

**Thames Young Mariners
Riverside Drive, Richmond
Statement of Community
Involvement**



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Contents Page

1. Executive Summary	2
2. Introduction	4
3. Background.....	5
3.1 The Site	5
3.2 The Proposal	5
4 Pre-application Consultation	6
4.1 Approach to Consultation.....	6
4.2 Stakeholder Engagement	6
4.3 Public Consultation	7
4.4 Review of Feedback.....	10
4.5 Response to Public Consultation Comments.....	19
5.1 On-going Stakeholder Engagement.....	19
6. Conclusion	19
7. Appendix.....	20
7.1 Public notification letter	20
7.2 Example of exhibition board.....	24
7.3 Virtual Exhibition.....	25
7.4 Public Engagement FAQs.....	26

1. Executive Summary

This report details the steps undertaken by Surrey Outdoor & Learning Centres (SOLD) and Surrey County Council's Land & Property department (hereafter 'the Applicant') to engage the local community in respect of redevelopment plans for Thames Young Mariners, Riverside Drive, Richmond (hereafter 'the site'). The proposed development is a new outdoor land and water-based activity centre to replace the existing centre's buildings.

Engagement with political stakeholders

The Applicant sought to engage with all political stakeholders with an interest in the site once viable plans had been developed. Surrey County Council Cabinet Members both for Education & Learning Cllr Denise Turner-Stewart and for Economic Development and Property Cllr Natalie Bramhall. As the site sits outside the boundary of the county of Surrey the Councillors for Richmond Upon Thames were also sighted of the plans and informed of the public engagement events.

Engagement with community groups

The applicant also sought to engage with local community groups and user groups both within Surrey and Greater London all of whom make use of the facilities. This was by means of an email or face to face if possible. These groups included schools, youth clubs, special educational needs groups, the voluntary youth sector including scouts and guides and parents of children who participate in the school holiday activities. Local groups with an interest in the site were also consulted which included the 'Friends of Ham Lands' and 'Thames Landscape Strategy Group'.

Public Consultation

To publicise the consultation, 2384 addresses were sent invitations informing them of the consultation and how they could participate.

To showcase the proposals to the community, the Applicant put a display up in the main building at Thames Young Mariners. This was available to view to the general public on Tuesday 26th April and Saturday 30th April. A total of nine A2 boards were used to showcase the proposals.

Feedback forms were available for viewers to fill in on the day or they could fill in the online feedback form at a later date.

A website was set up where all the material shown at the exhibition, including the exhibition boards and an interactive feedback form, was available online at:

<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/environment-and-infrastructure/thames-young-mariners/>

The website went live on 11 Apr 2022 and was open to online comments through to 17th May 2022. The website remains live so residents can still access project information.

Alternative channels for engagement

The consultation invitation also made residents aware of a telephone information line and project email address which could be used to contact the project team. Using this information line, residents would be able to ask further questions, seek clarification and provide verbal feedback, or request a consultation pack in the post.

Feedback summary

In total, 126 feedback forms were submitted either in person or online. The responses are summarised below:

- 99% either supported or strongly supported the proposals for Thames Young Mariners.
- 89% either supported or strongly supported the design principles and site arrangement proposed.
- 91% either supported or strongly supported the initial details on the approach of replacing the buildings at TYM and supporting outdoor activity equipment/facilities.
- The feedback on substantiality factors and measures to be taken into consideration was very even across the board. This indicated that all of the sustainability aspects were of some importance to the respondents and as such sustainability is of high priority for the design team and will be reflected in the final designs. This also gives justification for the aim of the net zero carbon target for the project.
- A high percentage of respondents were interested in finding out more about the activities that SOLD will offer when the work is complete along with significant interest in the design and external appearance and also the landscaping and ecology aspects of the project.
- The main issues or concerns raised by respondents in their additional comments were about increased visitor numbers to the area and the impact on the area and the adjacent nature reserve in regard to noise and light pollution which have been taken into consideration.
- Overall comments were very positive with respondents commenting on the benefits that this will bring to children in both the local area and further afield with emphasis on ensuring that the facility is as accessible as possible.

Conclusion

Overall, the efforts taken to engage with the local community demonstrate that the consultation has been comprehensive with participants given the opportunity to provide feedback about the proposals.

2. Introduction

This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared by Surrey County Council for the redevelopment of Thames Young Mariners, Riverside Drive, Richmond. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the application will be the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

From the outset, the Applicant sought to have early engagement with key political stakeholders, groups and local residents to ensure that issues with the proposals were raised at a formative stage of the project. This report provides details of the community engagement undertaken by the Applicant, including feedback received and how this has been reflected in the submitted proposals, where possible.

All interested parties were given the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the proposals via a number of different channels. The centrepiece of this strategy was a consultation display available on two dates with members of the project team on hand to answer any queries and provide more information as required. This contained nine exhibition boards to display the proposals and feedback forms to record comments. In addition to this an email address was made available, along with a consultation website which contained a copy of the exhibition boards along with an online feedback form.

This SCI has been produced to demonstrate the Applicant's commitment to public consultation and effective community liaison regarding the proposals for the development of the site.

This document provides a chronological account of the consultation activity that has been undertaken within the pre-application stages of the planning application and the activity that the Applicant proposes to undertake post application. The external project team supporting the project is led by Turner & Townsend.

3. Background

3.1 The Site

The Applicant's proposals sit alongside the river Thames in Richmond and is accessed via Riverside Drive. It encompasses all of the buildings within the red line boundary shown in the image below. It has operated from the site since the 1960's and the site is owned by Surrey County Council.



An aerial image with the red line of the Application site

3.2 The Proposal

The planning application is for the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of a purpose-built water and land-based activity centre.

