

The Hydrograph

Newsletter of Ham Hydro CIC¹

December 2011

Clean Energy by the Community, for the Community

Welcome to our first issue...



Stop Press.....

Our planning application has just been submitted and is available online at:

<http://idoxwam.richmond.gov.uk/WAM/showCaseFile.do?&appNumber=11/3908/FUL>

To support our planning application, please click on "Comment" and register your support online. If you prefer, it is also possible to make a written statement of support to the Council.

News Update



James Heather, Project Manager
Chas Warlow, Managing Director

It feels like autumn has stolen up on us and some of our supporters may not have heard from us for a while, but there's no doubt the project is still catching local people's imagination

¹ Ham Hydro is registered as a community interest company (CIC) under the number 07231031

and so much has been going on. So here's an update of what we've been doing over the summer period:

- ❖ 30 September 2011: Public meeting held at St John's Ambulance Hall, Teddington – over 100 people attended. A presentation of the scheme was given and questions invited from the audience. The general mood was overwhelmingly positive: *"The audience, I felt, were really appreciative of the explanations and displays, and of the amount of work that has gone into this worthwhile project."* (Teddington Society Energy Group spokesperson).
- ❖ 16 June 2011: Public meeting held at Grey Court School, Ham – around 70 people attended. Much interest was shown in the scheme and the general impression was that residents are supportive, though local anglers raised some concerns. We hope we have addressed those concerns. (See 'Design' section, pages 3 & 4)
- ❖ Presentation given to Richmond Society (19 May 2011) – around 60 people attended. Well-received presentation and many attendees requested further information. *"The audience was left in no doubt about the enthusiasm James and Chas have brought to the project but more important was the professionalism they have brought to pushing through such an innovative scheme and getting the backing of important stakeholders. Let us hope they secure the funding and the project succeeds, to the undoubted benefit of local residents and the environment."* (Extract from the Richmond Society newsletter, Autumn 2011)
- ❖ Stall at Ham Fair (11 June 2011) – dozens of people stopped at the stall, asked questions and pledged their support.
- ❖ Stall at Ham House 'Sow and Grow' event (29 May 2011) – a healthy crop of supporters was gleaned at this event
- ❖ Stall at Richmond May Fair (14th May 2011) – Plenty of pledges of support received, plus requests for more information on the scheme.

After being named in the shortlist of the top 100 community energy projects eligible for the British Gas and River Cottage funding scheme *energysshare*, we learned just the other day that we had been unsuccessful in getting through to the final round. However, the scheme has brought us media exposure and a host of supporters – you people who are among the recipients of this newsletter, so thanks for your support.

Press Coverage



Peter Rixon, Communications Director

The Papers: The project recently featured in the Business section of the Mail on Sunday on October 16th. See the article at:

