



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2008

Richmond Hill Terrace Residents Association:
Mail address: The Stables, Friars Stile Road, Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey, TW10 6NE
Email address: info@richmondhillterrace.org
Website: www.richmondhillterrace.org

Bankers: Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 19-21 The Quadrant, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1BP

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

The members of the Committee have pleasure in presenting their report on the affairs of the Association, together with the financial statements for the 12 months ended 31 December 2008.

Corporate structure

Richmond Hill Terrace Residents Association is an unincorporated body governed by a constitution adopted on 1 December 2005 and revised on 27 August 2006.

Objectives

The objectives of the Association are

- a. To safeguard and promote the legitimate interests and to protect and enhance the environment of the residents of Richmond Hill Terrace;
- b. To foster and to encourage the growth of community spirit among the residents of Richmond Hill Terrace.

Governance

The management of the Association is exercised by members of the Committee. Members of the Committee are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election.

Committee members

The members of the committee who served during the period were:

Andrew Coleman
Jane Forsythe
Vanessa Gouws
Beryl Hickox
Yvonne Loftus
Katherine Loynes
Ronan McCarthy
Howard Roffey
Tony Taylor
David Vinograd
Gill Willson

Review of developments, activities and achievements

The Association and our members care about our locality - its local character, quality of life and community.

Local character

As anticipated, the Council launched its Public Consultation on the draft Planning Brief for the Royal Star and Garter Home, Ancaster House. and Wick House. We commented on the draft and encouraged all local residents to have their say. The Council is to be commended for producing the Brief so as to seek to secure that these prominent listed buildings continue to be a valuable feature of the Richmond Hill Conservation Area. Unfortunately the Council went overboard in seeking to comply with government planning dictats and in some respects the Council's proposals were naive. The final version of the Brief was issued in September (minus Wick House which had then been sold) and without substantial alteration. We do believe it was worth all the effort we made to provide the Council with comments on the original draft. Even though political considerations mean that it was

difficult for the Council to contemplate making any substantive changes, we believe that we were able to mark the Council's card about the realities of the site.

Of course the Planning Brief is academic until such time as the Home is vacated and is offered for sale. Some progress has been made in that planning permission was recently granted for the mixed use scheme at Hampton Court that would include a new Star & Garter care home. We will continue to watch the situation and to liaise with the Home as appropriate.

The new owner of Wick House plans to convert the property back to a single family dwelling. We welcome the proposal for this property to revert to its original purpose and have written to the Council supporting the change in use.

The continued deterioration of Doughty House continues to be a concern to local residents and to English Heritage which has it on its Listed Buildings at Risk register. The Council has powers to intervene if necessary but this is usually a last resort. It is important that further decline is prevented and that an appropriate solution can be found.

The Council's refurbishment of the much-loved Terrace Gardens has continued during the year and the great improvement is obvious to everyone. We believe the Council are to be congratulated for the well-thought through and comprehensive work they are doing there. The Association sits on the Council's advisory committee on the refurbishment and will continue to monitor progress in 2009.

One aspect of the Terrace Gardens still remains unresolved and that is the future of the toilets at the top of the Gardens - the so-called "Loo with a View" - which has remained closed for a number of years. Both restoration and demolition are viewed by the Council as too expensive. Perhaps the roof of the building might become a viewing platform and garden.

Much concern was expressed at our 2008 AGM, about the American University's proposals to build a new hall of residence. The Association, the Richmond Society and many local residents wrote to the Council with objections to the scheme. We were pleased when the proposals were withdrawn.

The road surface of our part of Richmond Hill continues to look unsightly and the pavement on the Terrace Walk side of the road is a positive danger. Despite a number of representations, no action has been taken by the appropriate authorities on the basis that the matter continues under consideration. Towards the end of the year, we learned that several Agencies were discussing the possibility of shoring up Richmond Hill to prevent subsidence. We understand that the Council is now looking at a significant scheme (also including sections of Richmond Park) to prevent further damage to the Hill. We will be seeking further and better particulars of this from the Council in the New Year to ensure that the interests of local residents are protected.

There was considerable discussion at our 2008 AGM about the state of Terrace Lane where a number of residents consider that the road surface in parts needs repair and attention to the verges to stop vegetation and mud damaging vehicles using the road. A public meeting was organised at the Roebuck early in the year to provide an opportunity for local residents to discuss the action that might be taken. The proposals generated strong feelings and since the meeting we have been trying to see if a consensus can be achieved. Progress has been made on the shape of a compromise proposal and we hope that it will be possible to achieve the appropriate degree of consensus in the near future.

We are pleased that the Council have agreed to replace the directions plaque on Terrace Walk. The plaque was placed on the stone plinth to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Acts of Parliament to protect the view from Richmond Hill. Designed by Ron Berryman and by the late David Church, the plaque was a much loved feature of the Terrace Walk until it was stolen a couple of years ago.

