

thebulletin

Representing the views of all who live in the historic Thames-side village of Strawberry Hill

No. 164 Summer 2017

A vision for the Centre of the Village

During the village planning process, a team of architects from a local practice decided that they would have a go at developing a proposal for improvements to the area around Strawberry Hill Station.

The team at Architecture:WK, based at The Powder Rooms in Teddington, have come up with the plans below, on a pro bono basis.

These suggestions, which SHRA supports, are intended to form a starting point for debate about the ways in which the station area might be improved.



KEY TO DIAGRAM

- ① Increased carriageway width to allow passing cars
- ② Pavement with bollard perimeter
- ③ Short stay, 2 hour metered parking
- ④ Loading and drop off points
- ⑤ Long stay, 4 hour metered parking
- ⑥ Pavement seating licensed to Sopa Thai
- ⑦ Waiting area
- ⑧ Bike storage
- ⑨ Ramps up to station platform
- ⑩ New footbridge set back from street
- ⑪ New platform canopies
- ⑫ Platform shops Coffee Box and KAC Minicabs
- ⑬ Station house reused for ticketing, WCs, waiting rooms and retail concessions
- ⑭ Re-position footpath
- ⑮ MKG 3000 Garage
- ⑯ Green fence to pathways

The suggested improvements aim to:

- Join the two parts of the village into a whole, by replacing the bridge with a wider one, including ramps, set back from the street.
- Give pedestrians priority.
- Reorganise the parking, road width and drop-off areas, in order to keep the traffic moving.
- Improve the Kingston platform and reuse the existing station house for its intended use.
- Provide some opportunities for retail at the station.
- Make approaches to the station safer – *especially the footpath.*
- Make the use of cycles easier.

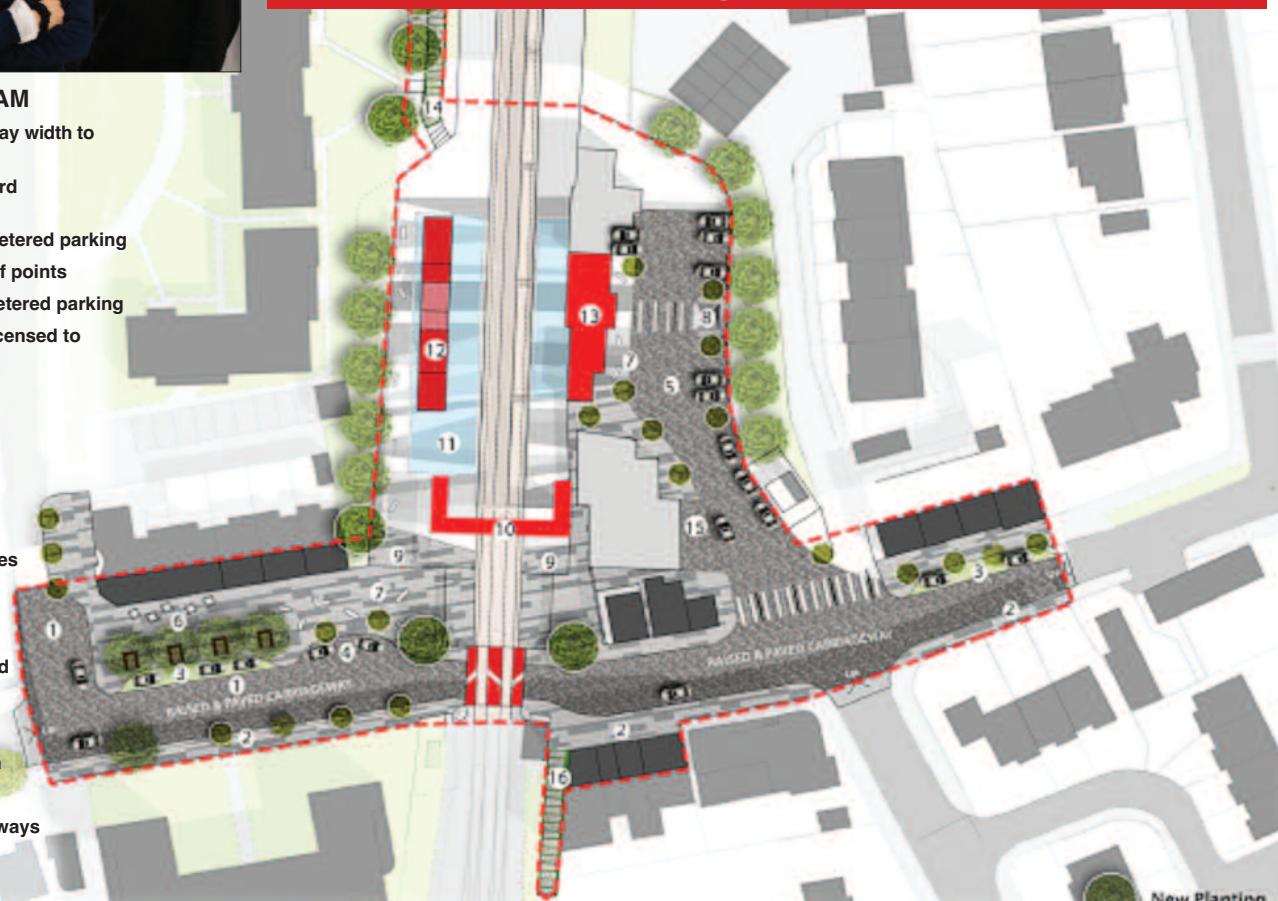
Sam Kamleh, owner of the architect studio, said:

