

ROEHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting of the Roehampton Partnership (RP) meeting
held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.00 p.m.
at University of Roehampton

Present:

The Revd. Joshua Rey	(Chair) Holy Trinity Church
David Tidley	Transport Lead, Wandsworth Council
Deacon Kathy Johnston	Methodist Church
Tom Rowson	Chief Operating Officer, University of Roehampton
Tessa Shields (online)	West Wandsworth PCN
Cllr Matthew Tiller	Roehampton Ward
Cllr Jenny Yates	Roehampton Ward
Cllr Graeme Henderson	Roehampton Ward
Angus Robertson	Roehampton Trust
Paul Moore	Wandsworth & Richmond Council
Steve Fannon	
Emma Lewis	Headteacher of Heathmere School

In Attendance:

Beth Franklin - (Minute Taker)	
Tony Arthur	Resident
Jose Magalhaes	University of Roehampton

1. Welcome and Apologies

Marc Newey gave apologies.

Joshua gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2023 were reviewed and confirmed.

There were no matters arising.

3. Conversation with David Tidley, LB Wandsworth Head of Transport Strategy

Received – Verbal presentation from David Tidley – LB Wandsworth Head of Transport Strategy

Roehampton has low car usage and low public transport accessibility. The urban grain of Roehampton makes the public transport system different with its own challenges in comparison to other areas such as Merton.

Buses: The bus services suffer from bunching, crowding and long gaps making them an unreliable service. This is partly due to the distance that the routes serve now, some are being

terminated early. Roehampton's position at the end of many bus routes by which it is served means that we are disproportionately impacted by early termination.

David is working with TfL to get data on bus loading, reliability, timings. Once the data has been reviewed, David will be looking to propose to TfL some improvements that can be made. If possible this data will be shared with the Partnership. Realistic proposals are likely to include, increasing the frequency of the services, conversion of some single deck buses to double deck. Proposals from the Council are to be shared with Roehampton Partnership members before they are submitted to TfL. There could also be improvements to bus stops in Roehampton, particularly in the provision of real time information.

An issue was raised where children need to leave home extremely early to be able to get on a bus to get to school. There is no secondary school in Roehampton so lots of children have a need to travel long distances. Again, this may be a challenge distinctive to Roehampton.

Jenny has had a positive response from Geoff Hobbs, TfL's Director of Public Transport Service Planning, on improving the quality of the bus services in the local area. Jenny is keen to push TfL on making the 170 bus double decker to Clapham as this is a vital bus for Roehampton – though this would create challenges on the route beyond Clapham Junction where it encounters a low bridge.

The university is retendering the University Bus service ready for September 2024 and looking to include a charging mechanism to be able to open it up to the local residents.

Action: David to share the TFL bus data with Partnership if possible.

Rail: SW train service is biggest single network across the country and it services Roehampton making this a positive for the area however, the quality of the service is questionable.

Connections between Roehampton and the network are also problematic: bus services were cut during covid and still haven't been fully reinstated. It is also a costly way to travel so not the most affordable and accessible option. There is currently building work taking place at Barnes Station to install lifts to all platforms making it an accessible station. However, Barnes is outside Zone 2, and thus an unpopular choice for commuters. If the Oyster system could offer anybody arriving at Barnes by bus from Roehampton a Zone 2 fare, this would divert travellers from the Putney buses onto the Barnes buses, thus increasing overall capacity.

Roads: Walking and cycling are important locally. To use public transport in the area, a part of the journey will need to be either walked or cycled. The Council have commissioned a piece of work to look at the highways and where to make improvements such as fixing paving, putting drop curbs in. There is also a need to look at how to get people to places safely. The design of the highway needs to be improved as Roehampton needs a sense of place which it currently doesn't have. TfL have a London wide programme of 20mph limits installation. Roehampton Lane is currently not on their list at the moment. The Partnership would support a 20mph limit. It was noted that there is a need for more crossings on Roehampton Lane, improve cycle connections and that is difficult to exit the Alton estate in a car safely, particularly turning right from Alton Road or Wanborough Drive, or turning right from Holybourne Avenue preparatory to turning out of Danebury Avenue into Roehampton Lane

Cycle routes: this is an area that is being progressed quite rapidly currently. A priority is improving the quality of cycle routes in the area. At the February Transport Committee it was agreed that there would be a consultation from May 2024 onwards to review cycle routes in the area. If there is a positive outcome, it would be good to have Roehampton Partnership involved in the grand opening.

Lime bikes: they have been used hundreds of thousands of times in the borough but the business model of use needs to be reviewed to make sure they are used correctly and in the most effective way possible for the area. The council are also keen to facilitate the use of cargo bikes in the area. There has been a programme in the area to roll out cycle parking which is providing dedicated bays to park lime bikes to stop them being dumped anywhere. The mandatory bay parking is being rolled out in the town centres but the Council are reluctant to roll

out across the whole borough. One reason for this is that it is a safe way for women to cycle close to their home rather than having to walk between a parking bay and their front door. The university are happy to host parking bays for lime bikes.

Action: E-bike parking to be followed up at Resident Associations.

4. University collaboration and community initiatives: Dr José Magalhães

Jose Magalhaes gave a verbal update on University collaboration and community initiatives.

Background:

The university would like to help more students who do not see university as being for them to study and experience the benefits of higher education. More than half of the university's students are the first in their family to go to university.

Campus and Facilities:

The campus is open to the public during day time in the week and brings considerable green space to the local area. The university works with Rackets Cubed and provides access to local organisations to provide sporting activities such as Cobra Boxing/ Martial Arts Club and Muslim Womens Group to play volleyball.

In May 2023, the university hosted an 'introduction to university' event in collaboration with Wimbledon BookFest which gave 600 sixth form students from 5 Merton and Wandsworth schools the opportunity to explore higher education. The university has also contributed to several Wandsworth Heritage Festivals. The university worked with the Council in the submission of their bid to become London Borough of Culture 2025 which was announced as successful.

Working with and for the community:

The university is a provider of training for teachers and nurses in South London which is a response to the local recruitment crisis for these roles. One of the university's researchers worked with local schools across the Alton Estate and wider Wandsworth to improve children's oral hygiene. The university is setting up a Sustainable Engineering and Technology Centre and would like to work with local employers in construction to help find opportunities for students. Before Christmas, the university launched a Roehampton Growth Vouchers initiative which distributed £5,000 for projects between local organisations and academics. An example is Barnes Common, an environmental charity. They are now launching a new set of vouchers with a focus on providing business support for initiatives in health and green skills. Another initiative they have launched is I-CAN, Initiating and supporting Care leavers into Apprenticeships in Nursing which is designed to support young people who lived in care to progress into Higher Education and a career in healthcare. Jenny noted that the Head of Procurement in the Council is a care leaver and has set up an apprenticeship for Procurement Trainees.

Action: Jenny to connect Jose with Head of Procurement.

Suggestions for the University:

- Access to the Library for local residents for a study space
- Access to free learning materials
- Access to meeting spaces
- Improve communication about what the university offers to local residents
- Improve contact details for individual requests. E.g make it clear who to contact if you would like to book a meeting room.
- Invite more local schools onto the campus regularly

- Advertise that the university gym is public access
- Adult education classes at the University

Action: Jose to create a short paper on key offers to the community.

5. Membership Update

The Partnership formally approved Heathmere School as a member of the Partnership and welcomed Emma Lewis, headteacher, representing the school. Noted that Angus Robertson replaces Pam Harris as representative of the Roehampton Trust, which is now trading as Our Roehampton.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 9pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th July, 7pm-9pm – Parish Church