

MARCH 2020

Friends of Richmond Green

NEWSLETTER

HEATHROW EXPANSION STALLS

The recent Appeal Court ruling that the Airports National Policy Statement, approved by Parliament in 2018, is **unlawful** is a major blow to Heathrow's expansion project. The judgement on 27th February ruled that the NPS did not adequately take into account the UK's commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Heathrow, though not the Government, is seeking to appeal the decision in the Supreme Court.



This setback to the 3rd runway project **means delay and possible failure**, although Heathrow's enlargement plans are not dead yet. Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC), therefore, will continue working to oppose expansion and minimise the adverse impact of airspace modernisation. RHC argues there is no case for new runways in the UK (given existing capacity); that Heathrow's 3rd runway harms regional economies; that Heathrow's hub and international transfers are of no economic value; and that a 3rd runway is financially unviable. It would bring substantial adverse impact on people's health – from aviation noise and surface access air pollution. Heathrow's expansion is not compatible with the UK's stated aim of achieving 'net zero' carbon status.

The recent court ruling, irrespective of any appeal, means that a planning application will be deferred from late 2020 to between mid-2021 and the end of 2022, and therefore the opening of a 3rd runway will not occur before 2028. The re-design of flight-paths to modernise airspace is the subject of a separate airspace process, managed by the CAA, and continues to be scheduled for completion by the end of 2023

ForG's interest in Heathrow expansion continues to be represented by RHC, along with the Richmond and Kew Societies that together have over 2,000 members. RHC is represented on Heathrow's Community Noise Forum by ForG committee member and chair of RHC, **Peter Willan**.

During 2019 RHC submitted responses to 15 consultations dealing with UK aviation strategy, Heathrow's airspace design, economic regulation, 3rd runway expansion and environmental impact. RHC participated in over 50 Heathrow related meetings including meeting the aviation minister. In July RHC organised a public meeting, including representatives of Heathrow, at Duke Street Church.

To view RHC's substantial body of research on Heathrow, and its many submissions to Government and others, please visit www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org.

CORONAVIRUS: If the spread of COVID-19 results in a ban on public meetings, our AGM will be postponed. If this happens, a notice will be placed on the two Notice Boards on The Green and will also appear on our own website: www.forg.org.uk



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Wednesday 15th April at 7.30pm

- Hear what's happening on The Green
- Have your say on local issues
- Wine will be served

Where? The Cricketers pub (upstairs), Richmond Green

NEWS IN BRIEF

Richmond's MAY FAIR turns 50: Since 1970, the May Fair has helped local charities and community groups raise much-needed funds. The 2020 May Fair will be organised by Be Richmond (www.berichmond.london) and will take place on **Saturday 16th** and **Sunday 17th May**. Following last year's event, FoRG provided **substantial feedback** about various issues where we felt improvements could be made, and this year we expect to see changes in the layout, the use of BBQs and generators, the timings of live musical performances and rehearsals, litter management, signage and pre-event communications. There will be **no May Fair Ball** in 2020, however, as the organisers are taking a break for 12 months.

Old Palace Yard agreement: After unsatisfactory attempts to patch up the badly-worn surface of Old Palace Yard, and long negotiations with the Crown Agents, **an agreement has now been reached** to resurface this historic site that runs from the Palace archway facing The Green through to Old Palace Lane. It is hoped that the work will begin in April-May this year, after a new streetlight is added in the dark passage towards Old Palace Lane. In addition, the much-damaged gate where the Yard meets Old Palace Lane is also to be replaced.



Old Palace Yard

Other Local Events

Confirmed events planned for Old Deer Park in 2020 include:-

- **Surrey Food Festival** – Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April;
- **WellFest UK** – Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June;
- **CBeebies Rainbow Adventure** – Friday 17th July–Sunday 9th August: described as “a brand new touring pop-up experience for children, inviting them to step inside the world of their favourite TV channel”.

LISTED DRINKING FOUNTAIN RESTORED

Work finally started last September on our project to restore the Grade II listed **Victorian drinking fountain** on the corner of The Green. It was previously renovated as a drinking fountain in 1977.



Most of the work has now been completed, and the stone monument is looking much better as a result. We hope that by the time of the AGM, the fountain will be fully restored and working again.

This project was undertaken in conjunction with the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and was made possible by generous donations by Friends of Richmond Green, Richmond Council Civic Pride Fund, Heritage of London Trust, the family of Councillor J. Ormiston, The Drinking Fountain Association and Baroness van Dedem.

FoRG's ANNUAL ACCOUNTS for 2019

FoRG's accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019 will be distributed at this year's AGM. In summary, we recorded a total income for the year of **£25,969** (cf. 2018: £3,020), with a surplus of **£25,452**. Total reserves amounted to **£35,051** (cf. 2018: £9,599). This included grants and personal donations of £12,000 towards the restoration of the listed drinking fountain on The Green.

Over the last 12 months we have received a high level of donations from film companies: £13,950 compared with £3,000 in 2018. The Fountain Project is close to completion at a cost of an estimated £35,000. In addition, a further £7,000 in Grants has been pledged but will not be received until project completion.

Last year we made donations towards Richmond Heathrow Campaign and the Old Deer Park Improvement Project. On an ongoing basis the committee continues to actively seek uses for the accumulated cash surplus and always welcomes ideas or suggestions from residents about how the funds might be put to good use.

FILMING ON THE GREEN – New Guidelines.

We're aware that a number of residents have become concerned about the level of filming activity during the year, and often an apparent lack of courtesy shown by some film crews. As a result, we have worked with the Council's Film Office to draw up a **set of guidelines** for filming on Richmond Green and in surrounding areas. This covers filming times, parking arrangements, catering, litter, noise, lighting and communications. The guidelines have been approved by the Council, and copies will be available at FoRG's AGM. They'll also soon be available to view on:-

<https://www.richmond.gov.uk/filmrichmond>.



