On Kew

Brentford Football Club update

Brentford Football Club is about to submit a planning application for a new 20,000 seat stadium on Lionel Road, just past Kew Station plus an outline application for a hotel and 8 tower blocks for 920 new flats, all either on the Lionel Road site or close by on the A406 between Kew Bridge and Chiswick Bridge.

Kew Society has been working with 7 other local community groups and we plan to hold a public meeting soon after the application is submitted. Members will be notified.

Main concerns for Kew include:

- Traffic and parking: the Club envisages 26 matches each season plus 16 for rugby. So, most Saturday afternoons could see a substantial increase in traffic congestion and parking in the Kew area: It is also possible that the stadium would be used for occasional concerts in the summer.
- The impact on Kew of the proposed apartment blocks – up to 18 storeys they will tower over Kew Green and the Conservation Area. And with some 2000 extra residents and limited parking facilities, again, parking availability for visitors to Kew could be affected.

More information can be found on the Brentford FC website with some pictures: http://www.brentfordcommunitystadium.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Lionel-Road-Liason-Group-Presentation-220413-v3.pdf

Permitted development – the current position clarified

You may have seen in the press, coverage of changes to the rules controlling whether planning permission needs to be sought for single storey extensions to houses. The relaxation, which would have been a temporary measure until 2016, was intended to help stimulate growth in the economy by encouraging more building. It would have doubled the size allowed for a single storey extension without the need for planning permission – a so called "permitted development". Lord True, Leader of Richmond Council, led a rebellion in the House of Lords, with an amendment to remove this change and Zac Goldsmith, our local MP, led a Commons revolt. Though the Lords amendment was defeated in the House of Commons, the Government majority was a slender 27 votes. The Government has now conceded the need to compromise and is introducing its own amendment to require permission to be sought, but with more limited rights than on other applications to raise objections, restricted to immediate neighbours. These changes do not apply to Conservation areas.

Civic Voice, to which we belong, played an important role in providing briefings on the issue for Civic Societies like ours around the country, encouraging them to contact their MPs to ask them to resist the proposals. 396 MPs were contacted by their Civic Societies – the biggest response to a Civic Voice campaign since it was established 3 years ago. It is a clear demonstration of how we can make things happen through membership of Civic Societies.

Kew Gardens' new Director to talk to Kew Society – CHANGE OF DATE

We announced in our last newsletter that Richard Deverell, the recently appointed Director of Kew Gardens, would be talking to Kew Society members shortly. The date of this talk has now been postponed to the 24th June when Mr Deverell will outline his plans for Kew as well as obtain feedback from local residents. Although he studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge, Mr Deverell is not a botanist and joined Kew from the BBC, but he has known Kew Gardens since his childhood and was a trustee for six years between 2003 and 2009. Further details of the talk are available separately and we look forward to a lively and informative evening.

Richmond Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Many readers may be aware that on the 1st April 2013 Richmond CCG took over responsibility for commissioning hospital, community and mental health services for local people living and working in the borough of Richmond. The CCG brings together 30 GP practices in the borough into one commissioning organisation overseeing a budget of approximately £220 million.

Our co-Chair Juliet Thompson attended the first public forum of the Richmond CCG in late April. There was a positive response from the floor to the recent establishment by each GP practice of a Patient Participation Group. We will continue to keep abreast of any developments and report on those that we believe should be highlighted.

Coaches and Parking on Kew Road

With a growing awareness of the increased amount of parking by coaches on the Kew Road in the vicinity of the Gardens, the Kew Society worked with the Kew Residents' Association to prepare a report on the issue. The report first set out the facts that the increased presence of coaches is having an adverse effect on local road safety; air quality; and traffic flow and then proposed a number of measures to alleviate the situation.

This report has now been presented to Richard Deverell, Director of RBG, Kew along with a request to meet to review the report's contents.

Richmond Heathrow Campaign – update

Richmond Heathrow Campaign recently submitted three proposals to the Airports Commission for consideration. These are for best use of short and medium term existing capacity and can be viewed at www.richmondheathrow.campaign.org. RHC has done a lot of research to show that Heathrow has the capacity both to cope with more traffic and to mitigate the impact on residents without the need for any extra runways.

Proposal 1 seeks a more even daily distribution of Heathrow flights so as to improve resilience and provide headroom to replace all the night flights between 11pm and 7am. The aim is to stop night noise and avoid loss of runway alternation arising from the recent operational trials and improve punctuality. Proposal 2 increases the number of seats per flight enabling full use of Heathrow's terminal capacity of 90 million passengers and Proposal 3 reduces international transfers so as to free up capacity for terminating passengers. Proposals 2 and 3 allow terminating passenger numbers to grow without more flights and firmly within the cap of 480,000 flights a year without mixed mode that would remove runway alternation and our half day of respite.

The proposals will be considered by the Airports Commission along with those from other parties and an Interim report produced by the end of the year. RHC has been invited to meet the Commission in June.

Kew Library

We welcome the updating of Kew Library. The Library has reopened in recent weeks following an extensive renovation to its interior and now looks set to provide a valuable service to the community well into the future.

Fun on the Green – a Party in the Field

We'd like to highlight two forthcoming events this Summer that are being held by two local groups with whom we retain strong links – the Kew Fete committee and the Pensford Field Environmental Trust.

On the 22nd June, Kew Green will be transformed into a spectacle of sights and sounds that will guarantee fun for all ages. The Kew Fete returns to the Green with all its energy and enthusiasm - so whether you'd like to browse amongst the stalls; sample the wide variety of food and drink available or just listen to the music simply make your way down to the Green anytime from 11.00am onwards.

Looking through into July, Pensford Field will be opening its gate for a Summer Party Picnic on Saturday, 13th July. With a full programme of musical entertainment that starts with something for the little ones and ranges through to the Blues, Jazz and beyond as well as a chance to enjoy some traditional Summer drinks, why not take a picnic down to the Field from 4.30 pm onwards. Entry is free.

Events

Over the past few months, our members and their guests have been treated to three hugely enjoyable and very different walking tours in the local area.

David Nash commenced the series in March with a guided tour of his work that was on display in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Next, in April, Colin Lomas expertly guided us through the Stamford Brook, Bedford Park and Kew areas to find the buildings associated with and the views painted by Camille Pissarro. And finally in May, John Moses provided us with a Georgian perspective on the Richmond and Petersham areas. Our thanks go to all of the above Tour Leaders and indeed all who have been involved in the arrangement of these events.

Whether it was looking out over the Botanic Gardens or taking tea in the grounds of Trumpeter House, these walks gave many of us a wonderful opportunity to look at the familiar with fresh eyes.

Contact us

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JOIN NOW by visiting our website

You can write to us at:

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