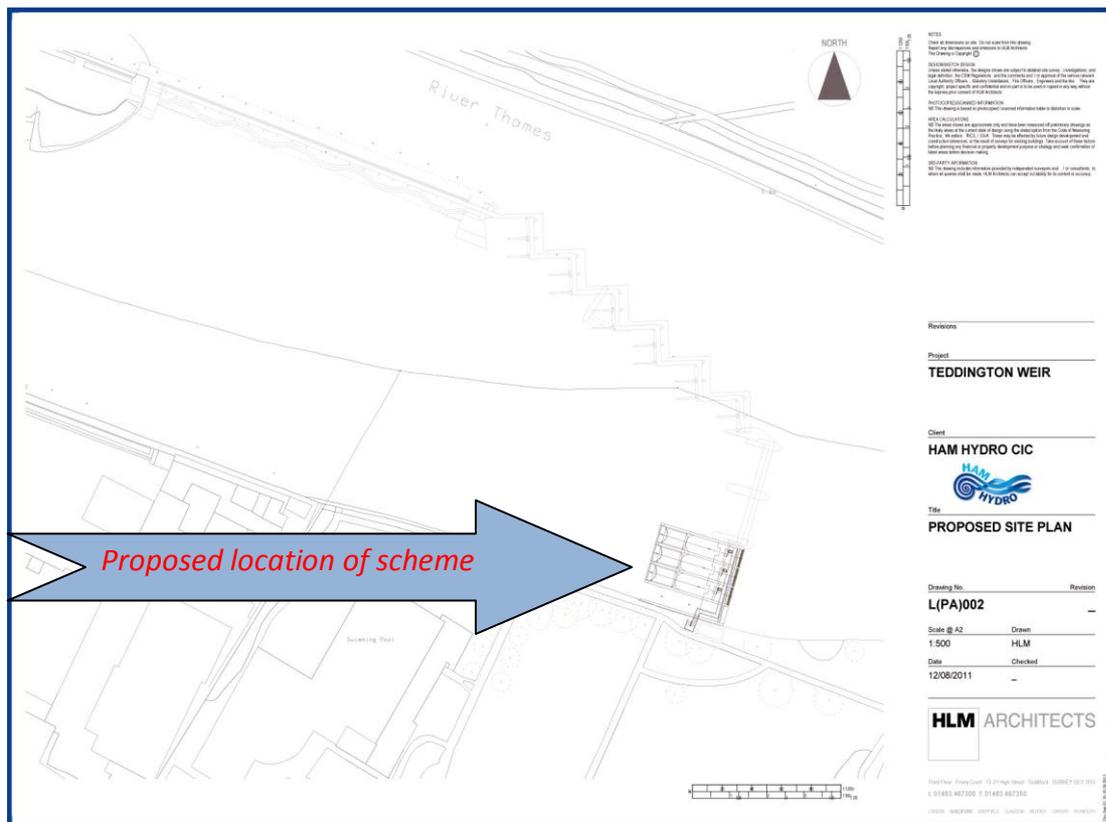
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/news/article-2049537/Green-light-2-8m-river-power-scheme.html>

Online: Ham Hydro now has a dedicated website: www.hamhydro.org

We also have a page on the Ham United Group website, giving information on the scheme. The page has received around 200 hits every month since it was created. <http://e-voice.org.uk/hamunitedgroup/ham-hydro/>

Planning

As you can see from the site plan below, the only section of the weir to be modified by our proposed project will be the 22-metre-long section from the Teddington bank to the large roller sluices. We will be upgrading the existing fish passage and adding a sluice gate to mitigate any perceived increased flood risk.



Design News



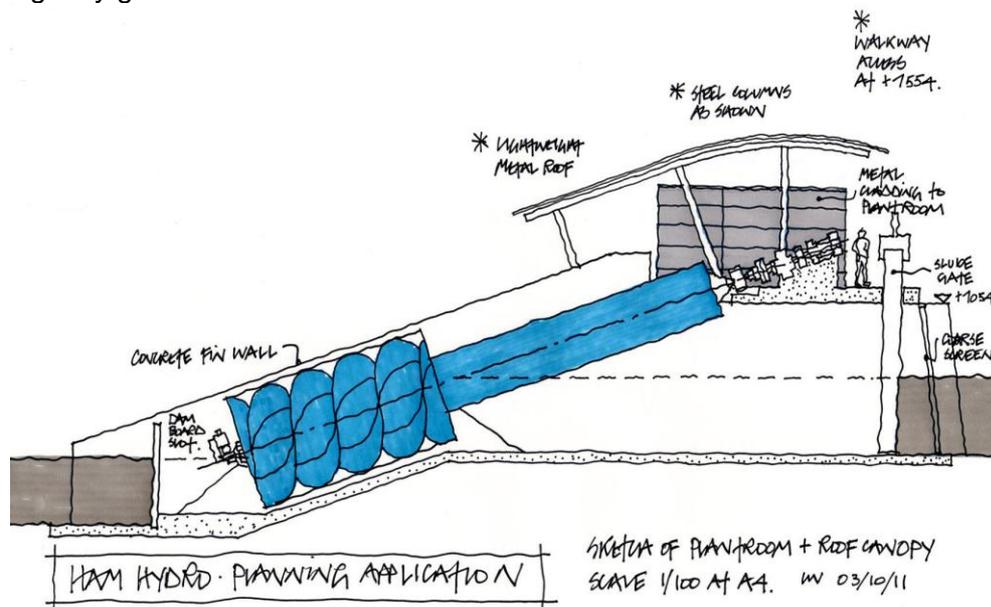
Paul Parker, Technical Director

Many thanks to HLM Architects (especially Leslie Welch) for their *pro bono* work (that means for free, by the way, which also applies to the entire team) and also Kingston College student, Masood Tahir for providing us with a photomontage for each of our public meetings. Our new design involves 3 four-metre Archimedean screws and the yield will be

approximately 1,900,000 kWh per annum: enough to provide electricity for roughly 600 homes. Here is what we intend the project to look like:



It's not really possible to get a clear view of two key features of the design: the first is the new state-of-the-art Larinier fish pass (3 metres in width), which will accommodate the passage of a variety of fish species and upgrade the existing situation; the second feature is a sluice gate which will mitigate any additional flood risk created by the project. This sluice gate will be directly below the red box on the left-hand side of the installation. What is the red box? And does it have to be red? It is, of course, the housing for the transformer gear (it could be any colour). A temporary fish pass will also be installed to enable fish passage during the construction period. This fish pass has been designed following Environment Agency guidelines.



Funding News



Gerhard Müller, Marketing Director
Daniel Thomson, Financial Director

Buy a brick to help build the Ham Hydro project!

We are approaching a critical phase in the project from a funding and financing perspective. After completing the design just ahead of submission for planning, we are also in the final stages of confirming all costs for construction. We need this to get risk out of the project and confirm our existing financial model and the overall viability of the project.

This is the right time now to raise seed capital to get us over a critical stage where we do not have planning permission but still need to keep the ball rolling. Once we have received planning permission, we will open the share issue to the wider public with very low risk. A virtual “brick” costs just £20.00.

Please go to our website www.hamhydro.org and click on “Invest in Ham Hydro” to buy your brick via PayPal, or send a cheque to our office address (*Lower Deck, Phoenix Wharf, Eel Pie Island, Twickenham TW1 3DY*). In addition, if you are, or you know anyone, individuals and businesses, who would be interested in providing early stage financial support, please register your interest by emailing invest@hamhydro.org.uk or forward this message to your friends.

There are a variety of options: exclusive sponsorship opportunities for businesses; you could become a patron of Ham Hydro, or you could supply us with a loan at a very attractive rate of return. Following planning permission being granted we will be launching a general share issue to enable every individual in the community to invest in the project. Financial returns from the project will be used not only to provide a financial return to members but to invest in other community renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

Help to reduce local people’s energy bills

We want our community to have ownership of the project through buying shares, but we are also aware of how tight money is for most people at the moment, so we are trying to find ways that the project could help: we are working out how we could set up a special tariff for local households currently finding it hard to make ends meet or set aside some of the revenue of the scheme to alleviate fuel poverty.

Infopoint Real Time Monitoring



Alex Beckett, Environmental Director

The Information Point

Ham Hydro has already engaged a product design company, Jedco, to design an information point to help educate the local community and visitors about the project. The information point, which we hope to position on the footbridge facing the weir, will have the functionality to provide: **information about the project and local flora and fauna; and an LED display providing figures relating to the renewable energy generated by the facility (an 'accumulator')**. Consistent with Ham Hydro's principles, **the information point will be solar powered**.

The following image provides an indication of the design and how the information point will look in situ. (Picture courtesy of Jedco.)



The Sponsorship Opportunity - There is an opportunity for organisations to be publicized on the information point to demonstrate support for the project and the local environs. The display will be an A1 size poster, illuminated at night by people walking by (via a passive infra red sensor), which will be changed 4 times a year (following the seasons) which facilitates short or long term sponsorship options. Suggested sponsorship options are being drawn up for release in the next few weeks.

Legal Stuff



Mary Walsh, Legal Director

We have already signed an exclusivity agreement with the landlords of the site, the Environment Agency (EA) – we are now in the process of agreeing a lease with the EA covering the rights Ham Hydro needs to install and operate the equipment and including the level of rent Ham Hydro will have to pay.

We are also in the process of negotiating the land arrangements for the route of the cables that will connect the generation plant to the distribution network. These have to be negotiated with local landowners.

Negotiations are also in place for the supply of equipment, construction contracts and the sale of the electricity. All of these have to be rigorously worked through because not only do the terms have to be acceptable to Ham Hydro, they also have to be acceptable to lenders. This means minimising the amount of risk to the project and ensuring we get the best deal

possible. We will shortly commence the process of negotiating loan and security documents with prospective lenders.