More specifically, the proposed development comprises:

- Replacement main building that comprises main hall, commercial kitchen, offices, toilet/shower facilities and staff residential accommodation to first floor.
- 3nr Guest Residential Blocks
- Camping Toilet/Shower Block
- Climbing wall, high wire ropes course and replacement pontoons for the water-based activities.
- Carparking improvements and additional landscaping

4 Pre-application Consultation

4.1 Approach to Consultation

The Applicant has sought to follow best practice in respect of pre-application engagement with the local community.

The approach has been informed by London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), adopted in 2019, so that the approach to local engagement is consistent with current practice and expectations locally.

This states that ‘Developers are encouraged to consult neighbours and/or local amenity bodies before submitting an application. The Localism Act (2011) sets out requirements for pre-application consultation and the NPPF also encourages applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community before submitting an application, the Council strongly encourages applicants of all other schemes to engage with the local community prior to submission. Developers will then be able to submit a consultation statement with the application, setting out who has been consulted and how, responses that were received and changes to the scheme that were made as a result.’

These requirements have been met in full as set out in this report.

4.2 Stakeholder Engagement

The Applicant has undertaken a number of consultation activities to raise awareness of the proposals and to engage with residents, local stakeholders and councillors. The Applicant felt it was important to discuss the proposals at a formative stage to allow the opportunity for local stakeholders to shape the content of the proposals.

Political Stakeholders

The Applicant sought to engage with political stakeholders at District and County level to inform them of the proposals. Meetings were held with Surrey County Council Cabinet Members both for Education & Learning Cllr Denise Turner-Stewart and for Economic Development and Property Cllr Natalie Bramhall. As the site sits outside the boundary of the county of Surrey the Councillors for Richmond Upon Thames were also sighted of the plans and informed of the public engagement events.

Community Groups

The applicant also sought to engage with local community groups and user groups both within Surrey and Greater London all of whom make use of the facilities. This was by means of an email or face to face if possible. These groups included schools, youth clubs, special educational needs groups, the voluntary youth sector including scouts and guides and parents of children who participate in the school holiday activities. Local groups with an interest in the site were also consulted which included the ‘Friend of Ham Lands’ and ‘Thames Landscape Strategy Group.’

4.3 Public Consultation

Public Exhibition

A public display was held on Tuesday 26th April and Saturday 30th April. A total of nine A2 boards were used to showcase the proposals. Members of the project team were on hand to answer any queries and provide more information as required. Feedback forms were on hand to record comments. In addition to this an email address was made available, along with a consultation website which contained a copy of the exhibition boards along with an online feedback form. This display was replicated on the project website which also provided more information about when the display would be available to view and how to get in contact with the project team.

A number of questions were submitted by members of the public as part of the feedback to which an FAQ was produced and published on the project website. The FAQ's can be seen in Appendix 7.4.

Notification letter

A notification letter was distributed on Tuesday 12th April 2022 to 2384 households and businesses in the local area advising them of the proposals as can be seen in Appendix 7.1.

The following map illustrates the distribution area.

The notification letter contained the following:

- Details of the project and the public exhibition dates and times
- Location map identifying the site and the exhibition location

The invitation also provided an email address for residents to contact the project team with any queries or comments and a link to the consultation website:

<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/environment-and-infrastructure/thames-young-mariners/>



Map showing the distribution area for public exhibition notification (2384 addresses)

Public Exhibition Display

The public exhibition boards displayed details of the proposed development ahead of submitting a planning application and included the following 9 boards:

- Project Overview
- History of the site and current use
- Ecology Plans
- Benefits of the scheme
- Proposed Plans
- Architectural Ideas
- Site Access Strategy
- Next Steps
- Visual of the plans

These also alluded to the feedback forms/webform available, to encourage viewers to submit their comments.

An example of the exhibition display boards can be seen in Appendix 7.2 of this document.

Project Website

A dedicated website was launched to display information about the proposals as well as being a place where residents could submit their feedback. The website will continue to be utilised as a platform through which to share updates on the project moving forward, throughout the public consultation and planning process. The website is hosted at <https://www.surreysays.co.uk/environment-and-infrastructure/thames-young-mariners/> and went 'live' on Thursday 11th April 2022 to tie in with the delivery of the public consultation notification letters as can be seen in Appendix 7.1 of this document.

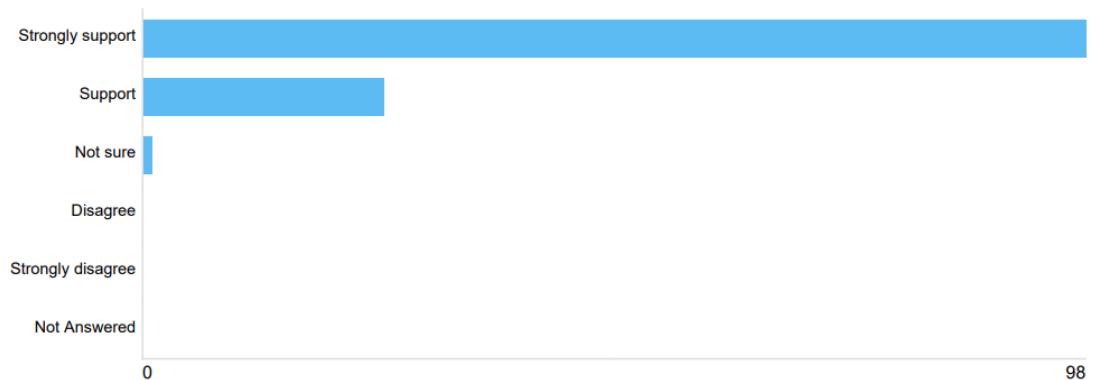
4.4 Review of Feedback

This section reviews the responses made by all the respondents who issued a feedback form either online or in person. In total, 126 feedback forms were submitted.

Please see a summary of the submitted responses below:

Question 1: Do you support or disagree with the proposal to redevelop and enhance the outdoor learning provision at the Thames Young Mariners site?

