

SCI Key Stakeholders Meeting – 14th March 2005

Group 1 – attendees:

Kew Society
Bushy Park
Mortlake Society
FORCE
River Thames Society
St Margarets Estate Residents Association
Arts Council
Teddington Society
Hampton Society
LA 21
Sports Council
Twickenham Society
Eel Pie Association

Council Officers:

Bridget Clements
Helen Cornforth

Minutes:

Item 1: Previous consultations – positives and negatives and ideas for the future

UDP consultation

1. In the past it was better, now too formal and included a barrister.
2. What is role of Councillors in relation to consultation – do they represent the public view?
3. Council ignores the results of public meetings.
4. It's a lot worse outside Richmond.
5. Up to the community to make sure the Council understands.
6. Technically it was well done – but changes put in without consulting the locals, and officers have to defend.

Item 2: Ideas for the future

1. Should have area/subject based summaries to make consultation easier.
2. Strength – on-going discussions with residents groups.
3. Important when consultation takes place – should be at an early stage.
4. Many advantages in using the web site .
5. Use the online communities web site.
6. Must follow up consultations
7. Other mechanisms – tap into other meetings and events.
8. Go to supermarkets and youth clubs.
9. Use a more open ended approach.
10. Need to start broadly.

Item 3: Reaching Hard to Reach Groups

1. Richmond College (have a seminar).
2. Heatham youth club.
3. Need to empower young people.
4. Youth forum.
5. Go to schools.
6. Needs to be one agenda on behalf of the Council, the Borough should work as one.
7. Could us a role model for youth to act as a spokesperson eg youth workers.
8. Young parents, isolated elderly.
9. Could issue fliers to groups.
10. Hospitals.
11. Station forecourts.
12. Promise if people participate, we will follow through.
13. Homeworkers – reach via the internet.
14. Fliers at doctors and dentist surgeries

Item 4: How to bring the subject to life

1. Could send out a list of issues and ask for views – outside politics.
2. “Planning for Real” exercise.
3. Need to target a specific audience.
4. Use maps as a visual aid and remove jargon.
5. Instead of using technical words use phrases such as “What do you want”, “Improving your world”, “Stop us spoiling your Borough” ’Improving Richmond’ ‘Improving your space’.
The Council will never be able to consult everyone, not enough resources.
6. Documents should be at reading age 12 and in large print
7. Is there going to be a big change or “tweaking round the edges?”
Could put the current UDP into plain English and ask what people think.

Item 5: Group’s own channels of communication which could be used for LDF consultation

1. Could organise own (i.e. residents group) meetings and invite the Council along – the Council then should take the views on board.
2. Need a structure between the council and local groups, would help engagement.
3. Use the community to do a presentation and have working sub groups (as for Twickenham Riverside). Need to be structured. Illustrate with local examples.
4. Have a standard presentation for groups to use.

Item 6: Consultation on major planning applications

1. Developers could talk to the community first before submitting an application.

2. Area consultation meetings are a dead loss (although a good idea, perhaps need better publicity) the agenda should be positive.
3. A list of potential development sites should be put on the web.
4. Council's web site is not easy to navigate.
5. Posters are not supported.
6. Use less traditional methods.
7. Post Offices.
8. Leaflet drop via the refuse collections

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
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