

ROEHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting of the Roehampton Partnership (RP) meeting held on Tuesday 10th
January 2023 at 7pm at the University of Roehampton and Zoom

Present:

The Revd Joshua Rey (Chair)	Holy Trinity Church
Deacon Kathy Johnson	Roehampton and Putney Methodist Church
Councillor Claire Gilbert	Wandsworth Borough Council (West Putney)
Councillor Jenny Yates	Wandsworth Borough Council (Roehampton)
Councillor Graeme Henderson	Wandsworth Borough Council (Roehampton)
Tom Rowson	Chief Operating Officer, University of Roehampton
Harrison Cohen	President, Roehampton University Students' Union
Steve Fannon	Western Area Housing Panel
Natasha Beckwood	Focalpoint Opticians
Tessa Shields	West Wandsworth PCN
Councillor Clare Fraser	Wandsworth Borough Council (Cabinet Member, Transport)

In Attendance:

Jack Lightle (Minute Taker)
NievesCarazo-Minguez
Tony Arthur
Lee Roberts

1. Welcome and Apologies

Introductions were made and apologies received from Cllr Matthew Tiller.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2022 were reviewed and confirmed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Discussion with Cllr Clare Fraser, Cabinet Member for Transport – to include update on Transport Proposals

Received – A verbal presentation from Cllr Clare Fraser, who welcomed RP's help in identifying local transport needs. Cllr Fraser noted the 40% of borough residents do not own a car and that, therefore, the preservation, protection and enhancement of public transport links is of critical concern. Member noted that Roehampton's geography isolates it from other localities and exacerbates transport issues.

Discussion - Members raised the following issues:

Cycling – Members identified a need to improve cycle connectivity and safety (potentially through median dividers), and the interface of cycling links with Roehampton Lane. Members noted that the Lime e-bike zone has been extended to the University of Roehampton, providing another means of transportation for staff and students. Cllr Fraser fed back some initial, and largely positive, officer responses to the Partnership's proposals on cycle paths: to circulate these responses by email.

ACTION: Chair, Roehampton Partnership

Buses Within and Beyond Roehampton – Though Wandsworth Borough Council has played a critical role in protecting Roehampton's local bus services, members agreed that several issues require attention. Specifically, these include poor connectivity with other localities, the frequency, reliability and capacity of services, and the placement of bus stops. A particular concern that the opening of the Pocklington Hall flats will finally overwhelm the already increasingly stretched buses serving Alton West. Members noted the recommendations of their Transport Sub-group (June 2022), which advocated re-routing the 969 via Richmond Park to serve the Lennox and Alton Estates (which would avoid duplicating existing rail connections between Barnes and Richmond) and extending the K3 to the Alton Estate/Priory Lane. Some discussion of whether this might be facilitated by rising bollards at the bottom of Danebury Avenue to allow bus access from Danebury Avenue directly to the Lennox estate, always being aware of strong local feeling in favour of Danebury Avenue remaining a cul-de-sac.

Roehampton Lane Calming – The speed and density of traffic on Roehampton Lane makes East/West travel in Roehampton daunting, repels pedestrians and outdoor activity, and creates hazards for residents. Members agreed it would be beneficial to implement a 20mph speed limit on the whole of Roehampton Lane, remove the median divider in the Southern section of Roehampton Lane (and widening pavements), review the placement of pedestrian crossings, and extend the bus lane that operates between Clarence Lane and the Roehampton Club to Alton Road.

Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) – Members noted that Roehampton will be included in the extended ULEZ, from August 2023. Members expressed concerns that the immediate impacts of this on Roehampton may be negative and isolationary, given the community's socioeconomic profile. Cllr Fraser noted that TfL will implement a grace period and scrappage scheme to help residents purchase newer vehicles.

Availability of Parking – Availability of car parking in the local area is deteriorating due to the construction of new developments without it. Members noted that students can now park on University of Roehampton campuses, which may relieve some pressure. This was warmly welcomed.

National Rail Services – The lack of level access at Barnes Station means many residents use Putney Station. Cllr Fraser acknowledged that Network Rail hold responsibility for this issue but thought it possible that influence could be brought to bear to make this happen, and that funding through the Access for All programme might be available. Warm support for the suggestion that Barnes should be brought into Zone 2, to provide two Zone 2 rail options for those trying to access Roehampton by train, thus taking pressure of buses from Putney.

Access to Richmond Park – Royal Parks are currently discussing improving access to Richmond Park (potentially through a new pedestrian gate in Tunworth Crescent) with local stakeholders.

Transport Issues Affecting Students – Students are concerned by the poor availability of local bus services. It was noted that use of the University bus has increased substantially this academic year. Members discussed if residents could use the University service. To consider further.

ACTION: Chief Operating Officer, University of Roehampton

Some concern that if this were permitted it would provide an excuse for reducing the TfL service.

University has now agreed with Lime Bikes that their bikes will be available in the university area. Some concern expressed over bikes abandoned inconsiderately. To review at next meeting and consider making representations if this is a continuing problem.

ACTION: Secretariat

Noted that the Partnership had several other workstreams on transport beyond cycling and buses, which surfaced at the consultation held at the University two years ago. To send the consultation document to Cllr Fraser

ACTION: Chair

Chair summed up the discussion, noting that buses and parking both presented problems that would only intensify with the passage of time if no action was taken, and suggesting the following aspirations for further action: (1) get some concrete, signposted, and publicised results on cycle lanes this year (2) press forward with encouraging Network Rail to improve access to Barnes, seek funding for a lift, and persuade TfL to put Barnes into Zone 2 to take pressure off Putney.

5. Wandsworth Arts Fringe

Members noted that the Wandsworth Arts Fringe will take place 9 – 26 June 2023, with a wide range of events held locally. Holy Trinity Church will be a “hub” venue and will welcome performances of many different kinds.

6. Any Other Business

Members discussed a need for one of their number to take on responsibility for communications and the posting of agendas. It was agreed that the Chair would write to all members to seek expressions of interest.

ACTION: Chair, Roehampton Partnership

The meeting concluded at 21:00.

7. Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th April 2023. NOTE, however that this date has since been changed to accommodate school holidays. The next meeting will now be

Tuesday 18th April 7-9pm, venue TBA

