



## **ROYAL HOLLOWAY COLLEGE TO BUILD A 'STUDENT VILLAGE'**

1. Runnymede Council has approved a plan by Royal Holloway College to build a 'student village', with up to 1400 study bedrooms, on the Rusham Park site formerly occupied by Procter and Gamble in Whitehall Lane.
2. It did so despite its being acknowledged on the council meeting agenda that the scheme would do substantial harm to the openness of the Green Belt. It provides for an increase in floorspace of about 140pc compared with the P&G buildings.
3. Egham Independent councillor **Isabel Mullens** is on the council's planning committee, and was the only member of it to vote against the proposal. It was approved by 9 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions.
4. The college argued that the damage to the Green belt would be outweighed by gains including the construction of a new footbridge over the railway line - which it would pay for - and by contributions it would make to the running of a controlled parking zone in Englefield Green (and possibly Egham too).
5. ERA chairman Chris Fisher was allowed to address the committee. He said the type of scheme proposed by the college was the least bad option for the already developed site; the association did not oppose it in principle, he continued, but the college should be asked to come back with a less ambitious project that fully complied with Green Belt policy.

Chris Fisher  
Chairman  
Egham Residents' Association

17th December 2020