Do you support or disagree with the proposal

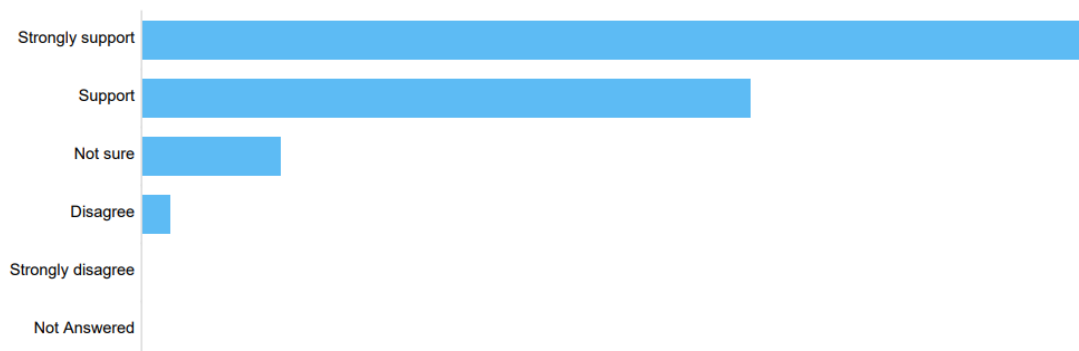


Strongly support- 79.03%
Support- 20.16%
Not sure- 0.81%

There is very clear support from the respondents with 99% either supporting or strongly supporting the proposals for Thames Young Mariners.

Question 2: Do you support or disagree with the design principles and site arrangement proposed as shown on the 'Site Plan'?

Do you support or disagree with the design principles

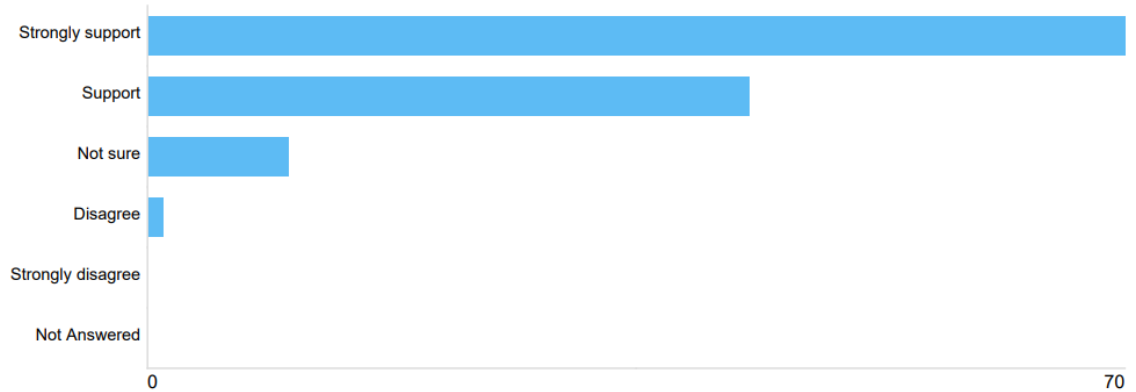


Strongly support- 54.84%
Support- 35.48%
Not sure- 8.06%
Disagree- 1.61%

There is also very clear support for the design principles and site arrangement proposed with 89% either supporting or strongly supporting the design principles and site arrangement proposed with only 2 respondents disagreeing.

Question 3: Do you support or disagree with the initial details on the approach of replacing the buildings at TYM and supporting outdoor activity equipment/facilities?

Do you support or disagree with the details on the approach



Strongly support 56.45%
 Support 34.68%
 Not sure 8.06%
 Disagree 0.81%

91% either supported or strongly supported the initial details on the approach of replacing the buildings at TYM and supporting outdoor activity equipment/facilities with only 1 respondent disagreeing.

Question 4: What sustainability measures do you consider most important for the site? (Please rank answers 1-8, with 1-least important and 8-most important)

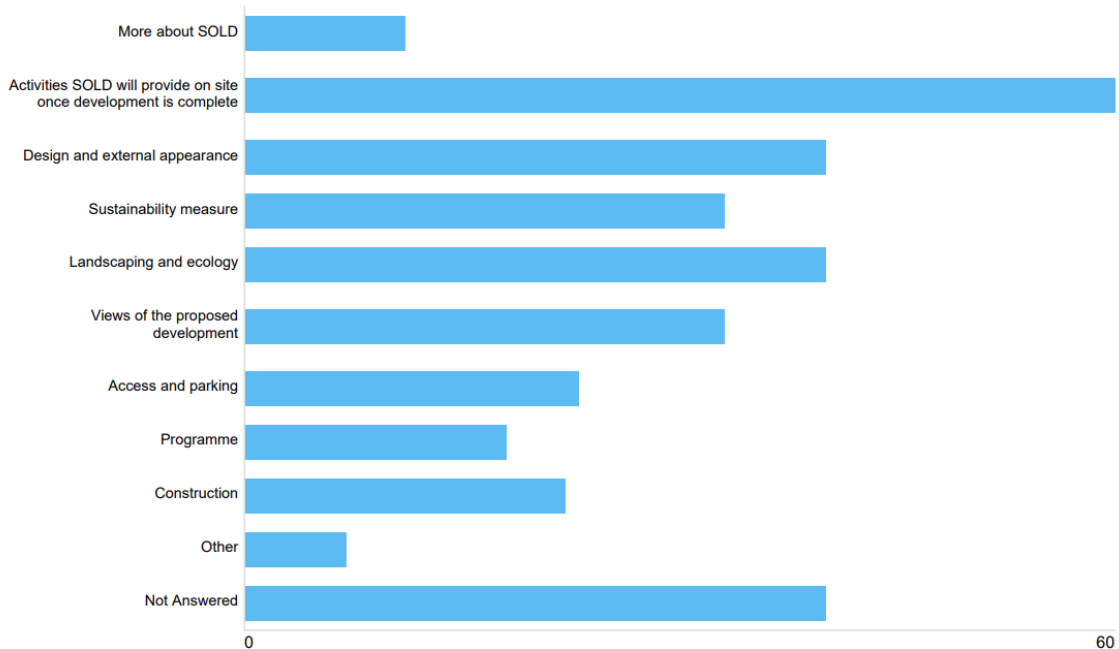
Table of "What sustainability measures do you consider most important for the site?" in rank order



The feedback on substantiality measures was very evenly spread across the board indicating that all of the aspects were of some importance to the respondents. A net zero carbon target is the aim for this project and as such sustainability is of high priority for the design team and will be reflected in the final designs.

