



Egham Town Residents - Please Join (or re-join) Today!

Our aim is to help make your community a better place to live in. For over 30 years, the Egham Residents' Association (ERA) has focused on preserving and improving the facilities in Egham Town and championing the interests of its residents & visitors.

We know that residents can make a difference - this has been shown by our past efforts on projects such as stopping the development of Mrs Caddeys Field, continuing the pedestrianisation of the High Street (inc. instigation of its bollards), prevention of gravel extraction at Milton Park Farm (for 9+years) &, many years ago, of keeping Manorcrofts Playing Fields open - the founding Association issue.

Known issues that are on the ERA Committee's agenda for 2018 include:

- ⇒ the **regeneration of Egham Town centre** through the Egham Gateway project at Station Road North plus the rebuild/revamp of rest of the High Street;
- ⇒ **maintaining High Street pedestrianisation** through the continued operation of entry & exit bollards & the enforcement of parking controls;
- ⇒ the never-ending saga of **gravel raising** (at Milton Park Farm & Whitehall Farm);
- ⇒ **implementing local transport plans**, including the Runnymede Roundabout upgrade;
- ⇒ **fighting Heathrow 3rd runway expansion** (on economic, noise, air quality & traffic grounds)
- ⇒ **relationship improvement with the 7,500 students** who are in higher education in Egham area, with emphasis on community liaison with Royal Holloway on their Masterplan expansion;
- ⇒ the ever-popular Egham Royal Show and Barn Dance, Magna Carta Day, annual coach day trips, Quiz Night and other **community events** (see pg4 for current schedule).

Our Committee do this by:

- ⇒ working in **liaison with the key influencers for our town** e.g. RBC & SCC Councillors, Chamber of Commerce and community groups e.g. the Egham Town Team & Royal Holloway
- ⇒ **supporting election of Independent RBC Councillors** & funding their election expenses
- ⇒ actively seeking to **protect our local environment** e.g. flood planning, opposition to gravel extraction and air & noise pollution (including the impact of possible Heathrow 3rd runway plans)
- ⇒ watching key **planning issues** and raising concerns with RBC & SCC Planners, especially on the burgeoning extent of student accommodation across the Town & on Runnymede 2030 plans
- ⇒ organising **public meetings & speakers** on Egham issues e.g. flood planning & LHR expansion
- ⇒ **supporting local groups and charities** e.g via the Community Fair & Carol Singing
- ⇒ **producing quarterly newsletters** (*N.B only this Winter issue is free to non-members*)

The more members we have the bigger our voice and the greater our chance of success

If you are concerned about Egham Town's future, then join the ERA now by returning the membership form enclosed with this Newsletter

agm
2018

This is advance notice that this year's AGM will be held on

Tuesday 20th February

in the main United Church, High Street starting at 7.30pm

Guest Speaker : Mario Leo, Corporate Head of Law & Guidance, RBC

"Runnymede Electoral Boundary Reviews"

Everybody welcome to attend





EGHAM GATEWAY WEST

Further to the Autumn Newsletter, RBC have now advised that the planning application for the Station Road North development has been **delayed until April**, as they are “taking a pause” to consider the comments received at the September consultation (where problems were raised on parking & landscaping aspects).

However, it now seems that the Italia Conti Performing Arts Academy has pulled out of the project (on size grounds) & that RBC are now apparently considering options for a new primary tenant e.g. a cinema?

HEATHROW 3rd RUNWAY

In October 2016 the Government announced its preferred scheme for additional airport capacity in the South-East would be a new north-west runway at Heathrow Airport. It has since carried out various consultations and on 24th October announced the next stage (**until 19th December**). It offered the opportunity to consider & respond to new evidence in the revised draft Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS), including long term aviation forecasts, & the new National Air Quality Plan. A first consultation was held between February & May 2017 & the government has now consulted on the changes from updated noise analysis, a new air quality plan & government policy changes (on the Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise (ICCAN) as a new non-departmental public body).



However, surprisingly the Department of Transport (DoT) had already advised that **“the new data and the changes made to the ANPS do not change our views expressed in the February Consultation. The government is on track to publish final proposals for expansion at Heathrow in the first half of 2018 for a vote in Parliament”**. Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said the case for expanding Heathrow is “as strong as ever”, despite the government's own analysis shows that expansion of Gatwick could bring greater economic benefit & be less damaging to the environment. A new costs & benefits appraisal finds the net public value of a new Gatwick runway is between £72.6bn and £74.4bn, while for Heathrow the benefits are between £67.8bn and £72.6bn. The DoT report concludes: **“Gatwick expansion especially benefits from higher passenger benefits, while Heathrow expansion has relatively higher environmental dis-benefits and a greater range of surface access costs”**.



PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) have been considering if the proposed constituency boundaries in England, Scotland and Wales are on the basis that the number of MPs will be cut from 650 to 600. Parliament approved the principle of reducing the Commons size in 2011, intended as a cost-saving measure in the wake of the expenses scandal. The law requires that every constituency (except 4 island constituencies) must have roughly the same number of electors: no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507.

In their consultation, which launched on 17th October, the BCE recommended that the Runnymede & Weybridge constituency should be adjusted to effectively lose the Thorpe ward (to Spelthorne) & gain the Hersham South ward (from Elmbridge). This is clearly obviously wrong on the basis of integrated communities, with Thorpe being essentially a part of Runnymede & having no ties to Spelthorne.

Following this final consultation, **which ended on 11th December**, the Boundary Commissioners will then decide on their recommendations to submit to Parliament in September 2018. If agreed by Parliament, the new constituencies will be in use at the next scheduled General Election in 2022 (but, if “turkeys do not vote for Christmas”, it is thought that any proposals will likely not be agreed by the Commons)?

RUNNYMEDE BOUNDARY REVIEW



The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) provides “electoral arrangements for English local authorities that are fair for voters”. In 1998 the LGBCE conducted an electoral review of the Runnymede borough, which recommend serving by 42 Councillors representing 14 wards, including 3 Councillors for the Egham Town ward, & the Council should continue to be elected by thirds.

Given population changes since then, a new periodic review is underway, whereby the LGBCE is seeking proposals from RBC, interested parties & the public on the pattern of electoral wards to continue to maintain the existing 42 Councillors - **submissions to be made by 12th February** to the LGBCE website www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/11063. RBC are currently considering their own new ward proposals, including possibly changes to the Egham Town ward boundary? Draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements will then be issued for further public consultation between 8th May & 16th July & final recommendations will follow in September. These will be effective from May 2019 & will mean that Councillors elected in May 2018 shall hold office for only 1 year with all 42 RBC Councillors then being elected at one time in May 2019 (& then reverting to having elections by thirds in 2020 onwards).

To bring us up to date on these boundary reviews, & likely changes going forward, the head of the Electoral Services Team from RBC will be the guest speaker at our AGM in February (see pg 1 above).

RUNNYMEDE 2030 PLAN

Runnymede Borough Council (RBC) is preparing a new Local Plan, now to be known as 'Runnymede 2030'. This essentially will provide the detailed policies, designations and site allocations that will guide development decisions in Runnymede from 2015-2030. It sets out how much development expected in the Borough over the next 15 years and where this should happen. This includes the level of housing, employment and retail development, as well as the approach to be taken to the Green Belt. RBC is also responsible for looking forward & setting the level of housing & employment provision that is needed, as well as for devising a strategy which protects communities from flood risk & which safeguards valued landscapes. This task is an important one that potentially affects the lives of residents, visitors & workers in the Borough, both now & in the future.

The Local Plan will replace the outdated 2001 version as the principal guide to future development in Runnymede. RBC carried out its first consultation on the Local Plan in summer 2016 & this was known as the Issues, Options and Preferred Approaches (IOPA) consultation. In light of the representations made, further public consultation took place between 12th May and 23rd June 2017, which led to over 1,000 representations being received on the proposed amendments to the RBC's strategy - RBC officer responses to these representations were tabled on the Runnymede 2030 consultation website (<https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/localplanconsultation>) in mid-December.

A special meeting of the RBC Planning Committee was held on 20th December to consider the draft Local Plan & a special meeting of the Full Council has also been arranged for 9th January 2018 to receive the recommendations of the Planning Committee. There will then be a period of public consultation from **11th January until 22nd February** before submission to the Secretary of State. Despite the central government notifying that Runnymede was late in their Plan submission, the Plan, including the evidence base & sustainability appraisals, is now on schedule to be submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of March 2018.

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN (3rd March)

Following on from the success of the last 2 annual Spring campaigns, Keep Britain Tidy has launched its biggest-ever litter campaign to encourage 500,000 people to get out there and make sure their neighbourhood is one of which they can be proud. As such, the ERA has registered to participate & volunteers should contact **Adrian Skelt** nearer the time for details of the time & place for the local litter pick (likely starting at Egham Station @ 2pm) - more info will follow in an Email Alert & on the ERA Noticeboard.



SAY NO!

