

THE RICHMOND AND BUSHY PARKS FORUM

143 Palewell Park
London SW14 8JJ

21 December 2010

John Penrose MP
Minister for Tourism and Heritage
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH

Dear Mr. Penrose,

Prompted by the lack of consultation about the proposed transfer of responsibility for the Royal Parks to the Mayor, the Richmond and Bushy Parks Forum has been formed by over 30 local stakeholders. Its members include park users and Friends, local amenity and conservation groups, and charitable and commercial organisations that operate in the parks.

The aim of the Forum is “to provide input from a wide range of local stakeholders in the two Parks on the governance, protection and enhancement of the Parks for current and future generations of park users”. The Forum is a prime example of the impact the Big Society can make.

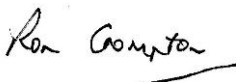
The Forum has adopted a 7 Point programme that we think will deliver effective and sustainable governance and funding of the Parks under the Mayor, and ensure that its management properly reflects local and national needs. The programme is attached, with some explanatory notes.

Our 7 points should be included in primary or secondary legislation, or in a binding agreement between central government and the Mayor similar to the Framework Agreement between government and the current Royal Parks agency when it was created in 1993.

Such legislation or agreement is important because, as things stand, the Mayor will have less accountability to the London Assembly than the Minister currently has to Parliament, and therefore fewer constraints on his action.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our proposals in more detail in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Ron Crompton
Co-Chairmen, Richmond and Bushy Parks Forum



Pieter Morpurgo

cc: Anthony Browne Justine Greening MP
Zac Goldsmith MP Ed Davey MP
Dr Vince Cable MP Mark Camley

RICHMOND AND BUSHY PARKS FORUM MEMBERS – December 2010

Bushy Park Wildlife Group
Environment Trust for Richmond
Friends of Bushy and Home Parks
Friends of Palewell Common
Friends of Richmond Park
Ham and Petersham Association
Hampton Hill Association
Hampton Hill Cricket Club
Hampton Wick Association
Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club
Holly Lodge Centre
Kingston Society
Kingston Stables
London Dynamos Cycling Club
London Parks and Gardens
London Wildlife Trust
Petersham Conservators
Pembroke Lodge
Queens Road (Teddington) Residents' Association
Richmond Environment Network
Richmond Hill Terrace Residents Association
Richmond Park Charitable Trust
Richmond Park Flora Group
Richmond Park Wildlife Group
Richmond Society
Royal Ballet School
Safer Parks Panel, Richmond Park
Teddington Cricket Club
Teddington Town Cricket Club
Teddington Rugby Club
Teddington Society
Wimbledon Common Conservators