Question 5: Would you be interested in any further information to be included in the planning application and future communication on the project relating to the following options?

Further information to be included in future communication



A high percentage of respondents were interested in finding out more about the activities that SOLD will offer when the work is complete. This likely relates to the positive feedback on the plans for the site and the benefits that it will bring to those living near it.

Also rating highly was further interest in the design and external appearance along with the landscaping and ecology aspects. The public will be kept up to date with these aspects via the webpage as the design processes.

Question 6 of the feedback was an open question for respondents to offer further comments on which further detail can be seen in the following section.

4.5 Response to Public Consultation Comments

Following the consultation on the proposed redevelopment several questions were raised and below are the responses which were posted on the project webpage. The Applicant has sought to engage with each point and progress the proposals in line with these views, where possible.

Question 1: I hope you can make it fully bicycle friendly, we live in the area and love this place. I wish it was available year-round, the camping. Please have more activities like climbing wall and more family friendly actions like the tepees. De-prioritise cars - too many in the area, we need more ecologically friendly transport and end the car pollution of the area.

Answer 1: Cycle parking spaces proposed on site. Number of spaces to be confirmed in consultation with London Borough of Richmond.

There are currently, mostly traffic-free, cycle routes in close proximity to the site for visitors to use (seen on Sustrans). This includes National Cycle Network Route 4. This route links users between central London to the east, travelling through Richmond Park. To the west, it continues past Hampton Court Park, Weybridge, Windsor, and eventually ends in Wales. It includes both traffic free and on-road routes. To improve connectivity across the borough, London Borough of Richmond have proposed to develop further cycle routes, plus additional routes identified by Transport for London (Richmond Active Travel Strategy). The existing London Borough of Richmond routes partially cover National Cycle Network Route 4.

Pedestrian path from public highway to site reception area to be improved.

Travel Plan to be implemented to encourage use of more sustainable transport and reduce car use.

Question 2: I think it is important that the project keeps to the principle of putting local children's needs first and that any subletting or commercial packages for office away etc are placed second to that.

It would be fantastic to see building that blend with the local environment and nature in a way that resonates for the local residents and groups with ecological interests in the area. Promoting environmentally friendly and accessible transport options (rather than increasing traffic) would also be a priority.

Answer 2: The design team are committed to ensuring that the aesthetics of the proposal are sensitive to the natural surroundings.

Cycle parking spaces proposed on site. Number of spaces to be confirmed in consultation with London Borough of Richmond.

For further details on this provision, please see the answer to question 1 above.

Question 3a: While I appreciate some outbuildings should come down and all be made more efficient - I think the main hall with balcony overlooking lake should be retained - this is a period building in keeping with the area & local architecture (wates estate) and provides an attractive view from the lock bridge. Usually simply cost saving to demolish and rebuild more sustainable to re-use elements where possible and or retain features.

Also very concerned about increased car traffic to site if expanded & building traffic at same time as Ham close development starting - strain on local ecology.

Answer 3a: The design team are committed to ensuring that the aesthetics of the proposal are reflective of their use, sensitive to the local vernacular and the natural surroundings in which the site is located.

The design team agree that the external terrace / balcony is a valuable provision, and therefore have proposed that this is re-provided in the proposed scheme in a similar location in order to benefit from the key views across the lake.

A feasibility study was undertaken which assessed the viability and suitability of a refurbishment, remodel, and partial demolition option for the development. However, it was determined that for several reasons including, but not limited to, energy performance, the ability to create spaces fit for purpose of the end user, improved accessibility, and costs, that a new build proposal was the best option.

It is not proposed that there will be a significant increase in daily/weekly traffic to and from the site, only that this traffic will occur throughout the year as a result of the development rather than just seasonally.

Travel Plan to be implemented to encourage use of more sustainable transport and reduce car use.

Question 3b: Ham Close development (452 houses TW10 7PD) is to start on site Winter 2022 going into 2023, subject to planning approval.

Answer 3b: The contractor will provide a Construction Management Plan and Logistics Plan which will require planning approval from the local authority.

Question 4: We would be interested to hear about the additional accessibility of the venue for disabled children and young people who have physical disabilities, and children with sensory impairments. etc

Answer 4: The redevelopment of the site will ensure that the proposal is fully accessible, this is not limited to buildings but also the external learning activities for those with additional needs, both physical and cognitive. This has been at the forefront of the brief and the design team and client team are committed to provide facilities that are accessible. Furthermore, a focus on providing personal care provisions that are non-gender specific will be provided. The proposed development

together with SOLD's provision of educational programmes will ensure that the facility is available for all to use.

Question 5: I think it is a great initiative to improve TYM. My only concerns are that if the site is to be used more intensively it is screened better from the river to reduce light and sound pollution emanating from the site and also to be as visually inobtrusive as possible. I am glad that all the buildings will be single story.

Answer 5: Light & noise emissions will be surveyed, and an impact assessment will be carried out as part of the planning submission to ensure that the proposal does not negatively impact on the site's neighbours. Mitigation strategies will be produced pending the conclusion of these surveys and reports to reduce any negative impact to SOLD's neighbours.

Question 6: Safe cycle routes and facilities for secure cycle parking

Answer 6: Please see the answer to Question 1 above.

Question 7: a). Impact on the immediate local area due to rise in number of visitors/users- especially by cars leading to rise in pollution?