'I started the practice in 1999 and I have always lived in Twickenham. Basically, Strawberry Hill is our village, and if you can't contribute positively to your own village, then you have slightly missed the point of being an architect. We happened to have a bit of time and we realised that the village plan consultation was going on at the same time, so we thought we would get going.'

If you have any views on these plans, which are for discussion only at this stage, you can visit the practice's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/architectureWK>
or email: studio@architecturewk.com

**LET US ALSO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK
via email: info@SHRA.org.uk or Twitter: @SHResidents**



Is St Mary's University Listening?

Local opposition to St Mary's University's proposals has been growing apace since our February Bulletin unveiled the University's plans to increase student numbers by around 70% from 5,300 to around 9,000, and build further student halls on its Strawberry Hill campus.

The University's month long public consultation on its proposals which closed on 22ndMay showed three possible options under consideration for developing the University's campuses at Strawberry Hill and Teddington Lock.

All three options involve loss of the athletics track and sports fields on the Strawberry Hill campus to make way for substantial new buildings on Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), which SHRA, and many of our residents consider is unacceptable.

The University is now evaluating the comments made by residents.

Whilst doing this we urge the University to reflect on the words of their three student union leaders, the words the University felt sufficiently important to include as part of its recruitment campaign in its 2018/19 Undergraduate prospectus –

'The choice to come to St Mary's was an easy one for me. As soon as I saw the campus I fell in love with it'; 'suburban heaven'; 'I loved the open campus'; 'the family feel around the campus and the stunning surroundings'.

We want future generations of students, as well as our residents, to be able to say the same. They will not if the current proposals go ahead.

Our views are shared by the London Branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. We are pleased to report that following our discussions with them they have added the campus onto their map of Green Belt and MOL at risk, included our campaign in one of their press releases, and will lend their voice to our opposition to the proposals.

The growing recognition within Strawberry Hill of the damaging implications of the proposals for our village and its residents has led to the formation of the Neighbours of St Mary's University (NOSMU), an active, single issue group dedicated to opposing the proposals. NOSMU's tireless efforts have certainly helped to further publicise the threat to Strawberry Hill and focus minds on the issues. Whilst SHRA and NOSMU are liaising to ensure we do not unnecessarily duplicate effort or expenditure, we both feel that we can

achieve more by retaining our distinct and separate voices against the University's proposals.

