



TEDDINGTON & HAM HYDRO COOPERATIVE – STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION

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Introduction

At its very heart the Teddington & Ham Hydro project is a community scheme. As a result we want the community to be involved in as much of the project as possible and we wish to make sure that the scheme is an enhancement of the current weir structure from a visual, health and safety and river use perspective. From the inception of the idea on a kitchen table in Ham back in 2006, through to the formation of Ham Hydro CIC in 2010 and up to the present day with the formation of Teddington & Ham Hydro Cooperative Limited, we have sought to engage with the key stakeholders in meaningful consultation. This document sets out this process.



Consultation process

In order to understand needs and concerns of river users and organisations a series of public meetings and private meetings have been held. We have also used traditional and social media to bring our scheme to the public's attention.

Effect of the proposals on the organisations

From our meetings and events the key areas of concern have been:

- Visual impact
- Noise
- Health & Safety
- Financial Viability
- Construction
- Flood risk
- Environmental

Mitigation measures

Visual impact

We have taken on board heritage work and sought to refine our design, mirroring the existing structures already on and next to the weir (e.g. the arches of roller sluices and the brick work of the gauge house). We have also mirrored the Art Deco design of the roller sluice arches for our plant room and used a Thames Barrier design for our generator housing, thus book-ending the tidal section of the Thames.

Noise

We have commissioned three noise reports, with subsequent work in response to consultees' feedback. Our understanding is that the noise produced from the generators and the turbines will be no noisier than the weir except at very close range.

Health & Safety

The structure will be on EA property, and will have to adhere to the rigorous standards that the Agency applies to all its properties across the country. As we move to the technical design and construction phase these standards will be further clarified.

We have produced a health and safety assessment and this forms part of this planning application. This document gives a more comprehensive list of the measures that we propose to ensure health & safety will be maximised.

In addition to consultation with the Environment Agency, we have also sought to engage with the river using community, including sailing, boating and rowing clubs, as well as the RNLI.

As a result of this consultation, we have undertaken work to assess how flows in various parts of the river will be affected by the scheme and therefore if changes in river use will be required. Our work, carried out in conjunction with a working group of river users, has concluded that there is minimal impact on flows and therefore river usage. In addition, we are working with this group to incorporate further safety features at the detailed design stage in order to reduce the risk and impact of accidents.



Financial Viability

Our prospectus details the key financial metrics of our project. We have raised just under £110,000 in equity capital from local people to support our scheme. Work will only be undertaken once the scheme is fully funded.

Construction

We will employ a contractor that subscribes to the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

Flooding

Our flood risk assessment (included in this planning application) has been verified by the Environment Agency and it shows that our scheme will have negligible effect on flood risk. "All known potential flood risks posed to the site have been considered. It is concluded that this site is suitable for the proposed development provided the scheme is constructed as per design which incorporates appropriate mitigation for the fluvial flood risk" (Flood Risk Assessment, Executive Summary, v). Our scheme design indeed incorporates a flood relief sluice gate to mitigate for this risk.

Environmental

We have closely consulted with the Environment Agency on a number of issues to ensure our scheme will not damage the environment. As part of this we undertaken several surveys and also completed a Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment; the Environment Agency has used this assessment to frame our operating conditions.

This work and consultation has led the to specific assurance from the Environment Agency that it is supportive of our scheme.

We have also consulted with a number of other environmental bodies including the Angling Trust. Based upon the concerns of the anglers, and in conjunction with the Environment Agency, the site of the scheme has been moved upstream such that the fish passes are co-terminous with the turbines. The design of the fish pass incorporated in our scheme upgrades the existing provision and, therefore, upstream migration of fish is likely to improve as a result of our scheme. Our scheme also includes a new eel pass to aid eel migration



