

Ham United Group CIC -your local community group-care about where you live
incorporating Petersham

Meeting notes

**Wednesday 25th September, 2013
at 8pm at the Little House**

Present

Mark Brand (Chair), Andrew Beedham, Danielle Coleman, Justine Glynn, John Hatto, Jean Loveland, Cllr Brian Miller, Gerhard Mueller, Andres Muniz-Piniella, Mary Pitteway, Julia Rees, Matthew Rees, Chris Ruse, Chas Warlow, Cllr David Williams, Richard Woolf, Penny Frost (secretary)

Apologies

Cllr Sue Jones, Jill Lamb, David Lawton

1. Welcome and introductory remarks

Mark Brand welcomed all to the meeting, particularly new members and FoHL members

2. Approval of HUG minutes and FoHL 28th August 2013 and matters arising

Minutes from the last meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Neighbourhood Forum

- Good turnout of over 100 people to 2nd meeting of NF on 10.9.13, with positive write-up in Rich and Twick Times. Andrew thanked all who had helped and facilitated. The first meeting of the new committee will take place later in October. Cllr Fleming has confirmed that NF will be on the October Cabinet agenda for confirmation, and once this is received, NF can apply for £7000 funding to cover publicity costs already incurred and specialist advice needed for drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Andrew noted that the council officers have been very supportive. Justine and Andrew have attended a Neighbourhood Planning networking meeting which provided useful contacts and tips for engaging the council and community. Andrew feels that the H&P model, with significant involvement of local providers, gives a particularly robust basis for community involvement
- Next step - next meeting of NF will be on 10.12.13, when Andrew hopes to have 1st draft of the Neighbourhood Plan for consultation

4. Project updates

- **FoHL:** Chris has put notes of AGM on FoHL website, and has started integrating the content of the FoHL website onto the HUG website. He is working on establishing a core membership form the email addresses on the website. Further programme will include walks and talks, and will also address the updating needed on the Management Plan for Ham Lands. John Hatto queried whether Ham Lands could be kept separate from the plans for green spaces in Richmond being drawn up by Lord True, as Ham Lands needs careful management of its unique flora and fauna

- **Computer DIY workshop:** Andres reported that this is going well, and requested that the Little House could also be used for local ‘self help’ projects being developed for community benefit, such as building a 3D printer from scratch, designing an automatic irrigation system for gardens and building a server to support a local internet. It was agreed that the Little House can be used in this way, and our public liability insurance is adequate to cover these projects. Paul Cattermole to be approached to ask if he will be prepared to open and close the Little House for community groups on Tuesday evenings when Andres is unavailable. Andrew also suggested that these community groups could explore evening use of the library as an ICT resource and Grey Court for access to the equipment in their workshops. *Please see the end of these notes for relevant websites supplied by Andres*
- **Horticulture:** Mary Pitteway noted that we have been waiting since the spring for the Council to bring a ‘grab lorry’ to the allotments to clear the rubble from the allotment that has been allocated to HUG. Brian agreed to chase the council on this. Mary continues to work on projects in the Gre Court grounds with students with learning needs. Both the Library and the Ham Centre gardens have received Category 4 status from London in Bloom – next step is ‘outstanding’. Part of the Library garden is shaded by a big tree, and needs to be developed – she will investigate sponsorship from the Palm House and Petersham Nursery to run a competition to design a ‘mini-garden’ for a shaded area
- **Biodiversity:** John Hatto reminded members of the ‘Creepy Crawly morning’ this Saturday, and requested use of a gazebo and volunteers to help him put it up. He is seriously concerned with the current government proposals for ‘bio-diversity offsetting’, which do not take account of connectivity between areas of biodiversity, and may lead to losses of gardens and local green space for car-parking etc provided that offsetting takes place in the countryside. Biodiversity groups in Richmond, Kingston and Richmond Park are all monitoring this closely
- **Apple press:** this is being well-used locally. Following an appeal from Chas to make cider, it was agreed that on **Saturday 5th October at 10am at the Little House**, all are invited to bring apples for pressing, which can then be used for cider. Jean will provide muslin bags
- **Swimming pool:** Richard Woolf reported that nothing is happening, and the project needs to be wrapped up in some way as a lot of sponsorship money was raised and expensive reports were commissioned. Brian agreed to follow it up and report back to HUG
- **Green Screen:** Jill, Jean and Danielle have been meeting to draw up plans for monthly film screenings followed by discussions of films which explore a range of green issues, and this could build up to a festival in the summer. Currently they are finding it difficult to locate films which are licence-free, as there is no money for licences or publicity for this project. Andres recommended ‘Project dirt’ which is a web platform for environmental projects and groups, which may have tips for funding
- **Ham Hydro** (*Brian withdrew for this item*): Chas thanked everyone who has sent supportive messages to the Council regarding Ham Hydro, and David Williams suggested that members to continue to write in. He reported that the Planning Officer has put the planning application on hold for the time being, and has requested further views of the Hydro from the Teddington side, to show what it would look like from the Lensbury angle. Chas felt that he had already provided all the necessary technical drawings, and does not understand why he has to provide further information. Noise is no longer an issue for planning permission. Other suggestions included asking the chair of the Teddington Society to attend when Ham Hydro finally comes to Planning Committee, and

asking Zac Goldsmith to write to the Planning Committee. Andrew agreed to meet Chas to firm up the next step.

7. Other business

- **Ham and Petersham Magazine** – Peter Rixon will produce one further issue this year, and subsequent issues will be produced Andy Dawson. Andy is keen to have everyone's ideas for material, and asks for ideas to be sent to h&pmag@gmail.com

8. Dates of future meetings in 2013

Wed 30th October 8pm – in the Library

A Directors' meeting will be held before the AGM – date to be advised

Thurs 28th November – AGM in the Library

Where possible, items of AOB should be with Penny at least 7 days in advance of each meeting date.

Andres has sent us the following links (see item 4):

<http://vodo.net> (Creative Commons independent films, animations, documentaries)

<http://clearbits.net/movies> (Creative Commons films and series)

<http://clearbits.net/animations>

http://archive.org/details/opensource_movies (Community Video archive, all CC or PD)

<http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Films> (CC films, overlaps some of the above)

There may be some low production qualities. Worth a look.