The key question is what effect, if any, is all this opposition having? Well, the timetable has certainly changed. The next big event, the issue by the Council of the St Mary's University Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation, originally scheduled for Spring 2017, is now expected in autumn 2017. Whether even this date can be achieved must be in doubt when the Planning Inspector's hearings on the Council's new Local Plan which contain contentious statements about the St Mary's site will only just have commenced. SHRA has challenged these statements and will exercise its right to speak at the hearings.

Our meetings with the University and the Council's Planning Department leave us in some doubt as to whether either of them yet fully recognise the impact the University at its current size already has on the lives of many residents, let alone the impact of the proposed growth. We similarly doubt whether they yet fully appreciate the depth of opposition to this attack on our village's MOL, and the extent of residents' anger at the arrogance in their proposal to cast aside a formal agreement not

to build further on the MOL, an agreement entered into for the benefit of all residents.

We hope the results of the consultation will persuade the University authorities that they need to plan a different way forward to achieve their ambitions. But whatever the outcome from the consultation, SHRA will continue to represent your views to the University and the Council, and will not give up on its commitment to preserve the character of our village and its open spaces.

ST MARY'S GAINS A SILVER!

The Association is delighted to acknowledge the Silver Award recently granted to St Mary's in the Teaching Excellence Framework.

Introduced as part of the Higher Education Bill, TEF recognises and rewards excellence in teaching and learning to ensure that prospective students can make informed choices about the quality of lecturers and programmes.

The TEF Panel found that St Mary's delivers high quality teaching, learning and outcomes for its students and is one of only 12 to achieve that status in London.

Staff and students are to be congratulated on this external assessment which found that the university achieved national quality standards. Well done!



PARKING CONSULTATION DEADLINE TO RESPOND – 28 JULY 2017

The Council is carrying out the first stage of a two stage consultation to gauge the level of support for a CPZ in the streets west of the railway, including the streets bounded by Hampton Road and the Green in the north, Wellesley Road/Tower Road in the west and south, and the railway in the east. This is an important household survey, and follows considerable lobbying by residents to our local councillors and Cllr. Peter Buckwell, LB Richmond upon Thames Cabinet Member for Highways and Street Scene.

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE QUESTIONNAIRE, SHRA URGES EVERYONE TO RESPOND.

The last survey was over twelve years ago, and those living in Strawberry Hill over the last decade will have noticed major deterioration in parking availability.

Residents need to consider the following when they respond to the consultation:

- 1 Increased commuter parking near the station.
- 2 St Mary's University's proposed expansion
- 3 Changes to parking control in surrounding areas. *For example:*
 - a new West Twickenham CPZ
 - the possible time extension of South Twickenham Zone E CPZ
 - the introduction of a new Zone T1 south of St Mary's around Teddington Park Road
 - an increased number of business/commercial vehicles using our streets for parking
 - the possibility of double yellow lines in Grange Avenue to improve emergency vehicle access.

The costs of CPZ and other information are on the Council website:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/cpz_times.htm

With grateful thanks to Andrew Mackenzie

Minicabs at Strawberry Hill Station

Raj Nanda, owner of Kingston Area Cars (KAC), opened an office on Strawberry Hill Station in August 2016. He has 68 cars in total operating across a wide area spanning roughly from Raynes Park to Heathrow Airport.



Raj is building up a network of local clients who get to know him and his drivers, so that they can feel safe. All drivers are trained in customer service by Raj and he is very safety-aware.

For the last four years Kingston Area Cars has been part of the Safer Travel at Night scheme in Kingston town centre, which involves working from three private hire

taxis cab kiosks at key locations. The initiative was started by Kingston First in 2006, in partnership with Kingston Council, Kingston Police and Transport for London. The scheme allows members of the public to book a private hire vehicle at the kiosk during the evenings.

