

ROEHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting of the Roehampton Partnership (RP) meeting
held on Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 7.00 p.m.
at University of Roehampton

Present:

The Revd Joshua Rey	Holy Trinity Church (Chair)
Angus Robertson	Our Roehampton Chair
Cllr Matthew Tiller	Roehampton Ward
Marc Newey	Chief Executive, Roehampton Club
Tom Rowson	Chief Operating Officer, University of Roehampton
Deacon Kathy Johnson	Roehampton Methodist Church
Cllr Graeme Henderson	Roehampton Ward
Cllr Jenny Yates	Roehampton Ward
Orode Faka	Roehampton R.O.C.K.S
Cllr Kemi Akinola	Deputy Leader WBC and Cabinet Member for Business, Voluntary Services and Culture

In Attendance:

Carolyn Ward	Minute taker
Anthony Arthur	Local Resident
Noreen Meehan	Our Roehampton Co-ordinator
Robert Busch	Senior Lecturer at RU and trustee of Estate Art

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were given by Steve Fannon and Emma Lewis who were unable to attend.

Revd Joshua Rey (JR) welcomed Cllr Kemi Akinola who had been invited to speak about the Cost of Living Commission report which had been circulated to the Partnership in advance of the meeting.

JR welcomed the residents who were in attendance.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2025 were held as a true and correct record of the meeting and were approved.

There were no additional matters arising.

Previous Actions from October 2024

JR went through the Action Summary Table.

Action OCT24/01: HTA to send information that is on their website and invite the group to future events – Complete

<https://www.altonrenewal.co.uk/news/2024/12/23/review-the-feedback-collected-by-the-alton-renewal-design-team>

Action OCT24/02: Cllr Tiller to send files to Cllr Yates – Complete

Action OCT24/03: JR to follow this action up as no response has been received by Cllr Dikerdem re allocation of funds to improve the playground.

Action OCT24/04: JR to follow up re Dr Hassan's membership.

Action OCT24/05: Cllr Yates to share data on volume and speed of traffic on Roehampton Lane if available from TFL to aid in assessing whether and to what degree the Partnership should back a reduction in the speed limit.

Cllr Jenny Yates (JY) explained that she is trying to get the data from TFL. Especially on bus routes 149 and 430. It was noted that any data on bus performance would be welcome.

Action OCT24/06: Partnership to forward emails to Cllr Yates if they have recently experienced a bad bus journey – Ongoing

Action OCT24/07: Cllr Yates to send petition to EL so this can be circulated further – Complete

Action OCT24/08: SF to draft something what the Barnes station petition would look like and circulate – Complete

Action OCT24/09: Cllr Yates to connect with AA so she can be put in touch with the organisers at the Sheltered Housing Club – action to be removed

Action OCT24/10:– these actions superceded by subsequent discussion relating to locating a supermarket on a remodelled Danebury Ave – action to be removed.

Action APR25/01: JR to review October actions from the Action Summary Table.

Previous Actions from February 2025

ACTION FEB25/01: JR and AR to draft a further response to Clare O'Connor on behalf of Roehampton Partnership and pursue the matter – Complete

Action FEB25/02: Cllr Aydin Dikerdem to be invited back and present a detailed plan on ballots and decisions at the July meeting. **To be put on the July agenda with an invitation from JR.**

Action FEB25/04 - Eliza Burrows (EB) to circulate the dates to the group and report back to JR on availability – Complete

Action FEB25/05 - Secretary to add Review of working relationship between Our Roehampton and Roehampton Partnership to the agenda for 15 April 2025 meeting. This should include detailed mapping of how both groups work, and how they can work better together with the Council. **A 30 minute slot to be put on the July agenda which will include the question of being a Neighbourhood Forum.**

Action FEB25/06 - JR to speak with two local business managers (owner of the local cafe and manager from the Kings Head) about whether they would consider joining the group – Ongoing

JR has spoken to Lauren, Landlady of the King's Head and she has agreed to join. JR has not been able to get hold of Adane. **JR to send Lauren's email address to CW so she can be added to the Partnership email group.**

3. Update on Barnes campaign

JR informed the group that the flyer had been done and the petition was in process. JR urged the Committee to attend the short on-line meetings that are scheduled every other Monday evening 6pm – 6.15pm so the campaign could be further discussed.

It was noted that the petition had been circulated to the Residents Association via Steve Fannon and that Mark Hickey, Area Housing Manager would be a good person to approach about the Barnes campaign.

