

# Voluntary Sector Forum

2 July 2025, 10:00 – 12:00

York House, Twickenham

Notes of the meeting

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- 1. Welcome and Introduction** - Cllr Nancy Baldwin, Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities and the Voluntary Sector

## **2. A New Vision for Richmond Town Centre**

Katie McElligott, Head of the Corporate Project Office, Richmond Council outlined the work carried out so far in building a new vision for Richmond Town Centre. She highlighted an event planned for September to showcase locations and stories in the borough. If you know of any hidden gems or local stories that should be celebrated in the September event, please get in touch.

Additionally, if you have any feedback about the Town Centre or want to get involved in the next phase, please get in touch. Email: [richmondtowncentre@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:richmondtowncentre@richmond.gov.uk)

See slides for more information.

## **3. St Mary's University Business Clinic**

Dr. Luisa Weinzierl, Business Clinic Lead, St Mary's University described the range of support opportunities available for local VCS from St Mary's business faculty and students. The offer includes autumn 2025 speaker event series, Business Clinic Hackathon in March 2025, support for specific areas e.g. social media, fundraising, marketing, risk assessments etc. All support is free and gives practical experience to students as well as businesses.

- More information on the website: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/business-law-and-society/law-clinic/business-clinic.aspx>
- Get in touch: [businessclinic@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:businessclinic@stmarys.ac.uk)

See slides for more information.

## **4. Heat Health Plan**

Fenn Porter, Public Health Team, Richmond Council explained the Heat Health Plan and supporting resources available to Voluntary and Community Sector Groups.

- Role for VCS in helping to protect communities from risks related to hot weather
- [Register for heat health alerts](#) to be notified of hot weather
- [VCS checklist](#) sets out specific actions you can take to support people and respond to different level health alerts
- Identify service users who could be at higher risk of becoming unwell
- Promote key messages about heat health and staying safe – have worked together with VCS to create infographics, happy to share and print
- Get in touch: [fenn.porter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:fenn.porter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

## 5. Climate Microgrants and Cool Spaces

Rebecca Reece, Engagement and Partnerships Officer and Rose Joyce, Graduate Project Officer, Richmond Council promoted the Climate Microgrants and Cool Spaces resources.

Climate Microgrants:

- Fund is for everybody – as long as there is some link to sustainability (climate, biodiversity, waste)
- Keen to work together to support applicants to be successful in applying
- Rolling programme with deadlines every 2 months - next deadline Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August
- School deadlines are termly, next is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October
- Aim for 2–3-week turnaround for feedback on grants
- 6 months to deliver projects following confirmation of funding
- Find out more and apply: [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/climate\\_action\\_microgrants](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/climate_action_microgrants)
- Sign up to climate newsletter:  
[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLBR/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=UKLBR\\_8](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLBR/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKLBR_8)

Cool Spaces:

- Cool spaces initiative has been established to create accessible spaces where people can safely cool down in high heat
- Greater London Authority has created cool spaces map:  
<https://apps.london.gov.uk/cool-spaces/>
- Currently only have six cool spaces in Richmond
- Asking for organisations to register to be a cool space
- Must be open at least two days a week, free to enter, staffed at all open times, and provide free drinking order

- Can sign up: <https://www.london.gov.uk/cool-spaces>
- For any support, email: [climatechange@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@richmond.gov.uk)
- Refill app: free places to refill water bottles: <https://www.refill.org.uk/>

## 6. Open Forum and Q&A

### **Cancer Awareness Support and Service Delivery** – Julie Quinn, Head of Client Services at The Mulberry Centre

- Support anyone affected by cancer (patients, carers, families)
- All adults can refer themselves - no postcode boundaries, and all services are free
- Following registration, process is to sit down with a counsellor who will work with them to identify what support is available and suitable
- Based at West Middlesex Hospital but also deliver activities at other locations
- Provide a range of non-medical interventions – offer short term counselling sessions, complementary therapy sessions, movement classes, health walks, creative writing classes, coffee mornings, talks
- Currently have funding for soul midwife services to work with anyone with an end-of-life diagnosis and their families (not just from cancer)
- Get in touch on 020 8321 6300 or [talk@themulberrycentre.co.uk](mailto:talk@themulberrycentre.co.uk)
- More information on website: <https://themulberrycentre.co.uk/>

