



The Hammersmith Society

Richard Winterton *Chairman*
263 Goldhawk Road
London W12 8EU

chairman@hammersmithsociety.org.uk
www.hammersmithsociety.org.uk

16 November 2020

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport

Dear Secretary of State

Crossing the river at Hammersmith

I write on behalf of the Hammersmith Society, a dedicated non-political civic society established in 1962, and now representing over 3000 members drawn from individuals and affiliated societies in Hammersmith. Over the years we have been closely involved with many aspects of Hammersmith Bridge, and we are extremely concerned by the current crisis and its impact on both local and surrounding communities.

At the Task Force zoom meeting last month we were greatly encouraged by the government confirmation of their readiness to fund the entire project. But making the funds conditional on local contribution drags in the kind of financial problems faced by local authorities across the country; these problems are common knowledge, and their resolution is an entirely separate issue to the Bridge, and must surely not be allowed to hold up the funding of the Bridge.

Government funds need to be released immediately: park the squabble with local authorities for resolution at a different forum.

From the Society's apolitical viewpoint, we are aware that the considerable anger and frustration of communities on both sides of the river (including members of the Hammersmith Society) has been further aggravated by the government holding back spending on Hammersmith Bridge, a principal infrastructure route, while announcing spending of sums ten times the Bridge budget on infrastructure projects elsewhere.

Let's raise the Task Force to moonshot status: launch the funds and restore the Hammersmith river crossing without further delay.

Yours sincerely
Richard Winterton
Chairman

An Amenity Group concerned with Planning and Conservation in Hammersmith since 1962

Patron: The Mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham
Member of the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies Founder Member of The West London River Group
President: Professor Hans Haenlein MBE Chairman: Richard Winterton Architect
Secretary: Annabel Clarke, 42 Greenside Road, W12 9JG Tel: 07940 575590