Action APR25/02: Cllr Matthew Tiller (MT) to make introductions between Mark Hicky and JR.

4. Transport Update

Cllr Jenny Yates (JY) gave an update on the following:

Door to Door Bus Service

JY informed the Partnership that she continues to have meetings with TFL and the utilities companies to improve the service and has identified a number of things that can be done.

Putney Heath Bus Stand

JY explained that the bus stand remains open and will not be blocked off. There is better management by Go Ahead London who have eliminated that problem when the high

street becomes congested. The Council is working with TFL and they have agreed that passengers can alight from that stop.

Putney Bridge Junction and Road Congestion

JY explained that sensors have been installed under the road which pick up the volume of buses and cars. The sensors take time to gather the data that leads to the optimum of the lights. TFL have promised that the signals will be done and in sync, these works should be completed by October.

Roehampton Lane Speed Limit

JY advised that they are looking to bring the speed limit down to 20 miles per hour on parts of the lane and data has been gathered and sent to TFL so they can make an informed decision. TFL are now looking at the data and in principle agreed that a section of the lane would be 20mph.

The Roehampton Partnership **NOTED** this update.

University Bus Service

Tom Rowson (TR) informed the Partnership that they were now at the end of the contract and he is working with JY on options.

Hammersmith Bridge

MN complained about the horrendous queues from Roehampton Lane along the LRR caused by the traffic lights reconfiguration on Putney Bridge which was adding an extra 25 minutes to peoples journeys which is exacerbated by the ongoing closure of Hammersmith Bridge and asked for an update.

JY advised that the Task Force from the previous Council met in 2021 and then did not meet again. Under the current Council the Task Force which herself and Fleur Anderson are apart of met in January and they had a good meeting where the Department for Transport (DfT) presented some options.

JY informed the Partnership that they need to consider the best option going forward and feels that Hammersmith Bridge does need to be reopened to vehicles but the problem is that it is going to cost a lot of money to reopen it. Historic England were present at the meeting and confirmed that as it is a listed bridge it will need a lot of money to restore. JY is waiting to hear back from the DfT.

It was noted that the Roehampton residents rely on the bus and the Partnership would like to see the bridge reopen for buses even if it could not be open for other vehicles. Deacon Kathy Johnson (KJ) advised that the 419 bus used to travel over the bridge.

MN asked if KJ could write down and share the points that she had raised.

Action APR25/03: KJ to share the points that she had raised.

TR asked if the Bridge could be delisted and had read that this could be if the damage sustained no longer meets the criteria.

JY wondered if it was worth the Partnership writing to Simon Lightwood at the DfT and Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor for Transport.

Action APR25/04: Hammersmith Bridge to be put on the July agenda so the Partnership can discuss the merits for it to be opened to all vehicles. JR to write to the DfT and Deputy Mayor for Transport regarding reopening the Hammersmith Bridge to enable a more reliable bus service for Roehampton.

5. Standing Committee Membership

JR suggested that Angus Robertson (AR) becomes part of the Standing Committee. The Roehampton Partnership **APPROVED** this appointment.

6. Conversation about the Cost of Living Commission with Cllr Kemi Akinola, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Business, Voluntary Services and Culture

JR gave some background on the Roehampton Partnership which was set up 15 years ago and explained that it was set up to give advice on regeneration plans, bringing together interested parties in business and the community to resolve issues in Roehampton.

JR explained that Roehampton was unusual, that it is a place that is not quite a place. The Partnership aspired to make it a place that thrives. JR pointed out that Roehampton was the poorest parish in the Borough.

Cllr Kemi Akinola (KA) introduced herself, explaining her role and her part in putting together the Cost of Living Commission report which she is no longer responsible for but she still keeps a handle on the recommendations. It was noted that once every two months she will see what has been fulfilled and what the Council have not been able to start. KA said she was well aware of the issues in Roehampton.

KA advised on some of the good initiatives that have come from the report.

Landlord Licensing Scheme

This scheme is being piloted in Tooting, starting in Spring 2025 and it will be a voluntary scheme where Private Landlords sign up to the initiative to ensure safer and better-managed rental properties within the borough. Properties will be inspected and the Council can then recommend the Landlords that have signed up.

MT advised that there is a lot of info on the Wandsworth website regarding this scheme.

JY stated that this scheme was important for Roehampton as this scheme will tighten up on the regulation so was very important.

