

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

At the same time as we develop the business plan for the River Centre building, we are also starting to implement the services that we will eventually run from it. Primary among these is our environmental education work. Organised by our partnership project Richmond Environment Network, the Schools Environment Forum provides practical advice and support to schools across the borough to develop wildlife gardens, food-growing programmes and many other environmental initiatives.



Our environmental education adviser, Joe Pecorelli, has also been running workshops at Orleans Arts Education Centre, encouraging children from Chase Bridge Primary School and Christ's School Richmond to explore the riverside site and history of the former Twickenham swimming pool. Taking the roles of planners, councillors, architects and future users, the students devised a brief for the River Centre building and a programme of potential activities. Their proposals include stepping stones and board walks in the river, sensory gardens, nature walks, river trips, and aquariums.

INVALUABLE SUPPORT

In addition to generous funding from City Bridge Trust to help us with development costs and support Joe's educational work, we are delighted to have already received over £3000 in donations from local residents. This is a tremendous help in enabling us to pay for expert advice and consultancy. People are helping not just with money but by contributing their time, energy and expertise for free - at a rough estimate, the *pro bono* support that we have already received would be worth over £200,000 if we had to pay for it. We will also be benefitting from research funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, who have agreed to support a PhD student at Kingston University exploring how the River Centre can be developed and used as a teaching tool for sustainable development.

If you would like to find out more or get involved with the River Centre, the Schools Environment Forum or any of our other projects, then please do get in touch by calling the Trust office on 020 8891 5455 or e-mailing office@environmenttrust.co.uk.

COME TO OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We will be holding our AGM on 19th June 2008 at the Orangery, Ham House. The evening will start at 7 pm and the formal proceedings will be followed by an informal session in which local resident Bamber Gascoigne will interview the River Centre's patron Sir David Attenborough.

As space is limited, admission will be by ticket only and PLACES MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE. Entry is free for Environment Trust members and those only staying for the AGM; non-Trust members staying for the talk are asked to pay £10 per person.



ENVIRONMENT TRUST FOR RICHMOND UPON THAMES

55 Heath Road, Twickenham TW1 4AW 020 8891 5455
office@environmenttrust.co.uk www.environmenttrust.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 294869
Company registered in England No. 02030430 and limited by guarantee



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
v3 09May08



TWICKENHAM RIVER CENTRE

Patron: Sir David Attenborough

DEVELOPMENT GO-AHEAD

Unanimous decision from council cabinet

On 14 April 2008, the Richmond upon Thames council cabinet voted unanimously to go ahead with the development brief process for the Twickenham riverside site. The development brief will include the River Centre, an enhanced children's play area and new public open space, along with improvements to the river frontage and the removal of parking from the riverside to the rear of the site, funded by new housing along the northern and western sides of the site. The River Centre project team will be closely involved in the process of finalising the brief and selecting developers and architects, to ensure that the chosen design team shares our enthusiasm for a distinctive sustainable building.

PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM

At a public consultation run by the council in February, the Environment Trust independently surveyed visitors about their views on the River Centre. We were delighted with the responses, which showed overwhelming support for this project, along with some great ideas for activities that we could run in the River Centre.

Questionnaire responses

Total responses = 128
In favour of River Centre = 112 (18 regretted need for enabling development)
Opposed to River Centre = 16

What would you like to see the River Centre used for?

Suggestions so far include...

🐾 activities and entertainment for teenager 🐾 artists' space 🐾 canoeing 🐾
climate change information 🐾 displays on environment and nature 🐾 flooding information
🐾 how the river works 🐾 local wildlife history 🐾 reference library 🐾 river crafts 🐾
river ecology 🐾 river history 🐾 river wildlife 🐾 river-related films 🐾 sailing 🐾 sea scouting
🐾 tide tables 🐾 types of boats used 🐾 water safety 🐾 water-quality monitoring 🐾

Do let us know your own ideas