

## THE RICHMOND AND BUSHY PARKS FORUM

143 Palewell Park  
London SW14 8JJ  
020-8876-1123

19 October 2011

Sir Edward Lister  
Deputy Mayor  
City Hall  
London SE12AA

Dear Sir Edward,

### **Royal Parks Board**

We are writing to express our concerns about aspects of the proposed new Royal Parks Board.

The Richmond and Bushy Parks Forum was formed in September 2010 to provide a forum for local stakeholders in the two Parks to input into the proposed changes in the Park's governance. It now comprises 38 local groups of park users, Friends, amenity, wildlife and conservation bodies, and charitable and commercial organisations that operate in the parks. You will have heard references to the Forum at last Wednesday's meeting of the GLA Environment Committee.

We welcome the principles of the new arrangements for governance of the Royal Parks, and particularly the new Board. It achieves a good balance between national and London interests and between continuity, in the experience brought by the present Board members, and new approaches.

However, we are concerned about two key aspects of its composition:

1. Council representation. It is essential that Richmond is one of the councils on the Board. Richmond covers both Richmond and Bushy Parks. They are the largest and second largest of the 8 Royal Parks and are qualitatively different from the central Parks in terms of their wildlife, ecological significance and conservation status (Richmond is a National Nature Reserve and SSSI and Bushy should be an SSSI soon).

Their issues tend to get overlooked by TRP's focus on the central Parks and it is critical that there is someone on the Board who understands these issues. It would be a pity if the new Board started out without local support in this area because of its lack of representation. It seems to us that the composition of the new board must be dictated by the Board's functions rather than by an attempt at political balance. To exclude representation from the Borough of Richmond is surely also at odds with the purported aim of giving a greater say to local people.

2. Ecology and natural environment experience. At present there are no non-executive Board members with knowledge and experience of ecology and natural environment issues, and only one executive member (the Deputy Chief Executive). This is in spite of one of TRP's two Corporate Objectives being to "Conserve and enhance the natural and built environment, historic landscape and bio diversity of the parks ...".

The appointment of the new Board provides an excellent opportunity to rectify that situation. We recognise that the Board will not have representatives of particular interests (e.g. Natural England for ecology) but we urge you to ensure that the specification for at least one of the new independent Board members (and preferably two) requires knowledge and experience of ecology and natural environment. This would also demonstrate the Mayor's strong commitment to these issues.

We trust that our concerns will be taken into account in the consideration of the new Board. We would be happy to discuss them further.

Yours sincerely



Ron Crompton  
Co-Chairmen, Richmond and Bushy Parks Forum



Pieter Morpurgo

cc: John Penrose MP, Minister for Tourism and Heritage

Zac Goldsmith MP

Dr Vince Cable MP

Ed Davey MP

Justine Greening MP

Tony Arbour AM

Lord True

**THE RICHMOND AND BUSHY PARKS FORUM –  
PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS**

Bushy Park Wildlife Group  
Bushy Park Education Volunteers  
Environment Trust for Richmond  
Esher and Walton Conservatives  
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 Society  
Hampton Wick Association  
Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club  
Holly Lodge Centre  
Kingston Society  
Kingston Stables  
London Dynamos Cycling Club  
London Parks and Gardens Trust  
London Wildlife Trust  
Molesey Residents Association  
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  
Strawberry Hill Association  
Teddington Cricket Club  
Teddington Town Cricket Club  
Teddington Rugby Club  
Teddington Society  
Weybridge Society  
Wimbledon Common Conservators