of a good cycle path to Richmond; Sue Jones suggested that a path could hug the Petersham Meadow flood wall; David W stated that the wall is scheduled to be replaced soon, offering an opportunity for a cycle way to be built-into any new design and that an initial review of options should be issued soon.
    - Jill Lamb suggested that a dedicated cycle-way across Teddington Lock would make a major difference, even a new cycle-bridge. Sue Jones mentioned that some remarking of the existing bridge deck to improve cycle flow should be coming soon.
    - **Action:** David and Sue to determine progress and timing on plans for the new Petersham Meadow flood wall, and ask if cycle path provision can be included.
  - o Buses: Extension and increased frequency of the K5 service had been proposed.

- David W and Sue J stated that this service could reach further into Ham, especially the Ham Close area, where there is the lowest car ownership in the area. A loop around Ashburnham, Woodville and Riverside might serve an area currently distant from the 371 route. Hail & Ride operation would be very useful on this route, while countdown signs for the route would generate more use.
    - David W and Andrew B emphasised that Ham & Petersham had – unusually – no tube or rail links, making bus travel critically important.
    - **Action:** David and Sue to suggest the extended K5 route to TfL – again – and feedback on progress.
  - o Car Club: Carole Hegedus had raised the issue of StreetCar’s withdrawal from Ham.
    - The meeting generally agreed that contacting Zip Car (who had bought StreetCar) and asking for a trial return of the service might be effective, if combined with HUG raising awareness among local current and potential car club members.
    - **Action:** Mark to contact ZipCar to discuss.
  - o River Taxi: Mark Brand suggested that a river taxi, plying the Teddington Lock – Twickenham Riverside – Ham House – Petersham Meadow – Richmond route might be sustainable, especially in the summer months.
    - **Action:** Mark to find example case-studies of river taxis.
  - o Speed Restricted Village Zone: A 20mph ‘village’ zone, with appropriate landscaping to promote safer driving was suggested.
    - The speed and size of vehicles approaching Ham House, The Palm Centre and Tesco was discussed, with the suggestion that signage could be altered to promote use of the less restricted and improved visibility route along Dukes Avenue and Riverside Drive.
- o Community Cohesion:
  - o Neighbourhood Forum: The Council’s Village Plan may include funding of c.£35k for a forum for each ‘village’ area. Ham & Petersham have been tentatively identified as the first village. A new forum could carry on from the format and strategy of the Ham Working Together Group (HWTG). The Council funding might be used to launch a pilot scheme in Ham for 3-4 months perhaps? In addition, the Council’s ‘Community Links’ webpages could be used to support the project.
    - Andrew emphasised that a neighbourhood forum should balance representation of service delivery agencies with community representation.
    - David believes that the forum would be a catalyst for many community projects and funding applications, following on from the HWTG’s success in this regard.
    - Mark thinks that the Neighbourhood Forum can be brought-together without delay, as a large part of the value of the Forum is the opportunity for different service providers and community groups to meet and discuss current operations. David suggests a list of relevant organisations needs to be compiled for Forum participants, with a consultative meeting held initially for participants to discuss the best format for the Forum.

- **Action:** David, Andrew and Mark to draft a list of possible Forum participants.
  - **Action:** Andrew and David to ask Cllr Flemming about funding for the Forum.
- o Food: The overall aim is to reduce food-related CO2 emissions by a third –
  - o Allotments: There is significant demand – can we provide more allotments?
  - o Private Gardens: There are opportunities to produce food from unused fertile land.
    - Justine and Andrew mentioned that there are existing schemes to take as templates for any HUG scheme – including SPADE in Richmond; Geoff also mentioned Age Concern in Kingston.
    - Andrew suggests that schemes to collect and distribute surplus food – especially fruit – should be the first part of this programme. The Grey Court School Farm is likely to expand operations, perhaps this could be part of any scheme?
    - **Action:** Andrew to gather templates for community food and neighbourhood gardening scheme operation.
  - o Community Orchards:
    - Petersham Meadows is under discussion with the National Trust as a potential orchard site, with works to plant trees and protect them from the cows possibly starting in late 2012.
    - Riverside Drive is the next proposed site: Jean Loveland has consulted some residents on Riverside Drive – reactions have been favourable. Andrew has met with Tasha Hunter, Ecology Officer at the Council, and discussed a HUG lease for the land on which the orchard would stand. This might entail a 20 year lease, with a maintenance obligation on the lessee.
    - Ham Lands is also under consideration as a potential site: Tasha Hunter is involved in discussions, and the Friends of Ham Lands are also being consulted. Geoff stated that he was for this proposal. Andrew suggested that we gain John Hatto's feedback on the proposal in general and any ecological considerations affecting the plans.
    - **Action:** Andrew to ask John about ecological impact of orchards on Ham Lands.
  - o Anaerobic Digester: Danielle suggested that this should be part of the food waste planning for Ham; Andrew suggested that this should form part of the Recycling & Waste Section, edited by James Heather. It was noted that there is an opportunity to do more community composting in the Ham Close area.
    - **Action:** Danielle to suggest Anaerobic Digester to James for the Waste Section.
    - **Action:** Jean to investigate opportunity for composting in Ham Close.
  - o Apple Press: Sue reported that the Council has provisionally approved funding for an Apple Press applied for by HUG. The meeting voiced its appreciation for Council support for such projects.

