



Egham Town Residents - Please Join/re-join Today!

Our continuing aim is to help make our community a better place to live. For over 35 years, the Egham Residents Association (ERA) has focused on preserving & improving on the facilities in Egham Town & championing the interests of its residents & visitors.

We recognise that residents can make a difference - shown by our past efforts on projects such as stopping the amendments to the Runnymede electoral ward boundaries, arresting the development of Mrs Caddeys Field, prevention of gravel extraction at Milton Park Farm (for over 10 years), extension of SCC's part-time night lighting proposals &, not forgetting our Association's founding issue in the '80s, keeping Manorcrofts Playing Fields open to the public.

Known issues that are on the ERA Committee agenda for 2019 include :

- ⇒ the **regeneration of Egham Town centre** through the revised Egham Gateway West project at Station Road North plus the opening of the new Egham Leisure Centre;
- ⇒ **maintaining High Street pedestrianisation** through the continued operation of the entry & exit bollards & the enforcement of parking controls;
- ⇒ the never-ending saga of **gravel raising** (at Milton Park Farm & Whitehall Farm);
- ⇒ **fighting Heathrow 3rd runway expansion** (on economics, 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 & Strodes;
- ⇒ the ever-popular Egham Royal Show and Barn Dance, Community Fair, Magna Carta Day, annual coach day trips and other **community events** (see pg4 for current schedule).

Our Committee do this by:

- ⇒ working in **liaison with our Town's key influencers** e.g. Independent RBC Councillors, SCC Councillors, Chamber of Commerce & community groups e.g. the Egham Town Team & RHUL
- ⇒ **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 expansion)
- ⇒ watching key **planning issues** and raising concerns with RBC & SCC Planners
- ⇒ organising **public meetings & speakers** on Egham issues e.g. NHS planning & LHR expansion
- ⇒ **supporting local groups and charities** e.g via the Community Fair etc
- ⇒ **producing quarterly newsletters** (*N.B only this Winter issue is free to non-members*)

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

If you are concerned about Egham Town's future, then :

- a) join the ERA now & return the membership form from this Newsletter***
- & b) consider joining the ERA Committee to participate directly***

AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Tuesday 26th February

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

Guest Speaker :

N.W. Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group

"NHS - The Future of Health & Care Services in N.W. Surrey"

The AGM will be followed by Cheese & Juice in the Vestibule



HEATHROW 3rd RUNWAY

The High Court will rule on legal challenges against the government's plans to build a third runway at Heathrow Airport in 1Q19. High Court judge Justice Holgate has now ruled that a judicial review will hear all legal challenges simultaneously for 11 days from March 11th. Legal challengers of the government's plans include the boroughs of Hillingdon, Wandsworth, Richmond, Hammersmith & Fulham, and Windsor and Maidenhead, which are being backed by London mayor and Greenpeace. Heathrow Hub is also challenging the government (as it has proposed a plan for Heathrow expansion that does not involve building a third runway). There are also legal challenges to the third runway from environmental charities Friends of the Earth and Plan B.



Heathrow expansion should be authorised via a Development Consent Order (DCO), a special kind of consent for major infrastructure projects issued by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The DCO will contain the consents & powers that Heathrow needs & apparently "places real importance on engagement with residents & stakeholders". Starting with further public consultation, currently scheduled in January-March 2019, the DCO application will then be submitted to PINS, currently expected in 2020.

Ahead of the final decision on Heathrow expansion, RBC, at a Full Council meeting on 6th December, decided to adopt a new, "more pragmatic" position which regrettably acknowledges the Government's decision & attempts to refocus to achieve the best outcome for the Borough from Heathrow. FYI - Egham RBC Councillors were against this change of policy (but were massively outvoted).

ERA were present at the hearings & our Vice-Chairman spoke on the fundamentals of the Green Belt, arguing that RBC were too cavalier at eating into the proportion of Green Belt in the Borough (down from 79% to c.75%). This has been caused by the housing target set for Runnymede by central government & RBC didn't make much protest against the target & its consequences?

Moreton Moore, as Chairman of Residents Against Gravel Extraction (RAGE), was also at the hearings &, although mineral extraction is a SCC matter, he pointed out that consequential flooding & air quality issues are within the purview of RBC. Unfortunately the Plan currently ignores the possibility of gravel extraction in the north of Runnymede & makes no reference to its dire consequences for residents.

Runnymede 2030 Draft Local Plan

RBC LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

Initial hearing sessions by the Planning Inspector into the RBC Local Plan took place in late November in Addlestone & will be followed by further, site-specific sessions from February 5th-22nd. The early sessions looked into legal requirements of the plan, the need for housing & employment land provision, the overall spatial strategy & the Green Belt boundaries.

EGHAM GATEWAY WEST

RBC, in conjunction with their development partner, Places for People, held a public consultation on the new, revised plans for the development complex at Station Road North on 2nd-3rd November. This includes a 3-screen niche cinema (Everyman), 50% residents & 50% student accommodation, ground floor retail but with less massing than previously (but reaching 7 floors in the gateway entrance) & a noticeable parking shortfall - see plan opposite.



