

UPPER DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETING 01/04/2025

- At the public meeting held on Tuesday 1st April 2025, our CEO, Robin Mortimer, along with members from our Executive Committee, provided an update on the work being carried out in the upper district area. This includes publishing the new edition of the [Tideway Code](#), installing new signage at Richmond Lock and Weir and spending £160,000 in 2024 on tree management works to improve the towpath and riverside environment.
- Robin highlighted progress towards our [Thames Vision](#) strategy goals, such as last year's launching of the [Clean Thames](#) and [Net Zero River](#) plans, developed in partnership with stakeholders, and publishing an updated [Air Quality Strategy](#).
- Our presentation also included an update on funds available to river users in support of our [Natural](#) and [Destination](#) Thames priorities. Last year, we awarded £50,000 through the [Thames Environment Fund](#) to a variety of sustainability initiatives and granted £131,545 from the [Active Thames Fund](#) to promote river access and inclusion.
- Information was shared about stakeholders' activities in the Upper District, including Thames Water's Teddington Direct River Abstraction Scheme and the Environment Agency's River Thames Scheme.
- Lastly, Robin confirmed that PLA's growth remains positive, pilotage services performance continues to be strong, and there were approximately 9 million passengers who travelled along the river last year.

Key topics raised:

Harbour Revision Order (HRO)

- Queries were raised regarding the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)'s public inquiry on the Port of London Authority (PLA)'s Harbour Revision Order (HRO). Hearings to consider the PLA's case for safety and sustainability started on **Tuesday 25 February** and lasted four weeks. The chair of the public inquiry will make a report to the MMO; the PLA will not comment further on the contents of the public inquiry until the process concludes.

Driftwood

- Concerns were raised regarding timber floating in the river. We are continuing to invest in the cleaning of the river. Our Marine Operations Director, James Palmer, confirmed the purchase of a new multi-category vessel that will help to ensure the availability of litter collector vessels.

Environmental Initiatives

- Local clubs expressed interest in reducing pollution in the local area and sought advice on collaborative initiatives to help clean the river. We discussed ways in which the club can access sustainability information and initiatives such as transitioning to electric outboard motors were mentioned.
- We encourage community clubs, charities and educational institutions to apply for our [Thames Environment Fund](#). If you have any queries regarding projects that help improve the environment of the tidal river, please email environment@pla.co.uk. Programmes that promote the development of watersports on the tidal Thames and inland waterways in London, Kent and Essex can also apply for the [Active Thames Fund](#).
- As well as working with local community groups, through our [Clean Thames Manifesto](#), we have also secured commitments from water companies to accelerate their targets for reducing sewage and storm water discharges in the Thames, with a focus on reaching a 2040 target. We are also champions of the Tideway Tunnel, having worked with the project team from concept to completion.
- In 2024, we made significant progress towards our Thames Vision 2050 goals, including launching the Clean Thames and Net Zero River plans, developed in partnership with stakeholders, and publishing an updated Air Quality Strategy.

Flooding

- Residents observed changes in water levels and asked who to contact about this.
- Please call the Environment Agency to report flooding or unusual changes in river flow on their 24hr hotline: **0800 80 70 60**.
- We also discussed how the Environment Agency and its partners are protecting the Thames Estuary from flooding caused by climate change through the **Thames Estuary 2100 Plan**. For more information about the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan's aims, approach and benefits please click [here](#).

Riverside Access

- A question was raised regarding riverside access points, and we committed to following up with the stakeholder on this topic.

Contacting the PLA

- During the meeting, we provided an update on how best to contact us, whether that be to raise a query, submit a complaint or provide feedback. You can do so by visiting our Contact Us webpage: pla.co.uk/contact-us. Alternatively, you can email our corporate affairs team at corporate.affairs@pla.co.uk or call us on **01474 562200**.
- We aim to get back to you within three working days. Please be assured that we will do all we can to investigate and resolve the matter as swiftly as possible. In some cases where we need further time to look into issues, we will keep you informed and will aim to respond within ten working days.

We look forward to seeing you all at next year's meeting.