

RICHMOND EDUCATION AND ENTERPRISE CAMPUS LOCAL COMMUNITY FORUM

Record of meeting held on Tuesday, 17 June 2014 at Richmond upon Thames College.

PRESENT:

Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus Representatives

Nicola Lupton (chairman)	Assistant Principal, Richmond upon Thames College
Paul Chadwick	Director Environment, Richmond Council
Joanna Debs	Stadium Manager, Harlequins
Jeremy Duckworth	Group Finance Director, Haymarket Media Group
Elinor Firth	Head of Communications, Richmond Council
Darren Jacob	Consultant, Richmond Council
Mandy Skinner	Assistant Director Commissioning Corporate Policy & Strategy, Richmond Council

Community Representatives

Gary Backler	Friends of River Crane Environment (FORCE)
Alistair Edwards	Heatham Residents Association
Alison Jee	Heathfield South Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Kevin Jones	Court Way Residents Representative (informal)
Mary McHugh	Chudleigh Road Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Francis McInerny	Heatham Alliance
Stephen Randall	Dene Estate Residents Association
David Rose (part)	Court Way Residents Association

Ward Councillors

Cllr Geoff Acton	St Margarets & North Twickenham
Cllr Alexander Ehmann	St Margarets & North Twickenham
Cllr Gareth Healy (part)	Whitton
Cllr Liz Jaeger	Whitton
Cllr Ben Khosa	St Margarets & North Twickenham

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1 NL welcomed the group to Richmond upon Thames College and the inaugural meeting of the Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus Local Community Forum.
- 1.2 NL noted David Ansell's (Principal, Richmond upon Thames College) apologies.
- 1.3 NL provided a general overview of the Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus.
- 1.4 NL invited each Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus representative to introduce themselves and give a brief introduction to their organisation and its contribution to the Campus.
- 1.5 NL asked each attendee to introduce themselves and say which area/road or group they represent.
- 1.6 AE noted his support for the educational aspirations of the Campus but

highlighted the need to minimise the impact of the development on the local environment and existing community.

- 1.7 FMCI also expressed support for a new school to meet the need for secondary places for pupils in Twickenham and for modernising the facilities for students and staff at Richmond upon Thames College, but with strong reservations about the current proposals and their impact on the community.
- 1.8 SR noted that the residents of Dene Estate and Langhorn Drive are particularly interested in the development's impact on traffic, alterations to the junctions on to the A316 including a right hand turn and the possible provision of a surface crossing and improvements to public transport in the area.
- 1.9 GB noted that FORCE are particularly interested in the proposed development's environmental benefits and mitigating the impacts of the development; the pressure on open space, impacts on Craneford Way East Field, access paths and Duke of Northumberland's River.

2. PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FORUM

- 2.1 JDuckworth highlighted that this Forum formed part of a larger communications and engagement effort. This Forum's views/feedback and those of other residents and local stakeholders will play a vitally important role as the design of the Campus is progressed.
- 2.2 JDuckworth asked Forum members to feed information back to their members and encourage them to take part in wider consultation and engagement opportunities. The intention is that the Forum will act as a key engagement channel for local groups, however it will not be a decision making body.
- 2.3 JDuckworth invited the group's views on the membership and frequency of meetings.
- 2.4 AJ queried the meaning of the signs erected on the Craneford Way East playing fields.
ACTION: NL to investigate and ensure AJ/AE receive a response from David Ansell (Principal, Richmond upon Thames College).
- 2.5 The group highlighted several issues that required discussion/clarification:
 - Interface with Harlequins site
 - Proposals for Craneford Way East Field (levels of utilisation etc.)
 - Transport and site access
- 2.6 MS confirmed that all of the issues raised would fall within the scope of the Forum's discussions but that it was necessary to identify the best process for addressing these.
- 2.7 Following discussion the Forum resolved that membership should be flexible to ensure that 'experts'/interested residents were able to attend meetings when relevant. Cllr Ehmann requested that the Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus provide the group with a timeline of expected milestones in the progress of the development. He noted that it was critical that residents were aware of when they would be able to receive fuller details about elements of the project – in the absence of that information at present.

ACTION: Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus to draft revised outline programme timeline to share with the Forum ahead of the next meeting indicating when further detailed information on specific issues would be available to inform the timetabling of agenda items.

- 2.8 Following discussion the Forum resolved to meet monthly through to the submission of a planning application (expected at the end of the year) with a break in August. In addition the Forum may look to establish special interest events or meetings to investigate specific issues and/or extend meetings to ensure 'experts'/interested residents can be involved.
- 2.9 FMCI suggested that Heatham Alliance have two representatives on the Forum. The group supported this suggestion.
- 2.10 FMCI suggested that Forum meetings be open to observers. It was agreed that the Forum should not be opened up to observers as there would be other opportunities for residents and local stakeholders to get involved through wider consultation and engagement activity. AJ suggested holding a public Q&A session.
- 2.11 KJ asked that papers be disseminated (electronically) ahead of meetings. Following discussion the Forum resolved that papers would be distributed at least 48 hours before meetings. Whenever possible papers will be distributed a week in advance.

3. RESULTS OF CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 A hard copy of the summary findings of the four week consultation conducted through April and May was distributed to the Forum. MS noted that there had been a large volume of free text comments and that these were still being analysed. The full report, including data tables, would follow shortly.
ACTION: EF to send summary document via email.
- 3.2 MS suggested that the key themes identified and listed under paragraph 3.12 of the summary report: traffic (both pedestrian and vehicular), access, site, sport fields, community offer, environmental offer, housing, education and future engagement should form the key list of issues for this group.
- 3.3 FMCI highlighted inaccuracies in the consultation material, with specific reference to building heights. PC acknowledged that a mistake had been made and that Challenge Court was four storeys high and the Harlequins stands are not six storeys and apologised for this.
- 3.4 FMCI referred to the College site's planning brief saying that the Council was in conflict with its own planning guidelines which he said referred to a general maximum height of buildings being four storeys with a maximum of five storeys in the North West corner next to the Langhorn Drive entrance. He asked why therefore the Council and its partners were proposing up to six storeys across most of the site. PC advised that the consultation material should not have indicated proposals for six storeys at the College site, that this was a mistake¹; it was not a deliberate attempt to mislead residents.

