

Summary of comments on Kingston Riverside proposals, Feb 2018

Northern section - Canbury Gardens, Lower Ham Road and towpath to borough boundary: it's good to see so many references to ecology, conservation, tree-planting, tree conservation and tree replacement, more diverse and natural planting, and to wildlife and biodiversity (e.g. paras 3.7.5, 4.3.2): for example in proposals to re-vegetate the river edges and plant more pollinating species in this northern section of the riverside. More habitat and foraging provision for wildlife, for example by planting wildflowers and leaving towpath verges unmown and allowed to go to seed would be welcome. Information boards explaining this policy (as in some London parks) will be essential. Taking more active measures than hitherto to screen the river and riverside green spaces from intrusive lighting (from buildings, street and path lighting, and from sports facilities) and inappropriate development would be welcome, as would be steps to reduce light pollution and its consequent negative impacts on wildlife such as birds, bats and insects. Proposals to green and improve the southern approach to Canbury Gardens could include green walls on riverside buildings,

'Improving connectivity and making a coherent movement network' (p.36)	Strongly agree
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'Open space and active riverside' section (p.31)	Strongly agree
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'Making Space for water and biodiversity' section (p.35)	Strongly agree
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Any other comments

It is obviously better to allow a park to flood than to let homes and businesses flood, but is the proposed space for water in Canbury Gardens large enough to make much difference?

Improving connectivity for walkers and cyclists, and joining up riverside cycle paths with the rest of Kingston's network of cycle paths is well overdue. The long-term, but somehow never implemented, plans to open the upper path in Canbury Gardens to cyclists as well as pedestrians are endorsed in these proposals. This path is wide, smooth and well-lit, very suitable for sharing, and this change is in the SDP and very welcome. Clear signage about the shared nature of the path would help to reduce conflict, as would reserving the lower path beside the river just for walkers. Cars driving and parking along the riverside path should be stopped as they increase dangers and reduce attractiveness for walkers

Equally the proposal in section 4.4 to route coaches carefully to avoid cycle and pedestrian routes is welcome, as Steadfast Road becoming a busy thoroughfare or a coach park would be unwelcome. Better connectivity from Barge Dock area into the town centre via the John Lewis riverside is now needed - it is currently a de facto quiet cycle path but is essentially a "missing link" that could be improved and legitimised - with good signage and better visibility in places.

Please tell us to what extent you agree with the below sections of chapter 5.0 (character of the riverside) of the supplementary planning document

Canbury Gardens (p.48-51) Strongly agree

Town End to Ravens Ait (p.72-75) Agree

Any other comments

Water fountains and recycling bins along the riverside could help to reduce litter.

Seething Wells could be secured as a local nature reserve / space for water, which would protect the resident bats and birds. "Visitor attractions" (p33) to Seething Wells should be resisted: restricted day-time access to this area could increase public awareness and support for its wildlife, but a hide would be better for wildlife than the viewing platform suggested on p7; and lighting and night-time access should not be permitted. .

Please describe and explain any other likes and dislikes of the Riverside area.

The 2017 Draft London Plan supports "Providing land for food growing helps to support the creation of a healthier food environment. At the local scale, it can help promote more active lifestyles and better diets, and improve food security. Community food growing not only helps to improve social integration and community cohesion, but can also contribute to improved mental and physical health and wellbeing." But there is nothing in these proposals about food growing, though there are some to community use and hubs, and we would welcome more support and security for this and other community food-growing projects in under-used or neglected spaces/planters along the riverside.