

17th North Kingston Forum Meeting Notes

Wed 29th March, Hawker Centre, 7:30pm

1. Di introduced the meeting and welcomed 16 members.
2. Justine Glynn (Vice Chair of the Ham and Petersham Neighbourhood Forum) was introduced and took us through the journey travelled by Ham and Petersham NF. They have just finished the draft of the neighbourhood plan and hope to go to referendum next year. They started the process in 2013 and followed Ward boundaries. Invited representatives from a wide group including residents and businesses. They bought dedicated space in the Ham and Petersham community magazine (£600) and attended Ham fair. They had very good engagement with residents. They formed a plan drafting team (15 architects, planners ect). The plan was professionally formatted (by a paid student at Kingston University) and printed. They created a identifiable logo from the very start and wrote their vision very early in the process. They asked members what the key issues they wanted to include and made the plan distinctive for the local area. Green space and transport were key issues. They wanted to protect examples of distinctive modern and Georgian architecture. Environmental, energy and flooding were other key issues. They held 6 scoping workshops with different topics debated at separate tables and tested policies at a later workshop. They found the Saturday workshops worked better than evening workshops. They said they had found it difficult to attract younger residents. They received monies from Richmond Council and Locality (£15k) and received a total of £30k. They paid for administrative support and have public liability insurance. There were then a series of questions from the floor including much discussion around affordable housing. Di thanked Justine for an excellent and very useful presentation.
3. Di updated the meeting on the application for designation and funding. She told the meeting that the approval for the neighbourhood area and the council are two weeks behind the statutory date. David Cunningham promised to chase. Di explained that until we receive full confirmation we cannot apply for funding and we have a consultant we need to pay. David also promised to chase on the outstanding monies promised by the council. We thanked David for his support. She explained that we need to consider other forms of funding and suggested applying for a council grant (by Friday) called new initiative (up to £3000) which would take 3 months to determine and suggested Crowdfunding. Glen Keywood is reviewing Just Giving crowdfunding site and may be able to launch in two/three weeks with a two phase target of £3000 for phase one. The target for phase two can be determined at a later date. Phase one funding would enable us to pay our consultant for the Vision workshop.
4. There is a vacancy on the Steering committee for a Development Officer to help with organising events and applying for grants. Please do consider applying for this very important role which will help move the Forum forward at a much faster pace.
5. Workgroups. The types of workgroups could be "keeping life local", "conservation and design", "environment and open spaces", "housing" and finally "new and improved community facilities". Di explained that we need volunteers to run and help run the workgroups as soon as they are finalised. They will be finalised during the next phase. David suggested members should read the council's Character Study – you may not be able to download this document, it is very large.
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B97hjZaOBdeSfmZqQWVyV0dCaVF3Q0p1Y3l3RThWbFVySDRaVjRJMkgzWEk1RU5TZmxiSGM>
6. FYI Di has received the Mayors community award for her efforts here.
7. Next meeting. The next meeting will be on 3rd May 2017. Agenda to follow.

Attendees

Diane Watling
Andrew Rainsford
Molly Morris
Mike Frain
Peter Walter
Julia Rees
Matthew Rees
Jonathan Rollason
Jenny Poole
James Poole
Sarah Harrison
Des McRow
Robert Rutherford
Asa Backman
Linda Forbes
Cllr David Cunningham