

“Hello!
We’d like to talk to
You
about Kingston’s
Old Post Office”



Heart of the Community

The Old Post Office in Kingston used to be a hub for the community, but since it closed over 10 years ago the building has stood empty. Now community organisations in Kingston are asking people to join us to make the Old Post Office a community hub once more! Please read this leaflet and respond with your ideas and support.

Part of Kingston’s Heritage

Built in 1875, the year Alexander Graham Bell made the first voice transmission, these red brick Victorian buildings comprise a three-story Head Post Office, a marble sorting hall and a separate sorting office and depot. The main building is Grade II listed because of its historical and architectural importance.

Post Office



Ashdown Road
Marble Hall

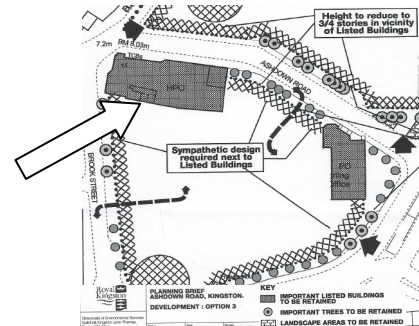
Sorting Office



From the ‘Fall of Eden’ ...

In 2002 planners dreamt of creating a new quarter in this location to be called *Eden Quarter*. Community and leisure uses were recommended including a new public library. As the listed building was not considered suitable for a modern library its fate was uncertain.

Developers Hammerson accepted the planning brief and bought the site but were unable to build out when the recession hit.



Source: http://www.kingston.gov.uk/ashdown_road.pdf

... to New Possibilities

Times have changed suggesting new ways of breaking the deadlock.

- In 2007 with Eden Quarter still on the drawing board, the government's Quirk Review suggested new ways of turning former public buildings into **community assets**. Recently, new '**Localism**' legislation has made it much easier for community groups to own and manage buildings and run local services.
- In 2011 the Council's **One Kingston** strategy invited local people to contribute to '*creating a sense of place to meet the challenges that our community faces over the next 10 years*'. Source: <http://bit.ly/NBadKs>
- In July 2012 Community and Arts organisations in Kingston including Kingston Environment Centre, Fusion Arts and Transition Town Kingston formed an **action group** to secure the future of the Old Post Office for the community. We considered ideas like these:
 - Social meeting place with Café and internet access
 - Hub / small business working space
 - Multi-purpose arts space
 - Environmental activity / information centre
 - Charity service delivery point, education / training centre.



Will you join us to realise the dream of new community and leisure facilities in the Old Post Office?

Have Your Say!

Please tell us what you or your organisation thinks about restoring the Old Post Office to community use and what sort of place YOU would like it to become. You can contact us in lots of ways.

Email us with your opinion to jean@kingstoneco.org.uk

Join our Facebook Group and let us know what you think
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/topokut/>

Write to us and post or drop in to:

Kingston Environment Centre, Fairfield East, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2PT (Tel. 020 8549 2698).

(It would help us if you could reply by **15 October 2012**, and please tell us if you live and/or work in Kingston and where.)

Join in and Put the Heart Back into Kingston!