

## **SCI Key Stakeholder Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> March 2005**

### **Attendees:**

Mortlake & East Sheen Society  
FORCE  
Environment Trust  
River Thames Society  
Association of Retired Persons  
Richmond Independent Estates Agents Association  
Twickenham Town Centre Manager  
Teddington Business Community  
Whitton Business Association  
St Margarets Business Association

### **Council Officers:**

Diana Rice  
Bridget Clements  
Fiona O'Toole

### **Minutes:**

#### **Item 1: General comments**

1. Why did the Council produce the LDS without public consultation?  
Officer: The timescale was too tight to do so, bearing in mind the legislation. Its not incumbent on the local authority to consult on this element of the LDF. Only the work programme.
2. What happens if you can't attend EIP because there is no automatic right.  
Officer: It will be up to an independent inspector to decide.
3. Unhappy with the London Plan EIP. Although the Inspector did make some concessions, the Group was unable to attend all the sessions they wanted.
4. Why are some Council's further ahead?  
Officer: Some Council's are at different stages in the development plan process.
5. Object to decision that no Area Action Plans were necessary being taken without public consultation. FORCE would have been interested. May be particular geographical areas which need emphasis.

#### **Item 2: Previous consultations- positives and negatives and ideas for the future**

1. Lack of pre – consultation. Consultation is happening on proposals not wanted by the community – the principle is established before the consultation takes place – e.g. CPZ proposals & Crane Valley proposals.
2. Even though well known in Teddington have never been asked for my view. Vision is top down rather than bottom up.

3. Consultation very poor on the Crane Valley. Councillors claimed to have sent out leaflets at their own expense to keep people informed.

### **Item 3: Ideas for future**

1. Council should involve people in policy formulation. For London Plan the River Group had its own policy group to advance policy.
2. There should be a community page on the Council's website – emails could be sent in from groups expressing interest in issues. The Groups will know what's going on. Could link the websites together. Community websites could be used to publicise Council consultations.
3. Council could tie into festivals organised in different town centres. College took a pitch at a Teddington event which was very successful.
4. Colleges could be used to do street surveys – they are cheap.
5. Want to hear the issues from the police. Should be a public forum at the beginning of the process to allow the public to participate early.  
Officer: Explanation of Issues & Options stage consultation in relation to this issue.
6. All partners should be equal in the consultation process, like in the Community Plan.
7. Clarification is needed on regional and national policy & statutory procedure.
8. Public should be consulted at a very early stage.
9. Basic consultation should involve everyone not just targeting community groups to reach those not involved in community groups. Many people are too busy to get involved in community groups.
10. Email is the best form of contact – can reach businesses directly.

### **Item 4: Reaching Hard to Reach groups**

1. The consultation should be broken down into areas – e.g., business so that there can be targeted meetings for special interests.
2. Elderly & young were identified as hard-to-reach groups.
3. The elderly are a hard-to-reach group & don't necessarily have email access.
4. Mortlake low income groups hard to involve. Need to define problems & provide solutions. Use of website & newsletters.
5. It's impossible to engage everyone. The onus is ultimately with the individual whether they engage.
6. The organic development of ideas from the ground up is the only way.
7. There is plenty to learn from us about putting on good events. Could use inventive marketing. Flags on the High Street to raise awareness. Use banners. May cost as little as £200. Marketing needs to be area specific.
8. Whitton Business Association – personally call on traders who are not in the WBA who might otherwise be unaware of what's going on. I.e need to take a direct approach.
9. Children are not listened to, Should go to secondary schools. Children know how they want the areas to develop. They have a vibrancy. Youth Parliament successful at Hammersmith & Fulham.
10. Can consult on a boroughwide basis.

11. Reach a wider audience by using associations such as the Townswomen's Guilds.
12. Could use a trailer which travels round to different locations.
13. ACMs –total geographical coverage, but attendance can vary depending on what issues are being addressed at the meetings.
14. Could use Nelson School – full of ideas. Link with project work going on in school – questionnaires in high street to ask the public directly about issues.

#### **Item 5: How to bring the subject to life**

1. To make the subject material more accessible it should be illustrated. Ask specific questions like “what kind of development do you want on this particular site?”
2. Don't call it an “LDF” – it will turn everyone off. Suggest use an approach such as “what 5 points do you think would most improve your area?” then the issues are not too big.
3. Need to show people that their views have been taken into account in the past by using success stories & positives from joint working. Too many examples of failures in the past where red tape etc has stopped things getting done.
4. If small things get done people will want to get involved.
5. The Council should know more about the local groups. e.g. in relation to involving schools should be aware that many pupils are not from this area.
6. Could influence agenda & attend local meetings using a specific point of strategy as a hook.
7. Most consultation assumes that you want more of something for example CPZs & road humps, consultations should be more impartial – do you want more or less of something.

#### **Item 6: Group's own channels of communication which could be used for LDF consultation**

1. Whitton hosts an annual St George's Day event.
2. Events are a good way to get to businesses. St Margarets has 2 a year – summer & Christmas. Council could come along & take a stand.
3. Estate agents will have thousands of addresses on their mailing lists. Issue is how to engage men – who tend to be less interested. Try to get the women interested who will then bring the men along.
4. Approx 60 members. One event was attended by 1,000 residents.
5. Databases that are available from groups will have to be investigated for data protection issues.
6. Insufficient time to discuss consultations on Major Planning applications.