Finally, we are also in the process of incorporating the industrial and provident society (IPS) that will be the vehicle we will use for the community share issue. We have some help from Share Energy Co-Op on this as they have a wide range of experience in doing this. The IPS will be registered with the Financial Services Authority and the rules we adopt will govern how the IPS is run for the life of the project.

Other news...

Fundraising, Governance & Stakeholder Engagement



Jean Loveland, Organisational Policy Management

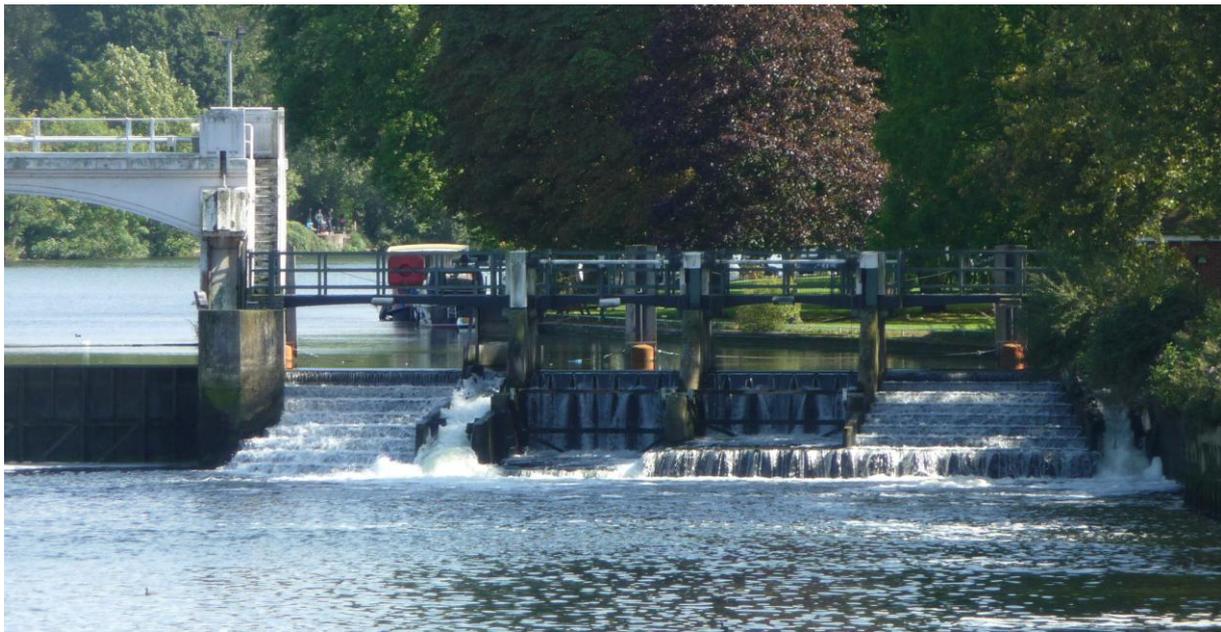
We need to always remind ourselves that the project has been designed to provide a community benefit – not just in terms of electricity generated, but in terms of the revenue which will flow into the community as a result of sales to the grid or to an end-user. There are already so many community projects going on in Ham and Petersham (and in other parts of the borough of Richmond) which could be supported by funds generated by Ham Hydro: the Low Carbon Zone is working very well and a second phase could well be rolled out in 2012; the Green New Deal is going to require a range of qualified professionals to provide retrofitting services – HUG is already looking ahead to this scheme; a bike repair workshop has started in Ham and is very successful but will need support to continue its great work; we want to continue our food-growing initiatives, like the community allotment at Grey Court School, and extend these activities.

Thank you! - To all our supporters...of all kinds.

Thanks must also go to all the members of **Ham United Group (HUG)** who have tirelessly supported the project, especially **Andrew Beedham** for his planning advice and **Tibor Miklos** for setting up our new website, www.hamhydro.org; the Anglers pub for allowing us to put up posters on their railings, the Teddington Society for organising the public meeting in Teddington; law firm Norton Rose, accountancy firm Grant Thornton (more *pro bono* work), Carbon Leapfrog – and, last but not least all our other supporters, who are keeping us on track.

And a final thank you to **Paul Cattermole** for producing this newsletter!

For more details about HAM HYDRO see our website: www.hamhydro.org



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