Raj says that the introduction of Uber across the country has encouraged him to



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look more closely at prices and services. An App for KAC is available, but it is also possible to track a driver on the internet or to receive text messages with information about the location of the car, the registration number, and the name of the driver. He is also instigating a driver review system, which goes much further than the star-ratings of Uber, so that he can be sure that clients are receiving the best service possible.

Progress on the Village Plan

SHRA committee members attended the Village Plan Stakeholder Event at the Golf Club on May 15. Invited parties were given high level feedback on the engagement and consultation activities and then given the opportunity to discuss the key issues and opportunities identified. They were also asked to identify what community groups and the council and its partners could do to address any issues.

Parking was identified as an ongoing issue. It was announced that first stage consultation on a potential community parking zone covering most of Strawberry Hill would start on 12 June and continue until the end of July. Two major concerns were raised – firstly the fact that students will be on holiday during this time and secondly that second stage consultation on the details of the implementation of a community parking zone in the Hamilton Road area on the north side of Twickenham Green ends on 23 June. Parking controls in that area which stretches from the railway bridge on Heath Road to the Meadow will have a big impact on residents in roads close to the Green.

Attendees at the meeting were shown plans, produced by a local architect, that provide a revised vision for the centre of Strawberry Hill village and which would significantly enhance the area. SHRA will be working with the council to share these exciting plans with residents (see our front page). The draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) includes some of the concepts from the architects' vision for the centre of the village. The consultation on the SPD is currently underway. If you have not already fed in your views on the accuracy of the key elements of your street and area, and what needs to be protected, **please try to do so before the consultation closes on 28 July.** The consultation response form can be completed on the council website: www.richmond.gov.uk/village_plans

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However, as pointed out to the Council representatives by many of the attendees at the drop-in session to launch the SDP, the most important current planning issue in our village, the proposed expansion of the University, is not dealt with in the Village Plan SPD. Instead it is to be set out in a separate SPD for the university site, to be consulted on in the autumn, when key elements of the village plan will already have been largely completed.

Given the impact the proposed expansion and new building will have on the character of the area, and all our lives, it is unforgiveable that this is excluded from the current consultation.

IF YOU HAVE VIEWS ON ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY'S PROPOSALS (SEE PAGE 2), PLEASE STATE THEM IN SECTION 4 OF THE CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM.



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH DEVELOPMENTS

SHRA's bulletin is published three times a year and distributed to every residence in Strawberry Hill. We try to keep you up to date with the latest news in the village, but sometimes things happen in between our usual publications and we feel that an occasional email to let you know of recent local issues might be useful. We have compiled an email list which comprises the email addresses from SHRA membership subscription forms and also those of local residents who have asked to be added to the list. If you would like to be added, please drop an email to: cathy@cathybird.me.uk and we will add you to our list.

Developments at the station? **NetworkRail**

You may remember that in a previous Bulletin (Winter 2016), we outlined the efforts we have been making to contact Network Rail about the station building works.

Well, our chairman has finally received a reply. Here it is.

Subject

Reporting dry rot – Platform 1 – Strawberry Hill Station

Dear Mr Cornwell,

Thank you for contacting Network Rail with regards to the works that have taken place at Platform 1 and the Station Building at Strawberry Hill.

Firstly I apologise for the time that it has taken for me to respond, I have been trying to locate the right person to speak to with regards to the information you require.

I can confirm that the works we carried out to the property were primarily carried out for maintenance reasons, that is, to repair the roof and ensure that the structure is properly maintained and secured. There were issues with pigeons gaining access to the property which I believe has been resolved as a result of these repairs.

The works were not carried out with any direct short-term intention of re-letting the property, as it remains unlettable at this moment in time and would require significant investment before an occupier could operate out of it.

This is a commercial unit which, taking a long-term view, should serve to be brought into productive use (rather than left vacant). Having said this, there are currently no plans for Network Rail to invest in making this a lettable unit at this current time.

