



*LONDON BOROUGH OF
RICHMOND UPON THAMES*

North Sheen Recreation Ground Draft Proposals

Newsletter No.2 – October 2004

Dear Resident

As you may be aware The London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames is working in partnership with Kew Park Rangers (KPR) and various local stakeholders to develop a project that will deliver a range of high quality improvements to North Sheen Recreation Ground (NSR) and it's facilities.

On the 24th July 2004 an initial consultation event was held on site to exhibit proposals and take on board any comments or suggestions. At the same time we also took the opportunity to promote a new Friends of North Sheen Recreation Ground group that we would like to set up.

In this newsletter we will provide an up date on the results of the consultation and advise you on some of the work we are doing to resolve concerns and include suggestions. We also want to inform you of some key dates for public meetings. **Please read on.**

July 24th - Consultation Summary.

The proposals displayed on the day were generally well received and nearly all the people who came along thought the improvements were a good idea. Overall we received comments from **65** individuals and out of these only **2** people said they did not want any improvements to take place. We obtained a whole range of useful suggestions and lots of information about what concerns local people have.

A New Building - It's clear people would like to see a new building, rather than refurbishing the existing one, however we received lots of comments about it's future use. Any new building must provide facilities and opportunities for the whole community in particular teenagers and senior citizens. The idea of a multi use space that would be available for hire was well supported, as was the under 5's play scheme, toilets and a café or kiosk.

The design of a new building was also considered as an important factor. It must be attractive but also robust and reduce opportunities for vandalism and graffiti. Use of the building should be well controlled and monitored to ensure that local residents do not suffer from noise or nuisance.

We have detailed a design brief and will appoint an Architect in October. They will work closely with the Council, KPR, The Friends of NSR and local residents to come up with a new design. The Architect will have access to all the consultation information and will use it to influence their design. During November 2004 will we be providing opportunities for local people to get involved in the design process and comment on any option/s.

As part of the business plan for the building we will be working with key partners to develop a range of activities that could be run from the site. We will also look at ownership and management arrangements.

For more information or if you have comments or suggestions you would like recorded please contact Gideon Taylor via e-mail g.taylor@richmond.gov.uk

KPR Football Scheme – Local concerns were generally about managing the impact of the football scheme on the surrounding area. Key issues were

- Ensuring the Recreation Ground is available for use for other activities and not ‘taken over’ by KPR and football.
- Preventing and managing ‘wear and tear’ of the grass surface, particularly during the winter.
- Reducing disturbance from noise for local residents who share a boundary with the rec.
- Preventing balls being kicked against or over boundary fences.
- Managing vehicle movement on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Managing potential conflicts of use between dog walking and the football scheme.

During the consultation event it became clear that some of these issues are not necessarily connected to the KPR scheme but are more about how the whole site is managed.

*The aim of the project is **not** to increase the size or scale of community football in NSR but to improve the quality of facilities and levels of management across the whole site.*

*KPR would be using the site from **September to March on Saturdays, 9am to 12.30pm** and on **Sundays, 9am to 3pm**. In addition there is an opportunity to run daytime coaching sessions during the summer holiday period. During all advertised opening times, the rec. would remain a fully accessible open space for any lawful use.*

We are currently undertaking work to address and resolve other key issues,

- *Reviewing the layout of the whole site to better accommodate more types of use.*
- *Seeking specialist advice for the improvement of the grass pitch surfaces and future maintenance.*
- *Re-orientation of pitches to make best use of space and minimise disturbance.*
- *Designing an appropriate landscaped buffer zone around the perimeter of the site.*
- *Improving facilities for exercising dogs, such as more dog bins.*
- *Seeking ways to reduce vehicle congestion.*

Friends of North Sheen Recreation Ground – Although we know that there are committed residents who already campaign on behalf of the Recreation Ground, no formally constituted group has ever been formed. As a result of the consultation event on the 24th July, we now have over **75** registrations from individuals and associations who would like to be involved in a new ‘Friends’ group.

The Friends of North Sheen Rec. will be able to work in partnership with the Council and others to bring about further changes and improvements to the space. As a recognised group they will also be able to fund raise for agreed developments and improvements such as, landscape enhancements, seating, signage, local events or even public art.

Over the next few weeks we will be circulating a ‘draft constitution’ and other information about the new Friends group to all who registered an interest. We will then hold a public meeting to formally agree the constitution, elect key members and officially launch the group.

North Sheen Recreation Ground Public Meeting

Darell Primary School, Darell Road.

11th November 7.30 pm - 9.30pm

The aim of this meeting will be to launch ‘The Friends of North Sheen Rec.’ and provide an opportunity for local people to gain an update on the project and make suggestions and comments.