

SOUTH TWICKENHAM NEWS

AUTUMN/WINTER 2022



Green Party



YOUR COUNCILLOR
RICHARD BENNETT

COST OF LIVING CRISIS WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

Richard knows that a lot of residents are worried about how to pay their gas and electricity bills. In the longer term we need to increase the amount of renewable energy produced, and we urgently need to make homes and businesses much more energy efficient. But, right now, many people need help to pay bills that are going through the roof.

INFORMATION FROM COUNCIL

Go to Richmond Council's Cost of Living Hub:
richmond.gov.uk/services/cost_of_living_hub/cost_of_living_bills
It has information about fuel grants, winter fuel payments and the Warm Homes discount scheme. You can then call the Council on **020 8891 1411** and ask for the department you need.

MONEY TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS

The Government is giving £150 to all households in Council Tax Band A-D properties (or Band E with disabled band reduction). This is known as the Council Tax Energy Rebate. Households who did not apply by the deadline of 31st October will not miss out - Richmond has credited the £150 directly to their Council Tax Account. See:
richmond.gov.uk/services/council_tax/energy_rebate_payments
There is also the Government Energy Support Scheme (see www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-the-energy-bills-support-scheme-discount) where all eligible households should be given £400 towards their energy bills.

HELP WITH KEEPING WARM & SAVING ENERGY

Contact the South West London Energy Advice Partnership (SWLEAP). SWLEAP provides energy advice to anyone struggling with energy bills. This could be an energy visit to your home but they also provide advice at energy cafes in community settings, over the telephone or by email if you prefer.

- Website: swleap.org.uk
- Telephone: **0800 086 2706**
- Email: susan@habitatsandheritage.org.uk

WHERE TO GET FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Citizens Advice Richmond provides advice on issues such as claiming benefits, employment issues, housing, immigration, debt, etc. It also offers hardship grants on behalf of other local funders and food vouchers.

Website: citizensadvice-richmond.org
Telephone: **0808 278 787**



South West London Law Centres has expert advisers who can check you're getting the money you should be. They can apply for discounts and grants for you, advise on benefits claims, help you reduce household bills and offer support with form filling and accessing services.
Email: crisis@swllc.org
Call: freephone **0808 109 8032** to leave a message.

LOCAL HARDSHIP FUNDS

The Hampton Fund is just for our local area. It supports individuals and families on low incomes (as well as voluntary groups) to cover their bills and other essential items: www.hamptonfund.co.uk/individual-grants/. It's also worth checking this website to see whether you may be eligible for any other local funds:
grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/

HELP WITH FOOD

The Real Junk Food project makes use of surplus food to offer affordable, healthy meals and surplus take-away hubs at the ETNA Community Café, outside Noble Green Wines on Hampton Hill High Street on Tues mornings, and at Linden Hall Hampton.

Visit: www.trjftwickenham.com/about-us

If you need help from a food bank, or want to donate to one, see: richmond.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/ or call **07516935655**.

The nearest food bank to here is 9.30-12.30am on Fridays at Whitton Community Centre (TW2 6JL).

RICHARD BENNETT: WORKING TO GET THINGS DONE IN SOUTH TWICKENHAM

WARM SPACES IN RICHMOND

See: www.richmond.gov.uk/services/cost_of_living_hub/warm_spaces/warm_spaces_directory and www.warmwelcome.uk for warm space information, times and locations.

The nearest spaces in this area are at Heatham House, St. Stephen's Church, Teddington Library, Twickenham Library, Heathfield Children's Centre and Whitton Library and Whitton Youth Zone.



ADDRESSING THE HOUSING CRISIS

Earlier this month Richard led a council debate on whether LBRUT should radically change our social housing approach (build our own again) to address our shortage of family homes for rent. Green Party Councillor Caroline Wren also proposed a Motion, which was passed Unanimously to provide private renters with greater support and protection of their rights.

TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE LATEST

The winning design for redeveloping the Twickenham Riverside site, arrived at after a lengthy consultation process, has been approved by the Planning Committee subject to a legal decision on the Compulsory Purchase Order of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens site. Needless to say, the final design will never completely satisfy everyone, but Richard believes it's high time that this was moved forward. You can find out more about the plan here: bit.ly/3YheRs4.



CAN I HELP YOU?



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