Answer 7: a). The increase in usage of the new development will be spread across the full year. The increase during term times is by schools, who predominantly arrive and depart by coach or minibus; and these will predominantly be a residential stay. This will cut the number of vehicle movements during term times, as the centre has a predominance of day visits for more than half the year with many schools/groups coming and going each day. The school holidays are when the centre runs a full range of programmes mainly for local young people, and these visitors will be encouraged to walk, cycle, or use public transport where it is practical, with additional facilities included within the new development to accommodate these travel options.

Question 7: b). What are the long-term measures to ensure the surrounding Nature reserve and Wildlife will not be affected by the rise in visitors?

Answer 7: b). The rise in visitor numbers because of the new development will be managed on the TYM site to work in harmony with the natural surroundings and biodiversity of the site. The natural environment is and will become incorporated into the outdoor learning experiences that young people have whilst visiting the site, along with ongoing maintenance and protection/monitoring of specific areas/species that make the site a wonderful outdoor learning environment. Therefore, the impact on the surrounding nature and wildlife will be minimal.

Question 7: c). Would locals have priority in bookings over visitors from other areas? We would not want this to become a Commercial endeavour other than for Children's' activities.

Answer 7: c). SOLD does not operate a priority booking system; there is an open and equal process for school and groups bookings, as there is for the TAZ holiday programmes. SOLD is part of SCC's Education and Learning provision and the site is an educational site. There are no plans to change this, and the new development has been designed to accommodate schools and learning. SOLD being a part of SCC is not a commercial business but must cover all its costs. The capital funding for the proposed development is coming from SCC.

Question 7: d). Are there any plans to use the new improved facilities, if permitted, to then offer them for hire for large events? Other clubs in the area have had that in mind, in the past, and this is something we, locals, would strongly be against!!

Answer 7: d). There are no plans or desire to hold large commercial events; the strategic plan is to be fully booked by schools, youth groups and young people on holiday programmes. SOLD only hold two events each year at the centre all with a water/River Thames theme, these being The Great River Race and the Devizes to London canoe event.

Question 8: a). How SOLD will improve its offer to children with additional needs - such a huge, proposed development should include an absolute commitment to ensuring SOLD services are offered to all children. This is not my experience.

Answer 8: a). SOLD currently offers programmes for young people with additional needs at TYM, but currently this is constrained by the poor facilities. The new development will enable many more young people with additional needs to access a full range of outdoor learning opportunities both for schools, special needs community-based groups and TAZ programmes.

Question 8: b). In my experience SOLD are happy to include children with additional needs in their camps only if they don't need much adult support. Offering age-appropriate summer activities for kids with SEND (without the need for their own family to support) would be a great improvement for families of kids with SEND.

Answer 8: b). SOLD staff are trained and experienced to work in the outdoors with young people and adults with a wide range of additional needs. Many of the additional needs that are required for personal care, either for day or residential activity, require specialist care support workers. SOLD already works with many such organisations who access SOLD's outdoor learning opportunities where parents are not required to attend with their child. Further work is being undertaken to explore how more young people with additional needs can access the TAZ holiday programmes with the right level of support.

Question 9: The results of any Ecological and Environmental surveys. The impact of the redevelopment on the ecology and environment e.g., lighting, vehicle

movements. I am pleased to see stated 'The landscape design forms an integral part of a wider site strategy that seeks to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the site'. Will consideration also be given to the biodiversity of the neighbouring Ham Lands Local Nature Reserve?

Answer 9: As part of the Ecological assessment studies undertaken for the site, a wider context study was carried out to understand what Designated sites are recorded within 1km of the survey area, including the neighbouring Ham Lands LNR, but wider Sites of Importance for Nature. Any proposals for the site will incorporate a comprehensive Ecological strategy that will be formulated to respond to the findings of these assessments, and proposals will include for the protection and enhancement of the existing habitats and species on site.

Question 10: We support this on the basis that it will not generate noise which would affect our enjoyment of our home. We hope the young people continue to benefit from your services.

Answer 10: Please see the answer to Question 5 above.

Question 11: a). We would prefer the children's main outdoor activities to be set further away from the river as the sound is very amplified by the water. This can be very intrusive to houses across the river. We noted an area behind the building by the reservoir - could that not be used?

Answer 11: a). The site is used to maximise the outdoor learning opportunities and the lock area is such an area where it is ideal for some of the activities offered and planned to be offered. The camping area is used for only part of the year, primarily April – September and then from Monday to Thursday for school groups during the term time. There are much smaller groups who use the camping over the weekend during this time. All activities delivered by SOLD on the site cease by 9pm when the visiting staff from the school have the responsibility to ensure appropriate behaviours and bedtimes. There are no plans to change the camping and activity areas as with the new development it is essential to keep a pedestrian area where all visitors can be segregated and kept safe. The main entrance and parking area will be in front of the new build. The lock area is a sheltered area of water which makes it a safe learning environment.

For further details on noise, please see the answer to question 5 above.

Question 11: b). In any event, can non- shedding trees be planted all along the entire river boundary? If activity is to be year-round, it will be visible and audible to houses across the river. Our houses will also be visible to the children which will make the environment look very built up when they would no doubt prefer a wilder feel.

Answer 11: b). There is significant screening along the boundary with the river Thames, apart from across the lock gate. Additional evergreen shrub/tree planting is being investigated to enable an all-year coverage.

Question 11: c). We would also like a contact number available if noise starts to become excessive so we can talk to someone with authority to intervene.

Answer 11: c). If anyone has issues with excessive noise at unsociable times, we will ask that the SOLD complaints procedure is used. Please contact outdoor.learning@surreycc.gov.uk

Question 11: d). We do support having such a facility for children and think an annual or quarterly open day may be useful. We visited the site to look at the plans and found talking to the staff from the centre very constructive.

Answer 11: d). An annual open day is a good suggestion; this will be investigated to see if it could become a regular event.

5. Post-application

5.1 On-going Stakeholder Engagement

The Applicant will continue to engage with stakeholders following the submission of the planning application and respond to questions from the public.

