

Community Conversation

London Borough of Richmond

23 September 2019

Community Conversation Minutes

Ward/s: Hampton, Hampton North

Date: Weds 18th Sept, 2019

Time: 6.30 – 9.00pm

Venue: White House, Hampton

Ward members (panel):

- Cllr. Gareth Roberts (Hampton) *Leader of the Council*
- Cllr. Geraint Thomason (Hampton) *Assistant Cabinet Member (Business, Economy, and Employment (Including Property))*
- Cllr Suzette Nicholson (Hampton)
- Cllr. Avril Coelho (Hampton North)
- Cllr. Kate Howard (Hampton North) *Joint Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party Group*
- Cllr. Geoff Samuel (Hampton North)

Chair: Rev. Ben Lovell, St Mary’s Church, Hampton

- 1. Introduction of panel and guidance on the format of the Community Conversation by the Chair**
- 2. Review of Achievements in Hampton and Hampton North by ward councillors.**

Councillor	Achievements
Cllr Nicholson	Current review of controlled parking zone for the whole of the Hampton ward as 3 roads were asking for a CPZ, it was considered to be worth doing a consultation for all roads. This was a direct request from residents who petitioned for these three streets.

Cllr Roberts	<p>Closure of the Post Office delivery office in Rosehill, unfortunately lost the battle against its closure. Deliveries relocated to Ashford. 2 planning applications for the site have already been opposed. They are unlikely to succeed due to the change of use proposed. (Business use at present).</p> <p>Closure of Llyods Bank in Hampton, unable to stop closure due to low footfall. Monitoring how it will be redeveloped. Possible to use Post Office in Station Rd for basic banking needs.</p> <p>MTV Youth bungalow facility at St Mary's School.</p> <p>Working with the Traders Association with their key public events – Screen on the Green was very successful.</p>
Cllr. Coelho	<p>Trustee of HoTCA at the White House and working with HOTCA and the White House to maintain the community centre service.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour, working with police. Attended Westminster briefing on serious crime. Also working with Safer Neighbourhood's Board for Businesses.</p> <p>Meeting with Friends of Hampton Common in relation to Hampton and Richmond FC looking for new grounds.</p> <p>Working to improve bus stops and services, and improvements to station.</p> <p>Parking on Hanworth Rd, double yellow lines have been implemented, but school coaches still parking on these.</p>
Cllr. Samuel	<p>Key achievement was the creation of Hampton Square. Uxbridge Rd and Hanworth Rd junction road improvements.</p> <p>Working with RHP and PA Housing to improve residential areas. Protecting Hampton Common another key piece of work.</p>
Cllr. Howard	<p>Sent apologies, as member of Planning committee meeting this evening.</p>

3. Pre-submitted questions

Headline Topic Andy Chapman – traffic issues on Hanworth Road, Hampton	
Question 1	<p>There have been multiple conversations, meetings, email exchanges etc. over the past 6+ years about the traffic chaos on Hanworth Road, Hampton. The council's own traffic surveys have indicated that there are significant issues, including safety concerns as a result of vehicles including buses mounting pavements and coaches parking across zebra crossings, and yet no real progress has been made. When can we expect more substantive measures to be taken to tackle these issues?</p>

<p>Response</p>	<p>Cllr. Samuel: Ongoing problem is the difficulty of 24 school coaches for LEH and Hampton students. Previously, Hampton School coaches drove onto the grounds and decanted, but then built extension of the school. Now refuse to drive coaches onto site as pupils would be at risk. LEH does have some coaches on site. They are Independent bodies who make the decisions for their sites.</p> <p>Cllr. Coelho: A practical solution would be that the schools would implement parking provision on their grounds, but the governing bodies are concerned about liability to students on site.</p> <p>Resident: Can't the Council argue that the situation is dangerous for other road users?</p> <p>Cllr. Coelho: The Council cannot impose on the schools. Double yellow lines that were implemented are still being parked on. I have forwarded the photos from Dr Chapman to the council officers explaining that this continues to be a problem despite the zigzags and double yellow lines and the council have contacted the schools who replied saying that they will ask the coach companies not to park on these.</p> <p>Cllr. Samuel: Only possible solution through planning route as a negotiating point, should the schools be seeking planning permission.</p> <p>Resident: Zig zag school lines could be possibly further along the road as a solution?</p> <p>Cllr. Coelho: Unfortunately, that moves the problem down the road.</p>
<p>Headline Topic Andy Chapman – 20 mph implementation, Tim Rosser – cost of signage, Alan Fisher – cost of implementation</p>	
<p>Question 2</p>	<p>Given that the majority of council residents opposed the introduction of a borough-wide 20mph speed limit and its reported benefits contradicted by a Department of Transport report, why is it being implemented? At the next council elections, will the Conservatives manifesto include a plan to return the borough to normality?</p>
<p>Question 3</p>	<p>One of the arguments for bringing in a borough wide 20 mph speed limit is that this would save on costs of road signage. Yet individual 20 mph signs have inundated Hampton; some of them being introduced quite unnecessarily in short, quiet cul de sacs.</p> <p>Why have some many signs been installed in view of the Council's original stated policy? How much does each individual 20 mph road sign cost the tax payer? When are speed cameras going to be introduced in the ward, and if so, where in the ward?</p>
<p>Question 4</p>	<p>Why has the council spent £1m on 20mph speed limit signs after majority voted against it when the roads and pavements need to be repaired.</p>