Appendix 1 – List of consultees

Stakeholder	Interest	Notes
Environment Agency	Landlord (Teddington Weir)	Agreement reached
	Navigation Authority (River Thames)	Agreement reached
	Impoundment Licence/Land Drainage Consent Licensing Body	Pre-application submitted
	Regulator (compliance with Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act)	Agreement reached
	Responsible for Flood Management	Agreement reached
	Regulate pollution with respect to Water Quality	Agreement reached
	Responsible for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (as defined under the Environment Act 1995)	Agreement reached
The London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames Council	Planning Authority	Cross party support gained for the Project
The Greater London Authority	Potential Authority with regard to the Planning Process	Contacted – aware of the project; the GLA has provided funding directly through the Low Carbon Zone scheme
Natural England	Ham Lands is a Selected Local Nature Reserve and therefore Natural England will have to be engaged in order to gauge the impact on species.	Agreement reached – Anticipated that the project will have a negligible effect on Ham Lands.
British Waterways		Not owner of the waterway but may be involved
UK Power Networks	District Network Operator	Has been engaged to date regarding connections with the grid and installation of HV ring main unit.
Galliford Try	Construction Partner	Has been engaged to date. Memorandum of Understanding concluded, fixed price for maximum contract cost agreed.



Stakeholder	Interest	Notes
Ritz-Atro	Identified Archimedes Screw Supplier	Fixed price and delivery schedule agreed for screws
LV Transformer Provider/Installer	Required to have a 1.2MVA transformer to feed onto HV network (the grid)	In talks with 3 suppliers – ABB, Siemens and Schneider
Energy Supplier	Purchaser of electrical energy generated	In talks currently with ethical renewable energy suppliers such as Good Energy.
The Lensbury Club	Business in the closest proximity to the renewable energy project.	Opposed to the scheme on the basis of Noise, Visual impact and Health and Safety concerns
The Anglers Pub (owned by Fuller's)	Businesses in close proximity to the renewable energy project.	Supportive.
Teddington Studios (part of the Pinewood Studios Group)		Received a letter of support from the studios.
River Thames River User Groups (RUGs 8 & 9)	River User Groups: the River Thames is one of England's finest boating and recreational assets. Powered boating, canoeing, sailing, rowing, walking and angling are just a few of the activities that take place. The River User Groups were setup to provide a forum to discuss and resolve issues affecting these river activities.	Dialogue and further flow modelling work undertaken to assess how the river condition will change. Health and Safety issues have been discussed and are being incorporated into the design at detailed design phase.
Environment Trust for Richmond Upon Thames		Statement of support produced by the Trust's resident ecologist
The River Thames Visitor Centre		Supportive – the Visitor Centre coordinator has offered exhibition space for the project
Thames Landscape Strategy		Engaged with – supportive in principle



Stakeholder	Interest	Notes
Thames Angling Conservancy	Not-for-profit group with a vested interest in angling on the Thames.	Opposed in principle
The Teddington Society	Not-for-profit groups with a vested interest in local developments	Opposed the first planning application. Supportive in principle of the scheme. However, are concerned on a number of fronts. We have liaised very closely with the Teddington society to bring a better scheme in this application.
The Richmond Society		Engaged with
The Ham and Petersham Association		Supportive
Ham Amenities Group		Supportive
Ham United Group		Supportive
Local and Greater London Community	Individuals living, working, and studying near to the project site and those with a vested interest in developments in Greater London.	



Appendix 2 – Dates of meeting and attendees

2013/ 2014

- ❖ 4 February 2014: Public meeting held at St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington – over 150 people attended over the evening walk-in session. The session included a presentation providing an overview of the scheme, and three distinct breakout areas to discuss specific topics with the Teddington & Ham Hydro team. These topics included environmental, financial and investment and engineering. There was lively discussion which resulted in numerous separate follow-on meetings.
- ❖ 11 December 2013: Public meeting held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall, Teddington – over 200 people attended a presentation and panel session. This was the first of a re-invigorated series of public meetings by the Teddington & Ham Hydro team. The session was recorded and notes provided via numerous Teddington and Richmond group channels.
- ❖ We have published various press articles and letters in the Richmond & Twickenham Times providing updates on the development of the scheme, calling for views and responding to queries. Published dates include: 12 December 2012, 6 December 2013, 20 January 2014, 3 February 2014, 14 March 2014 and 12 May 2014.
- ❖ We have significantly increased our online presence with a regularly updated website as well as regular posts on twitter and facebook which often reach out to more than 200 people at a time.
- ❖ We have held numerous face-to-face meetings with specific groups to discuss various topics important to them with regards to the scheme. This includes numerous meetings with The Lensbury Club management team (last meeting was in May 2014), Teddington Society and a collaboration of major river users, the 'River Users Group' which includes representatives from the local boating, sailing, skiff and water sports centres as well as the RNLI.
- ❖ We have been very active in setting up a stall at local events all of which have been very well received and has resulted in lots of discussion as well as enthusiasm about investing and hearing more about the scheme. Recent and upcoming events include. Richmond Green May Fair, Ham Common and Teddington Summer Fairs as well as the Teddington River Festival.