6. Conclusion

Overall, the Applicant has taken a comprehensive approach to community and stakeholder engagement and has engaged with multiple community groups and elected representatives. By developing a hybrid consultation strategy across multiple platforms, the process has been readily accessible so all could voice their views as they saw fit.

In conclusion, this SCI demonstrates that the proposals put forward have been effectively presented to the public prior to the submission of the planning application

7. Appendix

7.1 Public notification letter



Land and Property

Surrey County Council
PO Box 463
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 2GY

Dear Resident

Thames Young Mariners

Surrey County Council (SCC) and Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) are pleased to be able to advise on the upcoming redevelopment proposals for the Thames Young Mariners (TYM) Site, Riverside Drive, Ham, Richmond, TW10 7RX.

This leaflet is to provide some initial information about the proposals, the timeframe for the project, how you can learn more about the proposals and speak to SCC or SOLD if you would like more information.

SCC have not yet made a full planning application and are currently in the process of undertaking pre-application discussions with London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBR) and other stakeholders and would like to hear the views of the community about the proposals whilst the plans for the site are being designed.

Site background

SOLD is a unique service provided by SCC, which runs outdoor learning programmes from its three sites: Henley Fort near Guildford, High Ashurst in the Surrey Hills, and Thames Young Mariners. TYM was established over 60 years ago as a water activity venue on the Thames between Richmond and Kingston.

SOLD is passionate about providing children, young people, schools and families with opportunities to experience healthy outdoor activity that will directly benefit their emotional well-being and physical health.

Today, TYM is a local community asset which provides a wide range of outdoor learning programmes through day and residential camping visits to a broad spectrum of user groups including schools, colleges and Universities, SEN schools, youth groups e.g. cubs, guides etc, families, children booked on by parents, adult training courses, young people and adults with additional needs, parents and toddlers, open water swimmers, vulnerable and looked

after children, Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants and children who are receiving alternative education provision.

The service provided at TYM is used by a significant number of Richmond Schools, Colleges, youth groups and families in addition to others in Surrey and London Boroughs who benefit from access to outdoor learning. TYM currently works with Richmond based organisations such as; Achieving for Children, Richmond District Scout groups and a number of Richmond Primary Schools.

TYM offers a choice of engaging and adventurous water based outdoor learning activities e.g. canoeing, sailing, raft building and Stand Up Paddle Boarding as well as land-based sessions such as orienteering, archery, woodland activities, climbing and low ropes course. TYM also offer residential camping visits in their two Tipi villages for these groups between the months of April and October.



Proposals

TYM faces a number of challenges and restrictions posed by the outdated existing buildings, which are no longer fit for purpose nor meet modern standards of construction, accessibility & design which is impacting on SOLD's ability to operate effectively. Due to the site's piecemeal development over 50+ years, the layout of the existing buildings is no longer fit for purpose causing significant challenges namely security, maintenance, safeguarding and positive and inclusive learning environments.

SCC and SOLD have therefore sought to bring forward a proposal which will retain and enhance the outdoor learning provision at TYM. This will ensure that the provision of high quality outdoor learning can be provided from the site far into the future, which will continue to benefit the young people of Richmond, the surrounding Boroughs and Surrey.

In order to meet the operational needs of SOLD and to also provide the most sustainable form of development it is proposed to demolish the existing buildings on site and replace with new, fit-for-purpose buildings. Whilst a partial reuse of existing buildings on site has

been explored it was deemed unsuitable due to the age of construction, condition, suitability and operational requirements; both during and after construction.

As the proposals are still evolving through the design process and pre-application discussions, final details of the scheme are not yet fixed but it is anticipated that the existing 1,646sqm of floorspace which will be replaced with around 2,235sqm of space. Similarly, to the existing buildings on site, the proposed buildings will be made up of a number of smaller buildings, will be focused on the previously developed part of the site and will be predominantly single storey buildings.

The proposed buildings on site will seek to provide residential accommodation for schools, and will update and replace staff accommodation, changing facilities, learning and meeting space, administration space, storage and workshop and a fit for purpose dining hall and kitchen. The proposals will continue to make use of the existing site access from Riverside Drive.

The approach to landscaping is an important element of the proposals given the surrounding natural environment of Ham Lands and the River Thames which these proposals will respond to. The landscape design forms an integral part of a wider site strategy that seeks to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the site, respectful of the local landscape character. The external landscape materials and planting will be used to blend the facilities into the surrounding setting, using quality natural materials in keeping with the context of the site.

The proposals will enable SOLD to operate a more 'year-round' outdoor learning offering where they are currently constrained mainly between April-October because of the nature of the existing facilities.

Significantly, the proposal will also provide the site with facilities to allow greater inclusion and participation for users with learning and physical disabilities.

This will greatly improve what SOLD can offer local schools, families and community groups which will contribute towards SOLD's vision for users to develop crucial personal, social, emotional and physical skills, which will benefit their life chances and opportunities.



Programme

To ensure the necessary time is provided to undertake community engagement and further pre-application, it is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted for the proposals in June 2022.

It is anticipated that SOLD will continue to operate throughout this project with as minimal disruption as possible to SOLD's service to ensure local schools and community groups will still have access to outdoor learning facilities throughout.