Friends of Richmond Green website

Our thanks again to South West London Environmental Network (SWLEN) for maintaining our website. If you have time and skills to help us with it, we would love to hear from you... email us on: mail@FoRG.org.uk



EVENING ECONOMY & TOWN CENTRE NEWS

While FoRG's remit doesn't directly cover Richmond town centre, the local community is significantly impacted by the **evening economy**, particularly from late night dispersal and drinking on The Green and along the Riverside. The under-resourcing of policing in the town remains a concern. There have been several incidents involving knives. FoRG and the Richmond Society continue to work with the Council and the Police Liaison Group.

Busking, rough-sleepers and begging are continuing issues. Residents are also affected by the changes to the character of the town, as pressure grows on retail outlets and food-led businesses spread. For the Richmond Society and FoRG, Peter Willan has been involved with all the **licensing changes** – with some success in limiting hours and adding conditions. The following premises made applications for new or varied alcohol licences during 2019: **Kapucin Coffee** (Hill Rise), **BP** (Lower Mortlake Road) and **Big Yellow** (Lower Richmond Road), **Pizza Express** (Red Lion Street), the **Angel & Crown** (Church Court) and **Anthropologie** (George Street). 2020 looks like being a bumper year with applications from **Revolution** (Whittaker Avenue), **Alhambra** (Church Court), and a licence review of the **Tap Tavern**. We are aware of some other applications in preparation.



Plans for **re-development of House of Fraser** in George St were recently **approved** by the Council. Retail use is retained on the ground floor, with permission granted for flexible use (eg. retail/leisure) in the basement and on the first floor, and office use on three upper floors (to include a new upper storey). The existing rooftop plant room

is to be raised above the new top floor. FoRG objected to the building's enlargement on the grounds of substantial harm to the setting and significance of the area's many listed buildings, to the historic character of The Green and views from The Green. FoRG argued that insufficient consideration was given to any alternative to raising the rooftop plant room higher, and also objected to the design of the entrance in Golden Court and the elevation in George Street.

FoRG is represented on the council's **Town Centre Enhancement Programme**. This includes a 20 mph limit around The Green, the creation of a cycle route through the town and to the new cycle hub planned at the station. This will affect The Green, with the proposed two-way cycle route running either along King Street, Old Palace Terrace and Greenside or across The Green itself.

OLD DEER PARK

The aim of the Old Deer Park Working Group (ODPWG) is for this precious park space to become better appreciated for outdoor sport and recreation, and with better access. Enhancements are sought while sustaining the Park's historic significance and parkland qualities. Together, ODPWG and Richmond Council have successfully improved the Old Deer Park car-park (A316) with **new timber gates, posts and bollards**, and the removal of redundant signs and fences. Pathways were resurfaced with heritage gravel and the original late-19th century gate-pier at the entrance from Park Lane was repaired. Work is expected to begin soon on **a new path leading from the Old Deer Park carpark to the river, including a boardwalk at the riverside end to help keep feet dry.**

ODPWG successfully objected to a telephone mast near Twickenham Bridge, and continues to seek Listing of an historic wall near Old Deer Park Gardens. Other projects are being developed.

The ODPWG comprises representatives of FoRG and other amenity groups and is chaired by Peter Willan.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Pot-holes in the road: there is general dissatisfaction with the number of pot-holes left un-repaired in the road around The Green, causing problems for cyclists and drivers alike. We encourage people to **report** the worst examples to the Council, and here is an easy-to-use link for doing so: https://www.richmond.gov.uk/report_potholes



Progress since our last AGM:-

Traffic hazard at Old Palace Place:

we have asked for Old Palace Place to be made **one-way**, with a 'No Entry' sign facing towards King Street; this would mean that HGVs turning into Friars Lane would turn left at the King Street junction with The Green, rather than using Old Palace Place as a short-cut. A traffic order would be necessary, and enforcement may remain an issue. Alternatively some build-out of the pavement at junctions could aid pedestrians and make the turning less attractive to larger vehicles. Richmond BID is in any case actively trying to reduce the number and size of commercial refuse and recycling lorries that pass through the Town.

Bare patches on The Green: we are working with the Council on addressing the muddy and bare patches that have developed in front of many benches around The Green.

Bollards on the Green: as part of their objective to help local communities, Good Gym Richmond has **cleaned the bollards** on The Green. We have asked for the bollards on the roadside also to be cleaned the Spring.

New Committee members: Do you have time and the interest to join our Committee, to help with FoRG activities? We're always keen to hear from residents who'd like to help. Email us: mail@FoRG.org.uk

FRIENDS OF RICHMOND GREEN

Contact FoRG's Chair on telephone: 020 8948 3384 / email: mail@FoRG.org.uk

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in the upstairs room at The Cricketers pub, Richmond Green

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AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting (10th April 2019 – copy on FoRG website: www.forg.org.uk)

Matters Arising

Report of the Executive

Financial Report and Adoption of Accounts

Election of Officers – those standing are:-

Chairman	Vivien Harris	8 Pembroke Villas
Secretary	<i>Vacancy</i>	
Treasurer	Diana Billingham	21a The Green

Election of other Members of the Executive – those standing are:-

Peter Willan	7 The Green
Peter Griffiths	26 Retreat Road
Anna Newton Dunn	29 Old Palace Lane
David MacKenzie	4 Pembroke Villas

Any Other Business

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We hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM, upstairs at The Cricketers pub on Wednesday 15th April 2020 at 7.30pm. And please stay on for a glass of wine or two at the end of the meeting.

Vivien Harris
Chair, FoRG