



Community Conversation

Mortlake & Barnes Common; Barnes; East Sheen Community Conversation

DATE: 6:30pm – 9pm, Thursday 3rd July 2025

VENUE: All Saints Church, 63 East Sheen Avenue, SW14 8AX

CHAIR: Reverend Jonathan Hayes, Mortlake Parish Team Vicar

AGENDA

6.30pm – 7.00pm:	Refreshments and Council information stands
7.00pm – 7.10pm:	Welcome and Introduction to the Community Conversation
7.10pm – 8.10pm:	<p>Priority themes discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transport 2. A Greener Future - what do you want? 3. A new era for our High Streets 4. Building a Safer Borough <p>(Brief introduction of each theme followed by comments, observations, and questions from the audience)</p>
8.10pm – 8.50pm:	Open conversation with the audience
8.50pm - 9.00pm:	Event close



Community Conversation

COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Barnes

- Councillor Andy Hale
- Councillor Fiona Sacks - Sanctuary Champion

Mortlake and Barnes Common

- Councillor Niki Crookdake
- Councillor Anton McNulty-Howard

East Sheen

- Councillor Julia Cambridge – Chair of Education and Children's Services Committee
- Councillor Margaret Dane - Disability Champion

APOLOGIES

- Councillor Tony Paterson
- Councillor Marjory Millum
- Councillor Zoe McLeod

Theme 1	Discussion
Transport	<p>Introduction from Councillor Hale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fighting hard to get a fair share of transport infrastructure in this end of the borough and have achieved a lot. • Significant funding committed for road and pavement repairs and improvements and Councillors have lobbied to make sure there is a fair share of investment within wards. • Recently ran a successful cargo bikes fair. Looking at expanding this across the borough to provide information about options and accessibility of cycling. • Also looking at improving and connecting cycle routes. <p>Conversation (Comments, Questions and Observations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lime Bikes: concerns raised about bikes being illegally parked and blocking pavements, and reporting requires app use and personal details. Feedback to be shared with Lime and Cllr Hale to investigate Lime's operating fees in the borough.



Community Conversation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike parking: lack of docking stations noted, especially near Parkside. Sheffield stands installed on roads, but more infrastructure needed. • Transport Strategy: concern that voices in East Sheen may be underrepresented compared to areas like Richmond Town Centre. Hammersmith Bridge remains a key issue; Cllrs and MP continue lobbying. • Accessibility: concerns about driving and parking restrictions affecting accessibility. Cllrs aim to balance fair access with safety and sustainability. • Cycling safety: reports of near misses involving school children and cars, and cyclists on pavements. Cycling on pavements is fined (£30), but enforcement is limited. Residents urged to share concerns as strategy develops.
Theme 2	Discussion
A Greener Future - what do you want?	<p>Introduction from Councillor Crookdake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richmond Climate Strategy about to be approved – looking at creating a borough that is low carbon, sustainable, and resilient. • Data shows we are facing a climate emergency and need to take decisive action. • Strategy is ambitious – key areas of buildings, travel, nature, waste, and resilience. • Don't have enough money to tackle everything without significant support from central government and residents – need feedback on how to spend funds in most impactful way. • Significant amount of carbon emissions from homes – need feedback on what is helpful, whether that is training, access to trusted contractors, or funding for retrofit. • Waiting to hear in the Stag Brewery Site can provide sports facilities and green space, 800 trees planted in last season, Community Bluescapes progressing projects to help with flood resilience. • £900,000 available in climate reserve and £4.5million in climate budget. <p>Conversation (Comments, Questions and Observations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate and community safety: investment in climate action and community safety are both priorities, with much funding from distinct pots and grants.



