

THURLOE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

www.thurloeresidentsassociation.org.uk

Public Meeting Update

The Brompton Ward Councillors held a public meeting on 25th February to update residents on the South Kensington Station, the results of the Ward survey and plans for the V&A. Details of the meeting were posted on the TRA website, but as some members were unable to attend, TRA has prepared an outline of what was discussed with results of the Ward survey posted on this link:

<http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/pdf/City%20Living%20Local%20Life%20-%20Brompton%20-%20Ward%20Survey%20-%20Final%20Report%20-%202012.pdf>

The Ward Cllrs kicked off the meeting by sharing the results of the Ward survey conducted last year. Many of the responses were as expected, but the data is interesting.

Highlights for the rest of the meeting are as follows:

South Kensington Underground Station

- Cllr Marshall began by noting that residents have rejected the many inappropriate development schemes for the South Kensington Station over the years because they have not adequately taken into consideration the character of the area and its needs. The Ward survey clearly showed that residents would welcome the station being improved and want step free access (SFA) to Circle, District and Piccadilly lines. They do not, however, consider that this should be at the cost of an inappropriate development scheme.
- The survey indicated that local people are anxious to see small shops retained in and around the station.
- TFL has a new Commercial Development Director of Transport, Graeme Craig. Among his many responsibilities is upgrading and improving the quality of the retail provision on the Underground network. South Kensington, along with a number of other stations in central London, has been identified as a pilot for this emerging policy.
- Mr Craig has confirmed that the scheme prepared by John McAslan & Partners will not be taken forward. Instead, TFL is being advised by retail consultants and will be appointing designers to suggest how the public realm inside the station can be improved.
- Mr Craig has agreed to share the results of these studies with residents, probably in the summer.
- The Ward Councillors are cautiously optimistic that Mr Craig is receptive to working with the community to create an Underground station that is efficient for passengers, profitable and reflects the character of the area and its needs.
- Cllr Marshall revealed that a local resident had conducted an elucidating investigation into the financial statements, which accompanied the most recent TFL massing study. It was discovered that the cost of step free access (SFA) was significantly overstated. Identifying the true, and much lower cost of providing SFA, suggests that there isn't a need to have a large development at the station to pay for it.
- Indeed, Councillors were clear that provision of SFA should be an operational issue, as it is at other stations, and its provision should be quite separate from any proposed commercial development on the site.
- During the Q&A session after the presentation there were several comments about the state of the station. There were also several calls for immediate action to improve it and for TFL to provide SFA sooner rather than later.

- The Brompton Association presented a new booklet which illustrates how SFA can be provided without resorting to a major development. It also describes how this can be accomplished without destroying the listed station whilst improving and enhancing the public areas. This reflects the majority of residents' views about the kind of use and scale of development as stated in the Ward survey. The Ward Councillors welcomed the BA's proposals and urged residents to review the booklet. If you'd like a copy, email TRA at tra@thurloeresidentsassociation.org.uk.

Plans for the V&A Museum

- The V & A received approval for a new courtyard extension on the Boiler House site on Exhibition Road.
- The new scheme, designed by Amanda Levete Architects, will create a subterranean gallery, overhaul a previously inaccessible back-of-house space and open up a new entrance from Exhibition Road on the West side of the museum.
- The new gallery will be used mostly for temporary exhibitions such as the Hollywood Costume exhibition thus allowing the present exhibition space to return to permanent galleries.
- Construction work is due to begin later this year and is scheduled for completion at the end of 2015 in time for a 2016 opening.

Early Morning Restriction Orders

- Councillors relayed information about the recent Home Office amendments to the Licensing Act of 2003 aimed at tackling the problem of late night drinking. The changes enable licensing authorities to use Early Morning Restriction Orders (EMROs) to restrict the sale of alcohol in whole or part of an area for any specified period between 12am and 6am. The objective of EMROs is to ensure that licensing authorities and enforcement agencies are given the right tools to address problems related to late night drinking.
- Unfortunately, the Brompton Ward has recurrent problems with anti-social behaviour associated with late night drinking. The Councillors encouraged residents to submit complaints about such behaviour to RBKC Noise and Nuisance Service at ehnoiseteam@rbkc.gov.uk or 020 7361 3002. Additionally, a special email address has been set up for Brompton residents to report noise and nuisance caused by the activities of licensed premises so that problems are on record to substantiate an EMRO. This email address is bromptonlicensing@rbkc.gov.uk. Complaints should be sent to both.