

**STATEMENT TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL
THAT THE ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY CHANGES ITS NAME TO
ROEHAMPTON AND PUTNEY GARDEN SOCIETY**

Background

The idea of a name change first arose around early June last year when we held the Centenary exhibition at Putney Library and grew out of a number of conversations with people, inside and outside of the Society, that the current name does not reflect the geography of the allotments or the plot holders, most of whom live in Putney. The Committee agreed that an initial show of interest be sought at the 2022 AGM and there was an overwhelming positive response to the suggestion that Putney be incorporated in the Society's name.

Reasons for proposing a change now

- Whilst the allotments are open to anyone living in Wandsworth, the vast majority of the Society's members live in Roehampton and Putney wards. The allotments are in Putney. The new name would more accurately reflect the Society's constituency.
- One of the Committee's aims is for the Society to become independent of the Council and to be incorporated as a Community Benefit Society. A name change would mark this new status. Any change of name after that may carry some expense.
- The Constitution needs to be updated and any name change would need to be included in the update.
- The Society celebrated its centenary in 2022. The title, Roehampton and Putney Garden Society, will refresh the identity of the Society and provide greater clarity for other organisations with whom the Society works in the years ahead.

Connection with our historical roots

- The name of our Society has changed over the years so there is nothing sacred about the name Roehampton Garden Society.
- The proposed change to 'Roehampton and Putney Garden Society' preserves our historical connection with Roehampton. We would not be abandoning our history.

What Costs?

- Administrative changes, for example, to the logo and website will be met through the Society's volunteers.
- The possibility of costs associated with a name change such as fees to government agencies, the bank, utilities, publicity and so on have been investigated and found to be absent. Apart from a small charge for hiring the Church for the EGM, postage to 15 members not on email, there will be no substantial costs.

Might there be any problems?

- There would not be confusion with the bank account and utilities as they use account numbers or login details.
- Might the name change cause division within the Society? Whatever the outcome of the democratic process, the Society will continue to develop and grow in the friendly and harmonious way that reflects the character of the membership.

Conclusion

The name change proposed reflects the Society as it is now and how it will be in future without discarding its significant historical roots. Therefore, it is recommended that you support this proposal and vote to change the name to Roehampton and Putney Garden Society.