I trust this information is satisfactory and once again, please accept my apologies for the time that it has taken me to respond to you.

Kind regards
Kirsty Scott

Question Reference # 170223-000312

Hunt for Heroes

Committee vice-chair Peter Lamb continues his investigation into Strawberry Hill in the First World War

The war memorial of Holy Trinity Church by Twickenham Green stands in a rather inconspicuous position on the north eastern side of the church. Sadly the inscriptions of the names of the fallen are almost entirely illegible, but it is possible to make out that of William James Morrell who I have been researching recently. William James Urban Morrell was born in Twickenham in 1883 and lived at 1 Radnor Road in 1911 when his employment was given as motor engineer. Unsurprisingly his role in the war was in mechanical transport serving as a private in the Royal Army Service Corps attached to the Royal Engineers in the 253rd tunnelling company. He died of wounds on 12th August 1918 and is buried at Pernois cemetery in Halloy-lès-Pernois north of Amiens.

The cemetery was formed to bury those who died at the Number 4 Casualty clearing station which was at Pernois from April to August 1918. The cemetery contains 403 Commonwealth burials and 17 German war graves. I can infer from the time and place that he was a casualty of the Battle of Amiens. In the Spring of 1918 the Germans launched a major push. Reinforced by units that had moved from the Eastern front following the treaty with Russia, the Germans made substantial gains, but by the summer, momentum had faltered and the allied counterattack, the Battle of Amiens, began at the beginning of August. It is likely that William Morrell lost his life in the first stages of this battle. He had a happier association with Holy Trinity Church when he married Margaret Power there in March 1910. It is possible that the Margaret Morrell who died in Richmond in 1973 aged 92 was his widow.

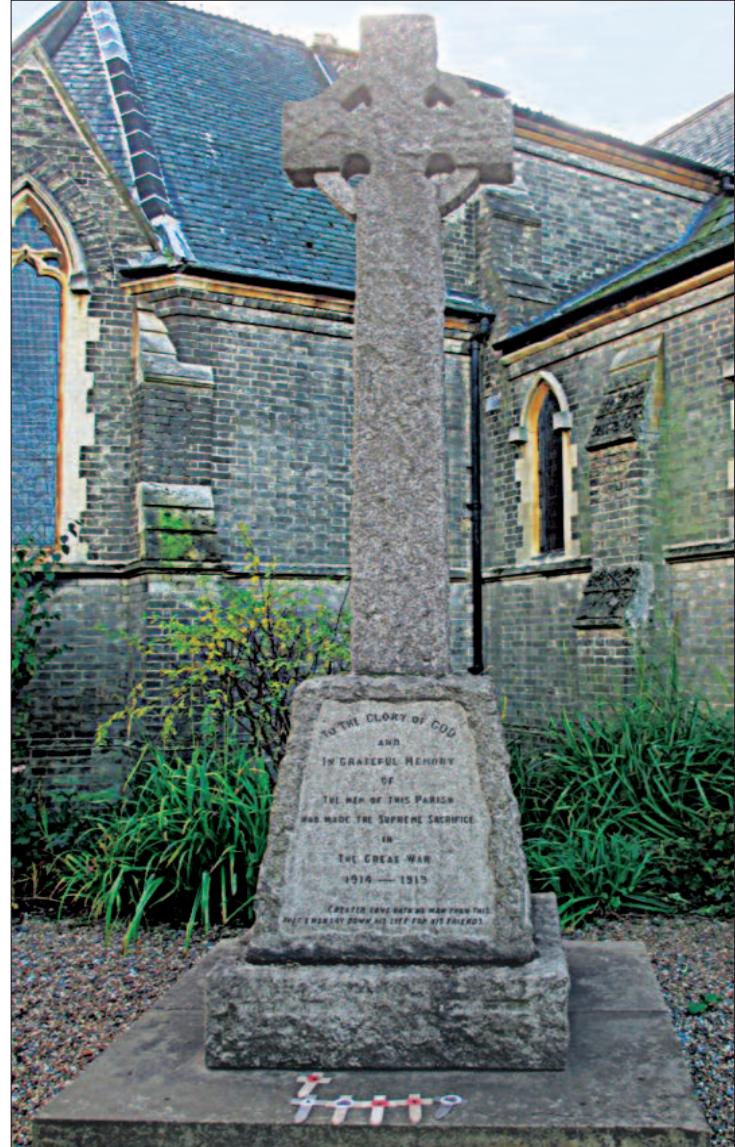
On the subject of our local war memorials, I should mention the excellent work that has been done on the War Memorial at St Mary's Church, Twickenham by Jeremy and Sue Hamilton Miller. Their book "The Fallen of St Mary's Parish, Twickenham" published by the Twickenham Local History Society is the culmination of their research into the people of Twickenham who lost their lives in the Great War. The parish of St Mary's extends to only a small part of Strawberry Hill as we define it, but I note that Henry Godfrey of Bonser Road who I wrote about previously is one of the fallen included in the book. Copies of the book can be purchased from the Twickenham Museum.