If you are interested in hearing more about the proposals or have further questions, please do drop-in to the Thames Young Mariners site on:

Tuesday 26th April 2022 17:00-19:30; or

Saturday 30th April 2022 12:00-14:00

Address- Riverside Drive, Ham, Richmond, TW10 7RX

When you arrive at the gates

- The gates will be open on the two open days, so please follow the directions on arrival.
- Continue up the single-track road for 300m (following the parking signs)
- Once you reach the parking area, follow the entrance/welcome signs to the main entrance

More information can be found, and a questionnaire can be found on our webpage, at <https://www.sureysays.co.uk/environment-and-infrastructure/thames-young-mariners>

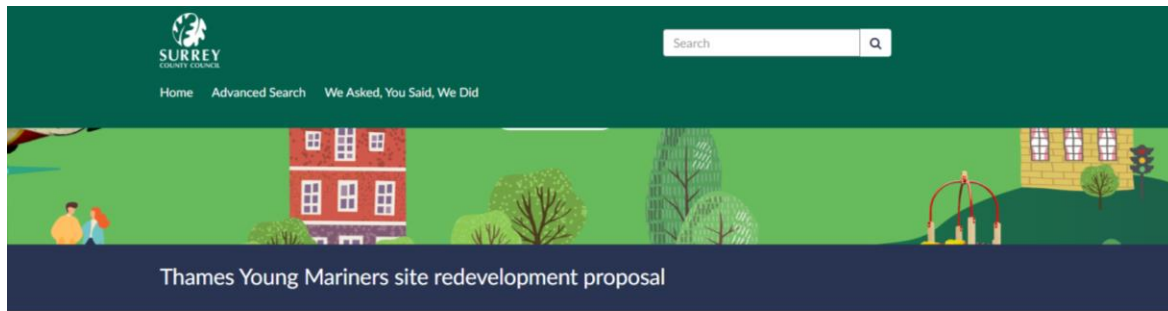
We also have an email address, should you wish to submit any questions or request further information in writing. Please email us at:- FeedbackTYM@surreycc.gov.uk. For any questions specifically about SOLD or the services they provide, both at this site and our other Outdoor Education Centres, please email: outdoor.learning@surreycc.gov.uk . If you would like to provide a response or feedback in writing, please write to us at:

Land and Property
Surrey County Council
PO Box 463
REIGATE
RH2 2GY

7.2 Example of Exhibition Board



7.3 Virtual Exhibition



Overview

Surrey County Council (SCC) and Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) are pleased to be able to advise on the upcoming redevelopment proposals for the Thames Young Mariners (TYM) Site, Riverside Drive, Ham, Richmond, TW10 7RX.

This survey has been created to provide some initial information about the proposals, the timeframe for the project, how you can learn more about the proposals and speak to SCC or SOLD if you would like more information.

SCC have not yet made a full planning application and are currently in the process of undertaking pre-application discussions with London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBR) and other stakeholders and would like to hear

Closed 17 May 2022

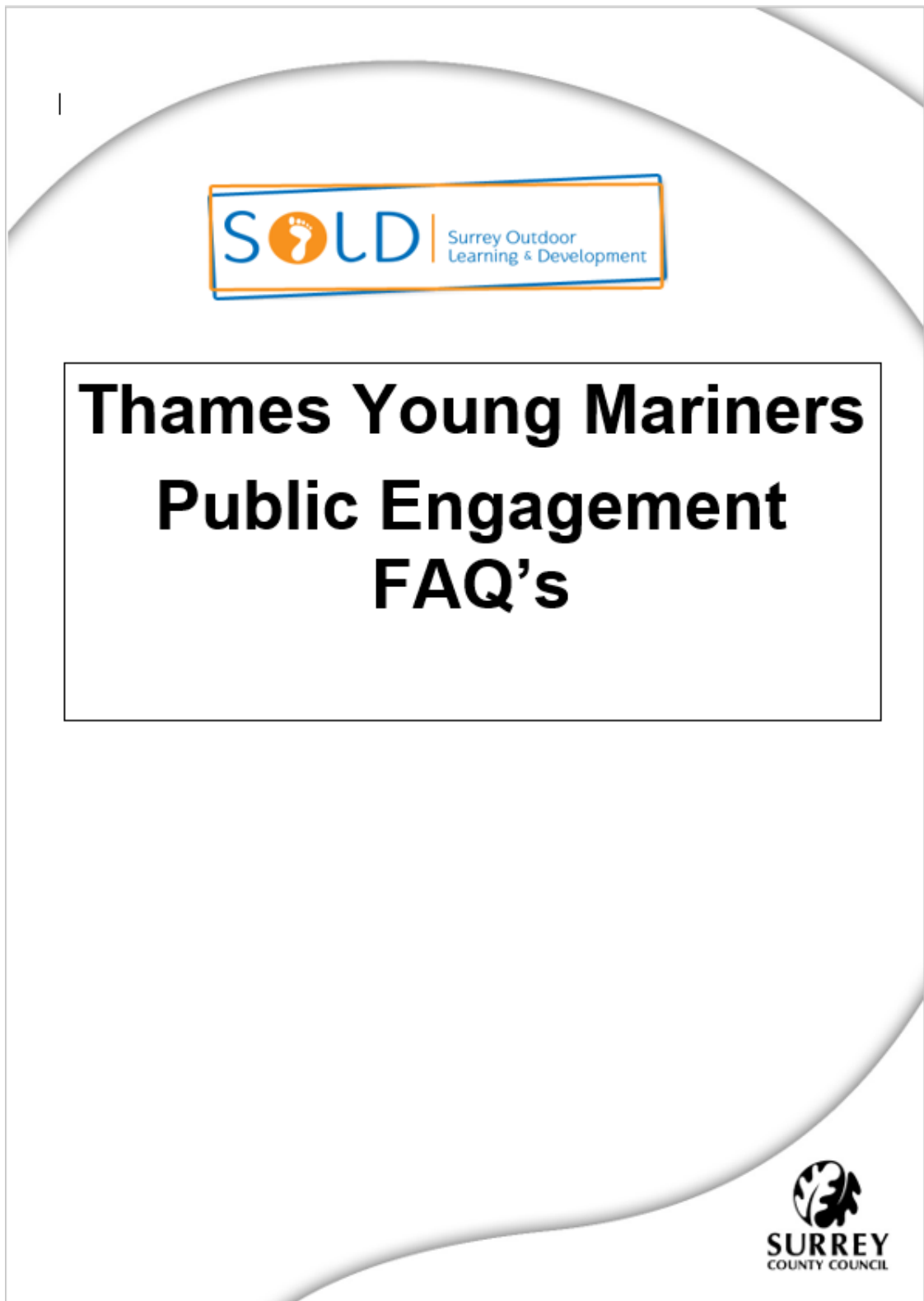
Opened 11 Apr 2022

Contact

02085419000 (Option 6)

FeedbackTYM@surrevcc.gov.uk

7.4 Public Engagement FAQs



SCC – Thames Young Mariners Public Engagement FAQs

Q: Who are Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development and what do they do?