<p>Response</p>	<p>Cllr. Roberts: 20 mph was supported by the majority of people who took part in the consultation, a 171 majority. Previously the proposal was in the manifesto, and the consultation was held to assess opinion. A308 Twickenham to Kingston, Twickenham road to A316 did not make sense to make 20mph so a scheme has been implemented that satisfies those demands. By making calmer streets for cyclists and walkers, aim to encourage move away from car use. Traffic speed cameras are not going to be introduced. Roundels signs - £10 for small, £16 for large. Funding came from TFL for road safety measures.</p> <p>Cllr. Samuel: A promise was made in the Liberal Democrat manifesto which would have allowed the administration to carry out the proposal, but once you consult, you need to consider the outcome of that consultation. On traffic matters, I always support the majority view of residents, whether I agree or not.</p> <p>A resident spoke in support of 20mph and mentioned bicycles (referring to motorcycles). She was thanked by Cllr Roberts and Cllr. Coelho.</p> <p>Cllr. Coelho: There are a large number of elderly and disabled residents in Hampton North and bikes tear through the ward and it can be hazardous for them.</p>
<p>Headline Topic: Derek Sanders, condition of road safety markings</p>	
<p>Question 5</p>	<p>Why has the council failed <u>for many years now</u> to maintain the road-(safety)markings – especially the lines that show the central turning point at road junctions? When will Richmond Council restore our missing road safety markings across the borough?</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Cllr. Nicholson: Council officers do inspect the road markings and refresh. Gloucester and Carlisle Rd are being looked into now.</p> <p>Resident: Speed bumps unmarked on Gloucester Rd with 3 schools on that road which has increased the danger. Across the Borough road markings have been worn away.</p> <p>Cllr. Roberts: Raise on social media and include councillors in message or online reporting of issue will raise to the attention of officers.</p> <p>Residents: Signage covered by overgrowth also a problem.</p> <p>Cllr. Roberts: Councillors do address this and send in reports to officers.</p> <p>Fulmer Close resident: Fulmer Close currently has 20mph and 5 mph signage, this needs to be looked at.</p>

	Cllr. Coelho: I am aware of this 5mph and will look into it if you see me after to clarify which of the two speed limits residents of Fulmer Close prefer.	
Action to be taken	<p>Will speak to Nick O'Donnell on road markings renewal</p> <p>Check on Fulmer Close conflicting 5 mph and 20mph signage</p>	<p>Cllr Roberts to pursue</p> <p>Cllr. Coelho</p>
Headline Topic Jon Slinn, Use of open space/MOL for sports activities		
Question 7	Please can the council confirm their policy re: the use of open space such as parks and MOL to support children's sports teams? In particular, will the council confirm that it will support the use of Hampton Common and MOL in Hampton by local teams?	
Response	<p>Cllr. Coelho: The Council have been working with the Hampton and Richmond Borough FC to find new grounds, although they do have a further year to use King's Fields.</p> <p>Cllr. Roberts: The Council supports MOL and seeks to protect green spaces and supports sports activities. Hampton Common has a pitch at present, and we are currently reviewing the pitch and markings.</p> <p>Resident: Have requested meeting with the Friends of Hampton Common, but are still waiting for this to happen.</p> <p>Cllr. Coelho: Not been invited to meet with FC, but would like to discuss options with them. A concern with the new location is the need for toilets to be near the pitch. HRBFC expressed they want to use the White House toilet facilities and I have raised this with HoTCA Trustees who are fine with it, however don't feel that they would get to the White House quickly enough from the pitch whilst playing. It's at least a ten minute walk and they can't walk through the two school grounds. Also the White House might not be open when they choose to play if running on volunteers.</p> <p>Resident: Open ground is needed for training.</p> <p>Cllr. Coelho: A pitch is there, but FC would like a second pitch on the Common. Possibility of using Twickenham RFC or Hatherop Park. I want everyone to be able to get exercise and team building skills from sports and outdoor activities, however, I support the Village Green status of Hampton Common.</p>	