It was noted that Roehampton features quite highly on the night time strategy to ensure that it is safe to get around.

KA informed the Partnership that she has been working with Libraries to see what she can bring into the Libraries.

AR is interested in council and stakeholders services in Roehampton and how Council and private sectors can talk together through a partnership approach to improve things in the area. AR stated that he knew that there are a lot of initiatives but they are missing joint up conversation, where they find out things that are happening but nothing that brings people together and what is coming up in the future. Asked how a single partnership might happen in the future.

KA asked why the Partnership had not set themselves up as a Neighbourhood Forum?

It was noted that there had been a Neighbourhood Forum many years ago which was then disbanded.

MN explained that they wanted a Forum where they could be listened to, get more information from the Council and be a voice for residents.

KA advised that if they set themselves up as a Neighbourhood Forum then they would have a legal entity where they could have their say and be listened to.

Action APR25/05: Agenda item 'Organisational Structure' to be put on the July Agenda so Roehampton Partnership can take into account Cllr Akinola's suggestion that we consider being a Neighbourhood Forum, with a paper written on this subject.

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/>

JR read out Recommendation 7. Deliver Joined up action for the development of Roehampton:

In line with the single conversation theme, key stakeholders from Roehampton and wider Wandsworth should collaborate to develop a joined-up strategy for improving access to essential services, support, and the overall development of the Roehampton area.

JR stated that there are some good things happening but sensed that more focus on one or two things might be helpful and that Roehampton wanted to be a community in their own right and not a suburb of Putney.

JR asked about the possibility of having a Cinema in Roehampton.

Orode Faka (OF) asked if there was something for working parents who do not have access to universal credit to pay for childcare.

KA suggested co-operative Nurseries where parents take it in turns to look after children.

JR thought it would be a good idea for parents sharing childcare.

JR said that he was interested in Place making and was looking at an anchor place for people to come together.

It was noted that having transport links into Crystal Palace really changed that area.

JY advised that under the Alton Renewal Plan there would be a bigger and better supermarket and the plans will include a new community hub, a library and a place to work. The Community Square will be where the carpark is now and the Parish Hall will become another community space.

JY advised that a community panel has been created and are involved in the design of the new building and are being paid the London Living Wage for their time. A lot of money has been invested by the Council. Not just new homes being created but there will be upgrades to playgrounds and pathways.

It was noted that there are no leisure, entertainment or youth activities, since the youth club was closed in 2012.

JY advised that the Council have put money into the Thames Water Discount Auto-Enrollment Scheme where 1000 people on low incomes have received this initiative. The Council have also written to everyone they know that are eligible for pension credit, which is a gateway benefit which will then entitle them to other benefits.

MN saw that OF was shaking her head and asked if she disagreed with some of the initiatives that had been spoken about.

OF commented that she had lived in Roehampton for 20 years and was passionate about making it a better place but she was herself on a low income that had to come of universal credit and was behind on her rental arrears though she was a parttime worker and was worried that the skilled young people from Roehampton would eventually leave the area as it was hard for people with the cost of living as it is.

KA advised that the Council have grants available for new ideas and can support with social enterprise.

MN asked how do we as a group make people aware of what is happening in Wandsworth, does not want Roehampton to be the last to know?

AR asked how do we reach to different people on what initiatives are out there.

KA announced that there is on the 3rd May a Job Fair in Roehampton.

TR advised that the University works with Rackets Cubed and they are running two Cinema nights.

It was noted that AA had written to Claire O'Connor, Director of Strategy, Communications & Climate Change to ask advice on the following questions and JR asked KA if she could also comment:

- When and how the single conversation approach to partnership working to develop a joined-up strategy for Roehampton will occur?
- What plans there are for key stakeholders from Roehampton and wider Wandsworth to collaborate on such a joined-up strategy?

- How, as envisaged by the single conversation approach, 'anchor institutions, the voluntary and community sector, local businesses, and residents' will be able to participate in future planning for Roehampton?

KA advised that the single conversation they have looked at that in a micro manner as there will many conversations.

KA advised that you can contribute online if you cannot get to see planners in person. Recommended that they set up as a Neighbourhood Forum if they want to be listened to and heard.

KA advised that Committee structures are changing so you will be able to contribute and be more involved in decision making.

7. AOB

There was no other business.

8. Close of meeting

The meeting concluded at 8.59pm.

9. Next Meeting

Tuesday 15th July
Garden Room
Roehampton Club
Roehampton Lane
SW15 5LR