



Friends Of the River Crane Environment

Dear Friends,

Crane Valley Planning Guidelines

This Newsletter has been prepared to let you know about the “**Crane Valley Planning Guidelines**”, released by The London Borough Of Richmond Upon Thames for public consultation on 4th October. This document will have a major influence on the amount and nature of development in the lower Crane Valley between London Road and Kneller Gardens. If you live in this area and/or care about its future then this provides an opportunity to influence its development.

The document can be viewed in Twickenham Library and the Civic Centre or on-line at www.richmond.gov.uk/depts/env/envplanning/policy under Supplementary Planning Guidance – Policy and Design. Further copies can be ordered from the Policy and Design Section of the Council through Helen Cornforth on 020 8891 7120. The deadline for consultation responses is **15th November** and these should be returned to Helen Cornforth, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham TW1 3BZ.

The FORCE committee is currently reviewing this document and hopes to meet with the Council in the next few weeks to discuss our findings and concerns. It is important however, both for ourselves and the Council, that everyone who has an interest takes this opportunity to voice their own opinions. We are also very keen to hear the **opinions of our members** so please copy any responses to us at the e-mail address below.

Alternatively, you can post a copy to:

Frances Bennett
Secretary, FORCE
41 May Road
TWICKENHAM
TW2 6RJ

Annual General Meeting

We are also taking the opportunity to bring you up to date on some other news starting with the AGM. This, **our first AGM**, was held on 22nd September at All Hallows Church Hall. In addition to outlining the highlights from last year, plans for next year and the Treasurers report, elections to the executive committee were held. The following members were re-elected as Trustees:

- ☐ Chair: Rob Gray
- ☐ Treasurer: David Trigg
- ☐ Secretary: Frances Bennett
- ☐ Trustees: Doug Craik, Mike Day, Tim Elson, Chris Hern, Keith Martin and Trudi Morgan

Sam Isaac withdrew from the committee due to other commitments, and the Committee thanked her for her work over the last year.

Website: www.force.org.uk

E-mail: FORCE@twickenham-online.co.uk



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The AGM also formally adopted a governing document. This constitution will be included in the application to the Charity Commission to register as a Charity. The governing Objects of FORCE, included in the constitution, were also agreed after discussion as:

- *“To operate for the benefit of the public, and with other interested parties, to protect and enhance the environment of the River Crane, the Duke of Northumberland’s River, their corridors and surrounding open spaces within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and its environs, for the benefit of the eco-system, residents and visitors”*
- *“To advance the education of the public in the ecology, conservation, protection and improvement of the environment of the River Crane, the Duke of Northumberland’s River, their corridors and surrounding open spaces within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and its environs.”*

Full minutes of the AGM will shortly be available at the FORCE website.

Volunteer Days

We held a Volunteer Day in **Crane Park** on Sunday 10th October. This was our first Volunteer Day in the park. We improved access along the pathway by the river to the east of the shot tower. In addition, we opened up the views of the river, thereby also increasing light penetration to the river bank and creating a more varied habitat.

This is the start of a longer-term plan to provide a patchwork of habitats along and local to the river, including reed beds and meadowland. This will provide opportunities for local migration to species breeding on the Crane Park Island Nature Reserve such as water voles, reed warblers and kingfishers. All the work is being implemented with the agreement and approval of the Council.

We plan to hold further volunteer days on the **second Sunday** of each month throughout the autumn and winter and the programme to date is as follows:

Sun 14th Nov	10:30am	Volunteer Day	Mereway Allotments
Sun 12th Dec	10:30am	Volunteer Day	Rifle Club

Thank-you again for your support and we look forward to seeing and/or hearing from you over the next few weeks,

Regards,

Rob Gray (Chair of FORCE)