### **Trustee Forward Governance Project** – Santiago Torchiaro, Richmond CVS

- New initiative to support new trustees and aspiring chairs of Richmond voluntary and community organisations - delivered in partnership with the Richmond Foundation
- Free of charge for all programme participants, with 25 spaces on first cohort
- Eligibility: available for trustees who have started their role within three years, or those currently aspiring to become a chair of their organisation
- Need consent from your organisation's board in order to take part
- Will involve 6 training sessions, tailored to participants needs; 1:1 mentoring sessions; peer support opportunities
- Applications open until 21<sup>st</sup> July:  
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=8xQvbDCJmU2VrQYRfefSn3cA1fhCV7RGvOyR56v8WLtUQ05aRjBOM1pJVTNSREw4OUo3TFFMUUFaNy4u&formie=true>
- Full information pack on website: <https://richmond cvs.org.uk/trustee-forward-developing-trustees-growing-impact/>

- Would also welcome contact from experienced trustees who may want to get involved in supporting participants

**Full of Life Fair** - Sarah Bayly, Campaigns Manager, Richmond Council  
Communications Team

- Full of Life Fair coming up at Twickenham Stadium on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October
- Brings together local organisations who support older residents to promote healthy, active, and independent living; social interaction; general health and wellbeing
- Encourage stallholders to be creative to make the event really interactive
- Fee for stallholders is £40 for charities and £70 for businesses
- Applications for stallholders now open [on website](#).
- Full of Life fund will also be launched soon to support organisations to run other related activities.
- More information: [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/full\\_of\\_life](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/full_of_life)
- Get in touch: [fulloflife@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:fulloflife@richmond.gov.uk)

**South Asian Heritage Month** – Sarah Bayly, Campaigns Manager, Richmond Council  
Communications Team

We're honouring South Asian Heritage Month (18 July – 17 August) with the theme "Roots to Routes". This year's themes encourage us to explore the unique journeys that have shaped our community.

We're collecting inspiring stories from Richmond residents and local groups about their heritage and pathways to where they are today.

These stories will be featured on our website and social media channels. Whether you prefer filming an interview, sending written stories, photos, or audio recordings, we want to hear from you.

**If you're interested in sharing your story, please email our communications team at [events@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:events@richmond.gov.uk) or if you're hosting an event, please visit our website's 'submit your news' section: [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/submit\\_a\\_community\\_news\\_story](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/submit_a_community_news_story)**

**Community Health Projects** - Christine, Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital

- Fundraising organisation for the hospital to help deliver improvements and projects
- Trustees can also support community health projects in Richmond with grants
- Get in touch with any proposals: [comms@friends-tmh.co.uk](mailto:comms@friends-tmh.co.uk)

### **VisitRichmond Promotional Opportunities - Angela Ivey, Richmond Council**

- Provide free page for charities to promote activities in monthly 'What's on in Richmond' magazines
- Can also provide free listings on the VisitRichmond website:  
<https://www.visitrichmond.co.uk/>
- Get in touch: [info@visitrichmond.co.uk](mailto:info@visitrichmond.co.uk)

### **Your Community Centre Week - Vanessa James, ETNA Community Centre**

- This year's Your Community Centre Week is week of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025
- Activities will include a vintage bus tour with cream teas and lots of other events
- Find out more: <https://yourcommunitycentres.org/>

### **Next forum**

- The next forum is planned for October 2025 and details will be circulated in due course.
- For any suggestions of how to keep improving the forums, get in touch with Harriet Steele at [harriet.steele@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:harriet.steele@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)