A: Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) is a unique service provided by Surrey County Council (SCC), which runs outdoor learning programmes from three sites: Henley Fort near Guildford, High Ashurst in the Surrey Hills, and Thames Young Mariners, a water activity venue on the Thames between Richmond and Kingston. The SOLD service directly contributes to priorities around a number of key social value agendas including: tackling health inequality, empowering communities to take positive social action, improving the lives and opportunities of the most vulnerable children, young people and families and environmental sustainability. They provide outdoor learning experiences and activities for children, young people and families for Surrey and London Boroughs: [Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development \(SOLD\)](#)

Q: What type of activities are undertaken at the TYM site at the moment?

A: TYM currently provides outdoor learning programmes through day visits to a wide range of user groups including: Schools, colleges and Universities, SEN schools, youth groups e.g. cubs, guides etc, families, children booked on by parents, adults on training courses, adults with additional needs, parents and toddlers, open water swimmers, vulnerable and looked after children, Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants and children who are receiving alternative education provision. Outdoor activities include rock climbing, SUP, canoeing, kayaking, raft building, sailing, orienteering, archery, team building tasks, woodland activities, camping, National Curriculum linked outdoor learning activity. TYM also offers residential camping visits in our two Tipi villages for these groups between the months of April and October.

Q: How many young people use the site on an annual basis and are they from Richmond or other areas?

A: 23,000 users (2019/20). 7,000 users from Kingston and Richmond

Q: How many staff are employed at the TYM site?

A: Currently there are a total of 8 Permanent and 20 Casual/Seasonal staff who operate from the site.

Q: Why is this development needed and can't the buildings be refurbished or reused?

A: The current site at Thames Young Mariners was developed over time, with the oldest of the buildings being over 50 years old. This means that most of the buildings are no longer fit for purpose, and nor do they meet modern standards of construction, accessibility and design. The main challenge of the site is the restrictions posed by the outdated existing buildings, which are no longer fit for purpose nor meet modern standards of construction & design and are Sites and buildings falling into disrepair impacting on SOLD's ability to operate effectively. From a sustainability perspective the buildings, the buildings also raise challenges in relation to energy saving measures and efficient use of energy on the site.

Q: What are you proposing to develop on the site?

A: Development at TYM will enable SOLD to realise the potential of the site through a significant increase in service capacity, supporting the strategic priorities for children, young people, and families by providing bespoke programmes of personal development, appropriate education, skills training and family support. The development will replace the outdated facilities and provide; new



Q: When are you looking to start building and how long will it take?

A: Subject to a successful planning application, it is anticipated that construction will start mobilisation at the end of 2022 and will be complete by September 2023.

Q: How will you manage construction traffic coming to the site?

A: SCC and SOLD will work with the appointed contractors to effectively pre-plan construction traffic and minimise the disruption to neighbouring residents, businesses and on-site activities. A Construction Management Plan will be developed that outlines the proposed building works and how the constructor intends to manage the project to minimise the impact on the local residents during the works.

Q: When are you intending to submit the planning application?

A: Following the public engagement events, feedback will be considered alongside further pre-application discussions with Richmond Council. A full planning application will then be submitted to Richmond Council in June 2022.

Q: How can I comment on the proposals for TYM?

A: If you have not been able to come and speak to us during one of our drop-in sessions on 26th April or 30th April, you can comment using the links or the email address provided in the Information Leaflet and on the webpage.

Q: Will Thames Young Mariners stay open during the development?

A: Yes, TYM will remain operational throughout the build. Further details regarding phasing of the development to ensure the site will remain operational throughout the construction period will be provided at a later date.

Q: What noise and disruption can I expect during the build process?

A: Contractors will use the 'best practicable means' to reduce noise and keep noisy activities to reasonable hours.

They will also give neighbours an indication of what work is being done via letter drops and how long the works are likely to last during periods anticipated to be noisy or disruptive, such as demolition of existing buildings or periods with high amount of construction traffic i.e., delivery of materials.

Q: How will the trees and wildlife at Thames Young Mariners be affected by the new build?

A: The trees and wildlife on the Thames Young Mariners site are an essential and unique part of the environmental education which takes place on the site. Connection to nature is an absolute priority and as such, we will be committed to minimising the impact on the biodiversity which exists both in design and during the build process. As part of the landscape design this will seek to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the site, respectful of the local landscape character.

Q: Will we still be able to walk and cycle to the site and park bikes up securely, both during construction and after?

A: Yes, walking and cycling to site will be encouraged as part of the development proposals. There are currently cycle routes in close proximity to the site for visitors to use. This includes National Cycle Network Route 4. This route links users between central London to the east, travelling through Richmond Park. To the west, it continues past Hampton Court Park, Weybridge and Windsor. Secure cycle facilities will be provided as part of the development proposals.

Q: What facilities will be built for people with physical disability?



A: Accessible toilets, showers and changing facilities including ceiling hoist system. Accessible residential accommodation for higher need users. Improved disabled access on to water activity and increased inclusive [land-based](#) activity.

Q: Will all of the groups who use Thames Young Mariners be able to continue to use the centre after it is built?

A: Yes, and lots of new groups as well. SOLD are engaging with local schools and community groups about future use of the TYM site.

Q: Will there be increased artificial light coming from the centre after it is built?

A: The proposals will seek to ensure artificial lighting will cause no greater impact than the existing development. Particular attention will be paid to lighting of ecologically sensitive parts of the site including the lock and boundary tree lines which may be used for local wildlife. Details of lighting proposals will be worked up through the planning process.