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RADNOR BRIDGE

PART OF A SYSTEM: THE CONTEXT AS AN EXPERIENCE

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At Footbridge 2014 Richard Woolf and Mark Wing presented a white paper “Genesis of a footbridge from a community perspective”, which explored their dream for a cycle and pedestrian bridge across the Thames in west London.

They explained how Radnor Bridge would bring much needed connectivity to the isolated community of Ham and Petersham, improving links to public amenities, transportation and the wider borough. The communities on both sides of the Thames would have access to open green spaces and cycle networks. Without a doubt, back in 2014, Mark and Richard were describing the need for a bridge to connect many parts of the ‘system’ that is the London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames; the only London borough to straddle the river Thames.

As their thinking developed they shared how the bridge could represent an exciting experience itself in this part of river system in west London. They have discussed how new technologies might be assessed for potential construction to help deliver a bifurcated structure designed to give pedestrians and cyclists a separate experience, able to engage with the river and landscape according to their needs.

Their story was updated for publication at Footbridge 2017, in a second white paper about their ongoing campaigning and how they were using social media to help push the genesis of the Radnor Bridge still further.

Now, in 2020, the initiative continues to gather momentum as Mark and Richard discover more about the machinations of council life and how to effectively ‘ride the system’ in order to have their idea taken seriously. Their next white paper will focus on how Mark and Richard continue to promote the genesis of a footbridge by engaging more effectively. This has been evident in an increase in the debating volume online and through hosted round table meetings with councillors, lobbying at council transport strategy committee meetings, exhibiting at local community events and having reference to their story in both national and regional press. A recent meeting even highlighted the importance of the competing parties making Radnor Bridge part of their election manifestos for 2022.



Fig. 1. © Photography – Map Data: Google 2015 – modified to illustrate proposed Radnor Bridge