Community Conversation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood resilience: Council is working with Thames Water and other partners on flood defences and permeable surfaces (e.g. pavements, sports areas). Idea raised to discourage paving over gardens. Cllrs to follow up on blocked drains. • Heat and wildfire risk: Cllr Sacks committed to come back with more detail on plans for mitigating against wildfires and increasing fire safety. • Solar panels: The Council has partnered with MakeMyHouseGreen to offer discounts on solar panels and there are grants available nationally.
Theme 3	Discussion
A new era for our High Streets	<p>Introduction from Councillor Cambridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High streets are undergoing a transformation, partly due to shift towards online shopping and impact of cost-of-living crisis, but high streets and independent businesses locally are flourishing. • Vacancy rate in Barnes and East Sheen fall below London average (7.1% and 5.2% respectively, forecasted to fall again in East Sheen, lowest in borough). • Strong community spirit and independent character to shops and businesses, but the path forward lies in diversification and fostering unique experiences that online platforms cannot replicate. • Barnes and East Sheen put on events – recently had Sheen arts trail which was very successful. • Barnes and East Sheen benefit from town centre improvement and Christmas fund grants from the Economic Development Office. • Successful Mortlake Mash Up event sparked lots of ideas for high street. • Castelnau in Barnes is set to benefit from a public realm improvement scheme around Methyr Terrace. • East Sheen has two public realm schemes developed with the community and awaiting funding: Milestone Green and the area around the Sheen Lane Centre. <p>Conversation (Comments, Questions and Observations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Sheen public realm: area has seen limited funding historically. The Council is consulting on schemes, and working with TfL and private sector, and Councillors are committed to improvements.



Community Conversation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mortlake: previously overlooked, but now seeing improvements (e.g. high shop occupancy rates). Residents encouraged to attend Mortlake Mash Up on Saturday 5th July to share ideas and priorities. Council is committed to investment, which includes external grants, not just council tax. • High street businesses: concerns about lack of variety (mainly estate agents and coffee shops). Councillors support diversity but note limits on influencing business types and rents.
Theme 4	Discussion
Building a Safer Borough	<p>Introduction from Councillor Sacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Safety Partnership wants Richmond to be London's safest borough. • Crime fell over past 12 months – Barnes by 21.4%, Mortlake & Barnes Common by 2.9%, East Sheen by 7.5%. • Violence against the person, theft, and vehicle offences still the top offences in all three wards. • Small increase of 2.6% in crimes borough-wide (61.5 offences per 1,000 population) - still lowest in London. • Top priorities in Community Safety Plan are tackling violence, burglary, and drug crime, theft, motor vehicle offences, antisocial behaviour, tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG), preventing offending and re-offending, and raising awareness of water and fire safety. • The Council is investing in community safety through community safety officer roles, dedicated VAWG and serious violence officers, safe space at Richmond Station, VAWG events, stalls at events, a women's drop in hub, upgrading CCTV, free active bystander training, early intervention in schools, crime prevention support, bike marking, and free home security checks. • Community havens pilot launching in Barnes, working with local businesses. • Richmond Community safety survey is open until 31st July. • Met Engage just launched by the Met Police to engage on what they're doing. <p>Conversation (Comments, Questions and Observations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council and Met Police presence: Council running safe spaces and pushing for more police on streets. Richmond has fewer officers due to low reported crime; Councillors are lobbying for more and residents urged to report all incidents. Suggestion noted for more police on bikes to improve local response.



Community Conversation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council and Met Police partnership work: emphasis on multi-agency working to tackle causes of crime and support victims of crime. • Community engagement: residents encouraged to use the Met Engage platform and attend Police Liaison Group meetings and Safer Neighbourhood Boards to raise concerns and influence priorities. • Violence against women and girls (VAWG): Council provides free bystander training, other events and training, and school programmes to try shift culture. • Parks Police cuts: Richmond and Bushy Parks police cuts is a concern and will put significant pressure on local police. The Council and MPs are campaigning. • Private security and CCTV: some residents hiring private security firms, but they do not have same powers as police and do not always liaise directly. Councillors pushing for increased CCTV as a deterrent.
Open Forum	Discussion
Pavements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asphalt used instead of paving stones for durability. New procedures aim to improve appearance and quality of work.
Townmead Road Reuse and Recycling Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Query raised about limited pedestrian access to the centre. Cllr Sacks to follow up with officers.
Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Thanked everyone for their contribution.