- **HUG Events Plan**

- o Sarah and Justine have spent considerable time putting-together a tentative events plan and calendar for HUG, including:
  - o Kingston & Richmond May Fairs – HUG Stalls: The meeting decided that these are lower priority events, as they attract people mainly from outside the area. It was decided not to attend these events this year.
  - o Ham Fair – HUG Stall: this is being organised. Proposed contents include – a vegetable display, food for sale (salad, cake...), display of Community Chickens from Grey Court and eggs for sale, a children’s story-telling tent or tepee.
    - Angela Moore suggested that the Guides might be able to provide a bell tent; it was also suggested that Colin Cooper might be able to provide a marquee.
  - o Ham Fest: Chas is planning this for the summer – probably July?
  - o HUG Bike Ride: local group bike ride, hopefully led by Jonathan Rowland, to get people out and about and show them routes around our area. It could also serve to advertise Peter’s HUG Bike Repair / Workshop scheme. Post-Olympics might be the best time to hold this, given the sports enthusiasm that will be generated?
  - o Barn Dance: There is to be a committee to organise the event, with the focus on tailoring the event to the audience. Sarah suggested that we could lower ticket prices to invite more family attendance, by lowering the cost of the band used.
  - o HUG BBQ: A BBQ for HUG members to socialise and reflect on the year’s successes, without the pressing need to progress projects! July / August target date suggested.
  - o Talks: Sarah and Justine asked for potential speaker events.
    - A local speaker is set to deliver a talk on the history of the former Sopwith Factory in Kingston – it was suggested that we get him to come and speak to HUG. Perhaps he could also speak about the history of Hawker aircraft production, given the Hawker site location in Ham?
    - Ken McKenzie of the Thames Landscape Strategy has spoken to the Ham & Petersham Association previously, and would make a good speaker.
  - o HUG Carols on Ham Green: It was suggested that we might benefit from more forward planning and advertising, and that Jean might want some help.

## 5 Other business

- o HUG – Guides Workdays: These were suggested by Angela, who leads the Guides locally, and is waiting on gaining a lease on the intended Guide Hut in Ham. Once a lease is agreed, HUG help with planting, signage and a scheme to improve the Hut would be much appreciated.

- **Action:** Sarah to get in touch with Angela and schedule this.
- o Chris Hunt is sadly leaving Richmond Council. Happily, Chris' talents have been recognised by OFGEM, where he will soon be starting work. HUG members thank Chris for all of his help and support during his time at the Council and wish him all the best for the future.
  - o Chris has asked for any feedback on the Low Carbon Zone scheme, as this will be very useful.
  - o The LCZ will continue in various forms, with further funding available.
    - **Action:** Mark to write to Chris expressing HUG's thanks for all his help.
- o Ham Library: Diane Howard will be leaving the library soon, but we expect to see her around Ham. The future operation of the Library is being consulted upon by the Council, with the suggestion that voluntary groups could bid to run the Library.
- o Olympic Torch Relay Through Ham:
  - o Mark related that the Olympic Torch will be relayed along the Upper Ham Road and Petersham Road at about 9:45am on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012.
  - o Sue commented that public meetings were to be held to inform residents of plans and the impacts of the torch relay: at 6:30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> April in the Children's Centre, and at 6:30pm on 21<sup>st</sup> April in St Andrew's Church Hall.
- o Community First – Panel: David informed the meeting that Ham & Petersham have been awarded funding for a new scheme to co-ordinate community improvement in areas of social deprivation, or relative social deprivation.
  - o This includes funding of £16k over 4 years, but is also a catalyst for further funding, with central govt. matching other funding raised (with a cap).
  - o A panel has been assembled, to have 8 members, including Anne Powell and Maggie Bailey.
  - o Richmond Golf Club apparently has a significant sum allocated for local community causes: the panel may be able to channel these sorts of funds to groups such as Ham & Petersham SOS, thereby attracting further match funding in the process.

## 7 AOB

### **Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

25<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 7.30pm at the Little House.