

FUTURE OF HAM UNITED GROUP

To be discussed at the AGM on 29 November 2018

I have included the objectives and aims of HUG as laid out in our Constitution (1) and on our website (2)

1) Objectives

The Objects of Ham United Group are to develop the capacity and skills of the residents of Ham*, without distinction, in such a way that residents are better able to identify and help meet their needs and will enable residents to participate more fully in society. Also, to provide relief from hardship and social and/or economic disadvantage and to advance the education and skills of Ham's* residents of all ages; in particular to provide opportunities for the residents of Ham* to participate fully in the life of their community in ways which promote the integration of the community and address and alleviate social and economic disadvantage. Also, to promote general charitable purposes, activities, events and projects which may be decided from time to time for the benefit of the community of Ham* and the surrounding area.

* the group will be operating within a specifically geographical area of Ham as defined by the group (see map), or any variation of that area within the boundaries of the Ham and Petersham ward, deemed necessary to maintain focus on those experiencing disadvantage.

2) Aims

- to improve and enhance the environment and the quality of life for the community in Ham and Petersham.
- to promote general charitable purposes, activities, events and projects which may be decided from time to time for the benefit of the community of Ham & Petersham and the surrounding area.

In advance of the meeting I should like you to think about the following and let me have your views:

- HUG, as a Community Interest Company, currently acts as an umbrella and bank account for various local groups and projects such as Makerlabs, Friends of Ham Lands, Meditation Group, Green Screen, Library Garden, Ham is Where the Heart is and other garden and orchard related projects. We currently have nine or ten meetings a year, some of which are visits or walks and talks. The attendance at meetings has been dropping which begs the question – are we having too many meetings? The point has been made that the individual groups know what they are doing so don't need to come to the monthly meetings! Do we want to have fewer, say four times a year? Do we want more walks/talks/visits and if so what kind of event would appeal most?
- There are several local community groups in existence in Ham and Petersham including the Ham and Petersham Association, Ham Amenities Group, Friends of Ham Lands and Friends of Ham Library. It is fantastic that we can get so much community involvement but it does mean that there is overlap in membership and

activities which can occasionally cause duplication of effort (eg litter picks). Ham Amenities Group has just had its AGM and asked members to consider a form of amalgamation with Ham and Petersham Association. Do we think this is something we should be considering?

- Currently there are no membership fees for HUG which was regarded as an USP (unique selling point) when the group was set up. We have a membership of 170 currently. There is an argument that people pay little attention to organisations if they have not paid to be a member. This does cause practical problems in that all money which comes into HUG is for specific projects and whilst we can for some projects take a percentage to cover admin costs that is not always the case. As a result we run a constant deficit in admin and publicity costs. Other local organisations charge modest membership fees and we are not prevented from doing so by our constitution. Do we wish to consider a change to charging for membership or to remain as we currently are?

These are just a few starter points for consideration. Do let me know your suggestions and views and we can discuss them further at the AGM. It's your group!

Jill Lamb, Chair
Ham United Group
29 October 2018