2011

- ❖ 30 September 2011: Public meeting held at St John's Ambulance Hall, Teddington – over 100 people attended. A presentation of the scheme was given and questions invited from the audience. The general mood was overwhelmingly positive: *"The audience, I felt, were really appreciative of the explanations and displays, and of the amount of work that has gone into this worthwhile project."* (David Lawton, Teddington Society Energy Group, written communication to Ham Hydro, 2 October 2011).
- ❖ 16 June 2011: Public meeting held at Grey Court School, Ham – around 70 people attended. Much interest was shown in the scheme and the general impression was that residents are supportive.
- ❖ Presentation given to Richmond Society (19 May 2011) – around 60 people attended. Well-received presentation and many attendees requested further information. *"The audience was left in no doubt about the enthusiasm James and Chas have brought to the project but more important was the professionalism they have brought to pushing through such an innovative scheme and getting the backing*

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of important stakeholders. Let us hope they secure the funding and the project succeeds, to the undoubted benefit of local residents and the environment.” (Extract from the Richmond Society newsletter, Autumn 2011)

- ❖ Stall at Ham Fair (11 June 2011) – dozens of people stopped at the stall, asked questions and pledged their support
- ❖ Stall at Ham House ‘Sow and Grow’ event (29 May 2011) – a healthy crop of supporters was gleaned at this event
- ❖ Stall at Richmond May Fair (14 May 2011) – plenty of pledges of support received, plus requests for more information on the scheme.
- ❖ Consultation with the Thames River Users Group, tidal Thames section (5 May 2011): positive, supportive response. The River Users Group representative offered assistance with promoting the scheme.

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- ❖ Presentation to Richmond & Twickenham UN Association (21 October 2010)
- ❖ Presentation to Richmond & Twickenham Friends of the Earth (28 September 2010) – small but interested gathering.
- ❖ Gained the written support of our two local MPs, Richmond Council, Ham & Petersham Association, Richmond Greenpeace and Transition Town Kingston: these statements of support were used in the submission of our expression of interest to the Environment Agency for the development of Teddington Weir.

Press coverage

The project featured in the Business section of the *Mail on Sunday* on October 16th.

In addition, articles have been published in the local press at regular intervals over the past two years, some of which are listed below:

“Ham Hydro needs help saving the world” - *Richmond & Twickenham Times*, 21st July 2011. Available at http://www.richmondandtwickenhamtimes.co.uk/news/9150489.Ham_Hydro_needs_help_saving_the_world/

“Plans to build hydropower project in Teddington continue to move forward” - *Richmond & Twickenham Times*, 7th September 2010. Available at http://www.richmondandtwickenhamtimes.co.uk/news/8376711.Hopes_rise_for_Ham_s_hydropower_project/

“Plan for largest hydropower scheme in Europe approved for Teddington Weir” - *Richmond & Twickenham Times*, 11th August 2010. Available at http://www.richmondandtwickenhamtimes.co.uk/archive/2010/08/11/News_Richmond/8325648.Plan_for_largest_hydropower_scheme_in_Europe_approved/

There have also been articles in the *Richmond Informer*, the *Richmond Magazine*, the *Ham & Petersham* magazine, the *Park Ranger* and web updates on the *Low Carbon Communities* forum and *Project Dirt*.

Online

Ham Hydro now has a dedicated website, www.hamhydro.org; we also have a page on the Ham United Group website, <http://e-voice.org.uk/hamunitedgroup/ham-hydro/>, giving information on the scheme. The page has received around 200 hits every month since it was created.



Other events/support:

❖ August 2011 – a Ham Hydro representative gave a Q&A session at the prestigious **Start@Kew** Festival held at Kew Gardens.

❖ British Gas & River Cottage “energysave” fund: after several months of canvassing online support, we were placed on the long list of renewable energy projects for potential funding through this scheme. Over 400 people have become our online supporters, the vast majority of which are local residents.

❖ A Ham Hydro representative spoke at the Kingston Energy Day – Vision 2050 in March 2011.

Stephen Jarvis, Managing Director – Teddington and Ham Hydro Cooperative Limited
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