Action to be taken	Meeting with Hampton and Richmond Borough FC	Cllr. Coelho to pursue.
4. OPEN QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR		
Headline Topic – Future of the White House		
Question 1	What is the Council's position on who should hold the lease, HOTCA and YMCA? The Council's position on soft play? How will the Council support outreach and services of the White House. (HoTCA - Hampton Upon Thames Community Association)	
Response	<p>Cllr. Coelho: Personally believe that the hall should be kept for everybody's use and soft play would prevent this. The YMCA have not accepted HOTCA's compromises. The potential use of the Youth Centre has not been followed through by YMCA.</p> <p>Cllr. Samuel: The lease is unbreakable with HOTCA (125 years) and the YMCA was asked to step in to manage the centre. There is a tension between the vision of the trustees of HOTCA and the sections and that of the YMCA. Personally, do not agree with the use as soft play space in the hall. An alternative solution of the youth centre, a large space managed by the YMCA and the possibility of combining the two spaces eg soft play in Youth Centre. The present structure doesn't work. Need to look at the two buildings together.</p> <p>Resident: What is the Council's position as to whether HOTCA/YMCA should be running the centre in future?</p> <p>Cllr. Roberts: Have been liaising with both parties; YMCA and HOTCA which are both charities. YMCA is losing money on the site, and unfortunately despite asking for an extension of the management agreement, the YMCA trustee board has refused.</p> <p>Personal view is that both could have worked together. If HoTCA take back control, council will support them. Realises soft play is popular, and that the hall is relatively underused, so there is a need to ensure it becomes well used. Needs to be a viable business proposition. Otherwise will close. Soft play could change demographic of users of the hall. There needs to be something to attract younger families.</p> <p>Cllr. Coelho: HoTCA and the Council looked at building on the all weather pitch but this was not viable, and to use Hampton Youth Centre – but separate leases on different terms. The public consultation was not in favour of soft play. 'Off the Record' is now doing outreach in White House offering counselling service to young people. An idea for 'Click and Collect' facility at the Centre, to replace loss of Rosehill Delivery Centre, has also been suggested.</p>	
Headline Topic – Sainsbury's Hampton Square – abandoned trolleys		

Question 2	Can the Council do anything in relation to the abandoned trolleys around Hampton Square?	
Response	Cllr Samuel: Council has responsibility for local community and can talk to Sainsburys about the problem. Resident: Have tried emailing customer services at Sainsbury's. Fly tipping effectively?	
Action to be taken	Letter to Sainsbury's jointly from the Councillors to remind them of their responsibility and potential action from the Council in relation to flytipping.	By whom: Cllr Roberts, Cllr.Coelho, Cllr. Samuels
Headline Topic – Kempton Park Racecourse development		
Question 3	Has it been considered what the Impact on traffic and surrounding areas would be of the Kempton Park racecourse development?	
Response	Cllr. Roberts: The Kempton Park Racecourse project has now been shelved indefinitely. Unlikely to get permission in the future.	
Headline Topic – Planning applications for Rosehill		
Question 4	You mentioned before that there is a need for a public service on the site, or 100% affordable housing. What is the Council's position on the development of this site?	
Response	<p>Cllr Roberts: Within Council policy in the 2018 Local Plan the site allocations plan includes Rosehill site. There is a requirement for 2 years of marketing before there can be a change of use on land. If a developer can't demonstrate business use, then all affordable housing with off street parking would be required.</p> <p>Resident: Will the site have a priority for commercial/business use firstly?</p> <p>Resident: Will it be in the same position as the protection for the Police Station in Station Rd?</p> <p>Cllr. Roberts: The Council are resolute that a 2 year marketing period for change of use will be upheld. Intend to have close observance on this site.</p> <p>Resident: Would Rosehill's fate be the same as Twickenham's Post Officer delivery site ie not affordable housing!</p> <p>Cllr. Roberts: Twickenham development was covered by the previous Local Plan which did not state a requirement for affordable housing.</p>	
Headline Topic –Empty shops between Cavern Bakery and Tesco in Hampton Hill High Street		
Question 5	What is being done to improve the appearance of these empty shops and get new shops in?	
Response	Resident: The owner was surveying for a food store, but unable to proceed, so the owner has left it derelict.	
Headline Topic – Costs of installation of road signage		
Question 6	What is the labour/ installation costs of the 20mph road signage?	