Quality of life

Efforts during the year have been focussed in a number of areas to seek improvements in the quality of life of local residents. Set out below are some examples of our work:

- Richmond Town centre traffic scheme. Whilst the intention of the proposals is laudable and the town centre looks smarter than it has for many years, there is real concern that some of the plans are likely further to slow traffic in George Street and encourage rat-running around the Green. In particular building out pedestrian courtesy-crossing protrusions into George Street will reduce traffic in places to a single lane. How will emergency vehicles and buses cope? Similarly it surely cannot be sensible to impose a 20-mph speed limit in the town centre and to omit the Green. The Association will continue to monitor the implementation of the scheme together with other local amenity groups.
- Traffic along the Terrace. We continue to be concerned about the excessive speed of some cars along the Terrace. We want the traffic slowed but not by humps or other methods that are likely to create as many problems as they solve. Discussions with the Council made little positive progress during the year but we will be continuing to press the Council for action before there is a fatal accident. The Police have shown some interest in this but we need to do more to report incidents of speeding so that they are prepared to commit resources to spending some time up here with their mobile speed gun.
- Parking. We continue to be concerned about the limited parking available for residents with permits outside the controlled hours. We submitted proposals to the Council during the year to improve matters. Whilst we received oral feedback from the Council that our proposals were reasonable, no action is possible until a full parking survey is carried out in March 2009. We will be in touch with the Council to ensure that local residents have an opportunity of participating in this survey.
- We continue to liaise with the police about our Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Fortunately our area is relatively low in crime but it is important that we report all incidences of crime to the police. The reason for this is that police resources are allocated on the basis of reported crime. If we are aware of crime but don't report it - we are doing ourselves no favours. Damage to car wing mirrors, speeding, aggressive and noisy drunks are all examples of instances that should be reported.
- Misuse of Terrace Gardens. We have expressed concern to the Police and the Council about the use of Terrace Gardens for late night and often rowdy drinking sessions. We asked what action was being taken to ensure that the use of the Gardens at night is monitored and the risk of damage to the Council's investment in the Gardens is minimised. The Council promised to consider whether the Gardens should be added to the existing "dispersal area" of the Town and the Riverside. This will give the Police power to confiscate alcohol and to move people on without having to wait for a crime to be committed.
- Heathrow expansion. Whatever benefits a third runway might bring to air travellers, and these benefits are suspect, there is no doubt that it will lead to additional noise nuisance, air pollution and traffic congestion for Richmond residents. Opposition to Heathrow expansion has become much more vocal and widespread with many business leaders and prominent politicians against the plans. Even if the third runway does not go ahead, there is the risk that "mixed mode" operation of the existing runways might be adopted. This would mean aircraft noise all day and every day over the town centre, with no relief. A Government announcement is expected sometime in January

For 2009 we will continue to follow up all of these issues.

Community

Through our social events and regular communications we aim to develop a stronger sense of community and neighbourliness. Participating in the Association is a way to get to know our neighbours better and to help build a sense of local community.

The Committee running the Association is set up on the basis that we try to secure Committee members who can represent and liaise with groups of Association members living in different parts of the Terrace and Terrace Lane. This ensures that we keep close to our membership.

In the period we have held two of our parties. Over 30 people enjoyed a buffet in the upstairs room of the Roebuck on 19 January and about 50 people took advantage of a dry day to enjoy our summer party in the back garden of Terrace House on 15 June.

We also continued our newsletter Terrace Views, which is issued every month or so. This is emailed to our members with hard copies delivered to those who prefer this method of distribution.

We have also kept up our website and continued with the policy of this setting out only standing data about the Association. We continue to believe that providing "news and views" to residents is best dealt with by the newsletter.

Financial review

Income for the year of £565 comprised subscription income and donations of £235 plus social events income of £330. Expenses totalled £309 comprising running costs of £50 and social events expenses of £259 leaving a surplus of £256. The Association's net assets of £346 comprise cash at bank of £381 and creditors of £35 in relation to expenses incurred. The Association has benefited from a number of kind donations of office running costs and this has helped keep our expenses down. The financial position is considered satisfactory.

The level of income and expenses is such that the Committee does not believe that it warrants having the Association's accounts examined by an independent examiner.

Risk management

The major risks to which the Association is exposed, as identified by the Committee, have been reviewed during the year and the Committee is satisfied that action has been taken where appropriate to manage those risks.

By Order of the Committee

5 January 2009

The Richmond Hill Terrace Residents Association

Statement of financial activities for the 12 months ended 31 December 2008

	2008	2007
	Total	Total
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Subscription income	230	5
Donations	5	-
Events	330	257
Total incoming resources	<u>565</u>	<u>262</u>
Resources expended		
Website	35	70
Membership of London Forum	15	15
Events	259	292
Total resources expended	<u>309</u>	<u>377</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	256	(115)
Opening fund balances	90	205
Closing fund balances	<u>346</u>	<u>90</u>

Balance sheet at 31 December 2008

	2008	2007
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	381	426
	<u>381</u>	<u>426</u>
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within 1 year		
Creditors & accruals	35	336
	<u>35</u>	<u>336</u>
Net assets	<u>346</u>	<u>90</u>
Fund		
Retained surplus	346	90
	<u>346</u>	<u>90</u>

Approved by the Committee
on 5 January 2009

Accounting policies

Income from subscriptions and donations is recognised when received.
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis