



Freepost Plus RTKU-XZRT-CTHR
Cratus Communications
Alpha House
100 Borough High Street
London
SE1 1LB



Dear Resident,

This ballot provides your chance to have a view and an input into an exciting new piece of infrastructure which would enable those of us in Sunbury to cross the Thames on foot, or on a bike, without having to go to Walton or Hampton Court bridge, and to more easily enjoy the facilities and the Thames Path National Trail towpath on the south side; and for those on the South side of the River, to enjoy the facilities and shops in Sunbury.

The proposal to construct a cycle/footbridge over the Thames connecting Lower Sunbury to the Thames Path National Trail is not new. Under the auspices of the Thames Overways Projects (TOPS), it was very much on the political agenda at the turn of the millennium. Sadly, however, whilst receiving widespread support both from local communities and special interest groups including Sustrans, the project was eventually shelved due to competing funding priorities. The Lower Sunbury Residents' Association (LOSRA) is nevertheless anxious to resuscitate the project which is also supported by both Spelthorne and Elmbridge Councils' local committees.

The River Thames is one of our greatest assets, but it's also a barrier between places where people live, work and take their leisure. LOSRA believes that a car-free bridge would be of enormous benefit to a wide area both north and south of the River. It would mean safer and shorter non-polluting journeys to work, schools and recreation. In short, the river is a beautiful linear park but it also prevents easy sharing of the excellent amenities that exist on either side of the waterway.

LOSRA succeeded in securing the funding for a full feasibility report on possible crossing points. This has now been completed and is available at www.losra.org. It should be stressed that the consultation is being limited to possible site selections only. To have included design options for each site at this stage would have proved prohibitively expensive. The report should therefore be regarded as a first overview to inform everyone, not a definitive document upon which any final decisions will be made. The next stage, when it comes, will be a much more detailed proposal for us all to consider.

I'm sure you will, as I do, have a view on the criteria used and what other criteria, if any, need to be built into the next stage. However, the most important principle is to provide this knowledge and background for the public consultation stage, so that everyone who is interested can have a view.

Whichever site is ultimately chosen, I'm sure it will bring huge added benefits to residents on both sides of the Thames. Being able to cross the River at Sunbury is a long held ambition for many of us in the locality and it's hoped that you share that ambition too.

If you would prefer to give us your thoughts via email, please get in touch with Alex our Consultation Manager at agriffiths@cratus.co.uk.

Paul Thompson

Hon. Chairman, Lower Subury Residents' Association (LOSRA)