Response	<p>Cllr. Roberts: Close to £1m is the cost of the full installation of 20mph, but TFL are paying for the cost. (TFL budget for safety provision.)</p> <p>Resident: Where does TFL money originate from?</p> <p>Cllr. Samuel: Council does not pay directly to TFL. Some of the precept to GLA funds goes towards TFL.</p> <p>Resident: The reason that 20mph signage has to be put on all roads affected, including cul de sacs, is that it is a variation to the standard 30mph in residential areas and must be clearly shown as such on all roads.</p>	
Action to be taken	Full cost of installation and labour to be shown on Twitter	By whom: Cllr Roberts
Headline Topic – 20mph		
Question 7	We need to give the scheme a chance, but when is it actually coming in as buses currently not complying.	
Response	Cllr Roberts: The infrastructure is currently going in, but the scheme has not gone live yet. Date to be announced.	
Headline Topic – 20mph		
Question 8	Having decided this scheme for the whole borough, what consideration was given to lower gear driving, higher fuel consumption, increased emissions – young and old impacted. Reasoning for the scheme was safety on the roads, but high pollution impact instead? Health impact of lower speed limit?	
Response	Cllr. Roberts: Air quality experts were consulted on the impact on air quality of the 20mph speed limit and they deemed it to have negligible impact.	
Headline Topic – 20mph		
Question 9	Locally the scheme was not desired by 70% of respondents, but the decision had already been made before consultation. Is there a time for a review?	
Response	<p>Resident: Wards that had most complaints about the scheme had the worse public transport.</p> <p>Cllr. Roberts: There are reviews that will take place, but the entirety of the scheme being reversed is unlikely. We currently cannot sustain 30mph on the roads in practical terms.</p> <p>Resident: How are you going to police the speed limit?</p> <p>Cllr Roberts: Self-policing of the limit is expected.</p> <p>Cllr Coelho: There is indeed funding to answer the question earlier about if money comes from TfL, as was revealed to councillors who attended the Transport Meeting in the chamber last month, as I have been pursuing this for Ward public</p>	

	transport improvements and encourage anyone who is interested in improving transport in Hampton North or wants to adopt a station with a simple form to contact me afterwards. There are roads in Hampton North such as Fulmer Close where previously residents requested 5mph.
Headline Topic – 20mph	
Question 11	Why has the Council ignored the evidence against 20mph from Atkins, TFL, Dept of Transport. Only 2% of population of Richmond Borough responded, so you did not listen to the views of residents.
Response	<p>Cllr. Roberts: key roads were not included in the final version of the 20mph scheme ie road from Twickenham to Kingston, so did listen to the results of the residents in relation to changing parts of the scheme.</p> <p>Cllr. Samuel: the presentation on 20mph was biased at the previous Community Conversation. The Dept. of Transport survey of 4 years on 20mph came to a number of conclusions, including many reasons against 20mph, but this evidence was dismissed during the consultation.</p>

5. Ward based Budgets and AOB

Aim to enable local people to have a say in the spending of local funds and to influence the decisions that impact upon their lives

Liberal Democrat manifesto commitment and in Council’s Corporate plan

The money will come from existing funding streams, for example Civic Pride, Community Fund and perhaps some departmental budgets. (eg Highways/Parks)

Community engagement key to ensure the involvement of residents, especially the seldom heard, in relation to setting priorities for the ward budget spend.

At this point we want ideas from residents on what the ward budget should be spent on in their local neighbourhood. The actual amount attributed to each ward will be decided later in the year.

Announcement of Mini Full of Life event in Hampton Hill on Monday 23rd Sept. at the Greenwood Centre.