TO GRAVEL EXTRACTION



MILTON PARK GRAVEL (21st March)

Unsurprisingly SCC have further delayed their review of the Milton Park Farm gravel raising planning application until **21st March**. This will be a staggering 9 years since the original application submission & seems to us against all "statute of limitations" arguments - however SCC argue that all the time they are in discussion with the applicant (Hansons) they can defer consideration? We are disputing their interpretation & the SCC Minerals Team are being asked to explain their reasons for excessive delay? We will get back to residents once the way forward is clearer....

ERA COACH TRIP TO PETERBOROUGH

Saturday 14th April

This year's trip is to Peterborough, a Heritage City at the heart of rural East England and one of the UK's sustainable Environment Cities. It's known for the large 12th century Norman Cathedral, resting place of Katherine of Aragon and former resting place of Mary Queen of Scots, which is celebrating its 900th anniversary in 2018. Peterborough also has old-fashioned arcades, bustling streets and modern malls plus, in a former hospital building, the Peterborough Museum which has a Victorian reconstruction of an operating theatre.



We are this year able to offer an optional, 2hr afternoon excursion on the Nene Valley Steam Railway (starting at/returning to Peterborough NVR station & costing an extra £16 adults or £13 seniors).

Ticket prices this year are £17.50 for ERA members (or £20 for non-members).

We only have 50 places available, so book early to avoid disappointment!

To book a place please contact : **Adrian SKELT on 01784 434593**



Alerts on issues that arose between Newsletters this quarter covered :

- a) 3/10 - Flood Awareness Day (10/10)
- b) 3/10 - Boobs & Brass Concert (22/10)
- c) 6/10 - Aircraft Noise Consultation
- d) 11/10 - Runnymede Roundabout update
- e) 11/10 - FLAME AGM (6/11)
- f) 13/10 - Police Meet the Beat Sessions
- g) 18/10 - Parliamentary Boundaries
- h) 19/10 - Boundary Review - Addendum
- i) 25/10 - Egham Choral Concert (12/11)
- j) 26/10 - LHR 3rd Runway Consultation
- k) 31/10 - Surrey CRC Changes
- l) 3/11 - RHUL Community Matters
- m) 12/11 - LHR 3rd Runway Consultation Addendum
- n) 14/11 - Egham Gardens Rochester Trip (3/12)
- o) 15/11 - SWR Timetable Consultation
- p) 15/11 - Carol Singing Cancellation
- q) 16/11 - SCC Waste Local Plan Consultation
- r) 20/11 - Meet the Beat Cancellation
- s) 22/11 - Egham Gateway West - Application Delay
- t) 23/11 - Egham Choral Christmas Concert
- u) 23/11 - SWR Timetable Consultation Addendum
- v) 28/11 - Runnymede Electoral Review
- x) 29/11 - RBC Carparking Charges
- y) 30/11 - Runnymede Roundabout update
- z) 1/12 - Surrey Night Lighting Changes
- aa) 11/12 - Egham Choral Evening (29/1)
- bb) 13/12 - Ripley Ave Garages Application
- cc) 22/12 - Runnymede Roundabout update

To be sent email alerts please contact Glenda Thisdell on 07905 917440 or glenda.thisdell@hotmail.com

remember

A FEW DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 20th February Annual General Meeting (pg 1)
- 3rd March Great British Spring Clean (pg 3)
- 14th April Coach Trip to Peterborough (pg 3)
- 9th June Magna Carta Day
- 25th August Egham Royal Show Barn Dance
- 22nd September Community Fayre (if held)
- 20th October Autumn Quiz Night
- 8th December Egham Christmas Fair
- Mid-December Carol Singing (if held)

More details will be available in the quarterly Newsletters that we issue during the year (which you will receive if you join the ERA using the enclosed membership form)!



This year's Egham Christmas Fair, organised by the Chamber of Commerce, saw a very good turnout of stalls & visitors in the High Street on a very cold but dry day on 9th December.

Thanks to Monica, Adrian, Graham, Aneesh, Julian, Geraldine, Chris & Glenda for manning the ERA stall, which made an excellent £110 via the sale of cakes, tea towels, aprons & mugs.

NIGHT LIGHTING



Following pressure by many residents across the County (including ours led by Isabel Mullens), SCC have now relented & have kept the street lights on for another hour after midnight (w.e.f. 23rd November).



Many thanks to our Webmaster and our new website is now available at :

www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk



ERA COMMITTEE

Chairman

Jim Pearcey 41 Clarence Street 432805

Vice-Chairman (& Planning Co-ordinator)

Chris Fisher 8 Limes Road 435166

Secretary

Adrian Skelt 35 Crown Street 434593

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