¹ Six storeys height was not actually being considered in the preparatory work that was being undertaken.

- 3.5 AE noted that the Green Path will be closed during the hours of darkness, so during the winter months the increased levels of pedestrian traffic would have to use the existing footpaths, which in his view will result in considerable congestion problems.
- 3.6 MS highlighted the intention to give the Forum an early preview of consultation material prior to going out to the public to ensure the detail is accurate and that the approach is appropriate.
- 3.7 Following discussion PC reiterated that the Council had no intention of selling Craneford Way West field to Harlequins, nor of allowing the site to be managed by them. In answer to a question from FMcl JDebs confirmed that Harlequins have no intention to purchase, manage or run the Council-owned Craneford Way West field next to the Central Depot.

4. GENERAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

- 4.1 PC noted that the programme for the Campus development has slipped and the aim now is to submit a planning application in mid-December. The ambition is to submit an outline planning application for the whole site and, in tandem, submit detailed planning applications for elements of the site, such as Haymarket's headquarters. Following a mid-December submission we would hope to have a decision from planning authorities in April/May 2015 to facilitate the start of first phase construction later that year.
- 4.2 Prior to submission there will be at least two further pre-planning consultation exercises in September and November (dates TBC) and the Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus has already committed to ongoing engagement through the summer. This would be followed by statutory planning consultation.
- 4.3 PC and MS provided an overview of the scheme's funding streams including the Free School application process and changes to the funding regime for Further Education colleges. A decision regarding the Free School application is expected imminently² and the London Enterprise Panel (the organisation now responsible for funding training and skills) is expected to announce its new funding process mid-July. In addition to these Government funding streams Haymarket will make a capital payment for the land that the new offices will sit on and the Council will make a capital payment for the land that the schools will sit on. The Forum discussed impacts on the enabling residential development.
- 4.4 SR and FMcl noted the impacts of the Campus on transport, particularly the implications for junctions on to the A316 and the need for a right hand turn. DJ noted that it is necessary to establish the size and scale of the different elements of the scheme before engaging with Transport for London and initiating a detailed transport assessment. The consultants that will conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including a transport assessment, have been appointed. AJ noted that the transport assessment must take place during term time.

² On 19 June 2014 the Department for Education approved the Richmond upon Thames College Free School application. The new secondary school for 11- to 16-year olds, on the College site, is due to open in September 2017.

- 4.5 Following further discussion regarding the availability of information (the findings of environmental surveys etc.) the Forum resolved to include transport and EIA on the agenda for its next meeting.

ACTION: EF to add transport and EIA to July agenda.

- 4.6 Cllr Ehmann enquired about the likely impact of building work coinciding with the Rugby World Cup 2015. PC confirmed that this was an important consideration and the potential loss of parking and hospitality space was already being factored into the discussions with the officers at RWC2015.

- 4.7 Cllr Khosa asked what the community benefits of the scheme would be. The Forum agreed to discuss community benefits at a future session.

ACTION: EF to add community facilities/benefits to future agenda.

- 4.8 Cllr Jaeger suggested staggering start times for the various institutions on the site to relieve the pressure on residential roads generated by vehicle and pedestrian traffic. MS confirmed that the operational arrangements of the Secondary School (Free School) would be worked through between now and September 2017.

5. FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- 5.1 The Forum was asked how they would like to be kept informed. AJ suggested a public discussion forum online.

ACTION: EF to add a Local Community Forum page to the existing Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus website (<http://www.reec.org.uk/>) and to investigate the addition of a discussion forum/comments page.

- 5.2 EF highlighted that an e-newsletter would be launching shortly and in addition to this 'news flashes' would be sent to those registered for the newsletter. To promote the e-newsletter and encourage residents to sign up a letter drop will take place in the next few weeks. In addition Cllr Khosa asked for regular letter drops to local residents including the Rosebine area. EF confirmed that letter drops to local residents will be done as and when required.

ACTION: EF to send a distribution map for the letter drop to Forum members for comment.

ACTION: EF to share drafts of hard copy documents (e.g. leaflet) via email.

ACTION: Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus representatives to draft revised outline programme timeline (on one to two pages) and to share with the Forum ahead of the next meeting. (See action point under agenda item 2 – duplicate.)

- 5.3 Following discussion the Forum resolved to alternate the days of meetings.

ACTION: EF to identify date for future meetings of the Forum via email (next meeting in July).

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 6.1 FMcl asked when the site plan would be available. PC noted that he hoped to have this for July but stressed that he could not guarantee this being the case.

6.2 FMcl highlighted that the Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus website (<http://www.reec.org.uk/>) states there will be 3,000 Richmond upon Thames College students, however David Ansell has indicated that there will be 3,355 College students. NL confirmed that there will be 3,000 daytime Richmond upon Thames College students – the maximum number of students on the site at any one time.

ACTION: EF to ensure the website is clear in this respect.

6.3 Minutes of the meeting will be distributed via email and attendees will be asked to confirm that they are an accurate record by return.

ACTION: EF to distribute draft minutes via email and publish agreed minutes on the Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus website.

7. **CLOSE**

7.1 NL thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.