I have one more name, a survivor, to add at this point, namely Arthur Clement McCorry who lived at 54 Pope's Grove. The son of James McCorry, a leather merchant born in Ireland, he served as a private in the Machine Gun Corps of the Royal Fusiliers from July 1915, and at the end of that year was commissioned and raised to the rank of Lieutenant. I have not found any further details of his service, but electoral records show that he continued to live at

54 Pope's Grove after the war. He was born in Twickenham in 1896, married in 1931 and died in Worthing in September 1943.

Since I started my quest, I have documented in these articles the names of 15 residents of Strawberry Hill who served in the Great War, the fallen and the survivors.

My research continues.



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Late Summer Gathering – 9th September

Following the success of last year's Radnor Gardens 'do' and the leaving party for the Patels, the SHRA committee would like to invite residents to join us again for a drink and a get-together on Saturday 9th September, from 5.00pm at Radnor Gardens Café.

The voucher (below) will secure a free drink (glass of wine, pint of beer, soft drink or non-alcoholic wine) for the first 100 residents to present it to the licensed event bar. The café will also be selling barbequed food.

Do come along and join us for an evening of food, drink and chat!



Strawberry Hill Residents' Association

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A message from the Chairman

At present, the SHRA bulletin is delivered to 2,400 homes in Strawberry Hill, free of charge. We only receive subscriptions from about 6% of those homes, which sadly means that we are not able to do all the things we would wish to do, like promoting social events or fighting causes that matter to you, as residents.

We do not intend to make membership dependent on subscriptions and will continue to deliver to every household. However, we would ask all of you who read the bulletin and value its regular appearance to consider

contributing to the Association, in order to cover our basic costs and provide us with a little reserve to take on those issues about which you are most concerned.

The minimum subscription has been £5 for many years, but larger sums will, of course, continue to be welcome!

The Association will be all the stronger if our income from subscriptions rises. If you would like to pay regularly by standing order, please contact our treasurer Cathy Bird by phone or email: info@SHRA.org.uk

With many thanks for your continuing support.
David Cornwell

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For advertising or editorial questions, please email: info@SHRA.org.uk Twitter: @SHResidents

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THE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

David Cornwell *Chairman*
020 8941 6513

Peter Lamb *Vice Chair*
lambpc0950@hotmail.com

Cathy Bird *Hon. Treasurer*
020 8892 6990

Pam Crisp *Hon. Secretary*
020 8898 1878

MEMBERS

Mike Allsop
020 8891 1614

Julia Fiehn *Bulletin Editor*
020 8892 3920
juliafiehn@blueyonder.co.uk

Lyndon Law

Charles Owens

Teresa Read

Claire Tomlins