

## **NEWS: Help shape the future of Ham Close**

Ham residents are invited to work with the Council and RHP to help shape the proposed redevelopment of Ham Close.

Over the past two years RHP, in partnership with Richmond Council, has been working with local residents and stakeholders on what improvements they would like to see in the local area, and to develop a vision for Ham Close.

Last year, we sought views on either full redevelopment of the Close or for the site to remain as it currently is. As a result of resident and community groups' feedback, it has been agreed that the proposal for redevelopment would be reviewed and a further consultation and engagement approach would be launched in 2016 to support the development of a proposal for Ham Close in partnership with the local community.

Throughout June and July, residents can sign-up to come to a number of design workshops. These sessions will enable residents, RHP and the Council to work together to come up with the best possible design solution for the site should redevelopment go ahead.

Launching the series of workshops is a session on financial viability. This will set the scene for developing a local proposal and outline what is possible in terms of future funding, financial viability and what this could mean in terms of densities.

Following this, the design workshops will focus on specific aspects of the proposals for Ham Close. The workshops will allow the community to put forward their views on key elements of redevelopment, give feedback and help identify innovative solutions and opportunities. The aim of the workshops is to look at what would make up a successful and supported development proposal. By the end of the co-design process participants will have helped articulate the key parameters of a successful development.

Workshops will consider:

- Traffic and Transport - Discussing highways, junctions, street design, parking solutions, cycling and sustainable travel
- Open Space and Landscaping - Discussing the design of open space including the Village Green, garden areas, common space and landscaping including boundary treatments and street trees
- Community Facilities and Local Services - Looking at how community facilities are used and the best arrangement for the future. To consider any new community facilities and local services that might be desirable
- Design Approach - Considering what makes Ham unique and the local design context that any proposal should respond to. Looking at building layout and the concept of character areas
- Impact of Construction and Phasing of Development - Discussing the impact of construction on residents, businesses and the wider community and how this could be mitigated should redevelopment go ahead

Geoff Fox, Director of Development from RHP, said:

“We’re looking forward to working closely with our Ham Close customers and the wider community to deliver high quality redevelopment proposals that incorporate their feedback. The upcoming workshops will be critical in getting meaningful input into a wide range of key issues and identifying potential solutions. This is a great opportunity for those who live in the area to influence the way forward – we know that the best ideas often come from local people who understand the area brilliantly.”

Cllr Pamela Fleming, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Business, said:

“Ham is a unique area with a strong sense of community. We are committed to making sure that residents of Ham Close and the wider community are as fully informed and engaged in this process as possible.

“We have listened to residents. We know that they feel they need more information and clarity over a number of issues. Therefore, we have been considering all of the feedback to date, and would now like to spend the next few months working in partnership with the community to shape the future proposals. We will then seek to republish the proposals later in the autumn for full public consultation.”