Overall, we thought the revised plans were better than the last scheme but there are mixed views on parking issues, height concerns (up to 7 floors), the student block (vis a vis other student developments in the Town) & building design concepts. Places for People have advised that there were 500 visitors to the consultation & the results of their views would be published as part of the future planning application, which is scheduled for 2H January/early February with a possible construction start in 3Q19 & completion by 2021?

MILTON PARK GRAVEL



In taking us past the 10th anniversary of the original planning application by Hanson's over Milton Park gravel raising, SCC have now deferred their Planning & Regulatory Committee review of plans (which are now going yellow with age) until 20th March 2019 (although it may, as usual, be delayed further)?



N.W.SURREY NHS HEALTH & CARE SERVICES

Working with local partners, NHS North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group (NWSCCG) last Autumn launched "The Big Picture" - an opportunity for local people to join an open & honest discussion about the future of care delivered outside of hospital. They held a series of interactive workshops in November & December, which discussed what is meant by the term 'urgent care', public experiences & how to decide what to do when need care urgently & to explore what else healthcare services could do to respond.

In order to update residents on the initial results of this engagement, members of the NWSCCG will be attending our **AGM on 26th February** to discuss their work on shaping the future design of health & care services in the area outside of hospitals.

EGHAM TOWN CENTRE
CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL
PUBLIC CONSULTATION – AUTUMN 2018



RBC have employed independent consultants (Purcells) to undertake work on reviewing some of the Borough's conservation areas & review the local list of heritage/archaeological assets. The Conservation Area Appraisals will set out what is special about each area & provide guidance & recommendations for their preservation & enhancement. The consultants produced a **draft appraisal for Egham Town Centre** & made recommendations for the proposed exclusion, & some areas for inclusion, to the existing Conservation Area. The Egham Town CA has not been amended in size since its designation in 1993.

A consultation took place until **2nd January** & comments will then be forwarded to their consultants for their consideration before the final Conservation Area is adopted by the RBC later in 2019.

SCC SERVICES CONSULTATIONS (to January 4th)

Surrey County Council (SCC) is facing huge financial pressures due to reducing central government grant despite growing demand for children's and adult care services. SCC have found more than £500mm of savings in areas which have the least impact, but the challenge is getting harder. After talking to their residents and the partners they work with, such as borough and district councils, the voluntary sector and businesses, SCC needs to take some very difficult decisions. Over the next year they need to save a further £85m which means we will have to make changes to some services. So they launched five consultations (**until 4th January**) as part of its transformation plans on a range of services



These covered **Community Recycling Centres** (including closing smaller centres - particularly Lyne CRC, which has caused a petition to be raised to try & save it), **Concessionary bus travel in Surrey** (including removing extra funding for disabled people before 9.30am), **Family Resilience and Children's Centres** (focusing resources on larger centres), **Libraries and Cultural Services** (including creating hubs for services) & **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** (focussing support as early as possible). SCC have organised several "drop-on" sessions around the County during November & December & the results are due to be incorporated in SCC proposals from April 2019.



GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN (March 23rd)

In 2018 over 370,000 #LitterHeroes joined forces - despite the 'Beast from the East' - to collect litter at 13,500 events across the UK, taking a national stand against single-use plastic. In 2019, Keep Britain Tidy are calling on you to help improve the environment on your doorstep & the ERA has registered to participate. Volunteers should contact **Adrian Skelt** nearer the time for details of the local litter pick (**starting from Egham Station @ 2pm on March 23rd**) - more info will follow in an Email Alert.

ERA COACH TRIP TO LEICESTER (April 13th)

This year's trip is to Leicester, which dates back to Roman times, whose attractions include the 2012 unearthing and identification of the remains of King Richard III (now in a Visitor Centre) the magnificent Roman Jewry wall, the King's tomb in Leicester Cathedral and the city's impressive galleries, including the New Walk museum & arts gallery. The City also houses Abbey Pumping Station, which is Leicester's museum of science and technology, & the adjacent, award-winning National Space Centre.



Ticket prices this year stay at £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 Senior Citizens at Magna Carta School (2/11)
- b) 5/10 Egham Museum at 50
- c) 11/10 Egham Gateway West - Public Consultation (2-3/11)
- d) 17/10 Runnymede 2030 Local Plan Examination (27-29/11)
- e) 21/10 Egham Gateway West - Consultation Details
- f) 23/10 RHUL Community Meeting (14/11)
- g) 29/10 St Johns Caddey Voting
- h) 30/10 SCC Services Consultations
- i) 2/11 North West Surrey Out-of-Hospital Services
- j) 4/11 Egham Gateway West Consultation
- k) 6/11 FLAME AGM Notice (22/11)
- l) 7/11 Community Fair Silent Auction
- m) 8/11 Egham Conservation Area Appraisal
- n) 11/11 Lyne Community Recycling Centre
- o) 23/11 Egham Christmas Fair (8/12)
- p) 5/12 Heathrow - RBC Changing Policy?
- q) 6/12 RHUL Consultative Group & Community Meeting

Contact Glenda Thisdell on 07905 917440 or glendathisdell@eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk to be sent email alerts

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 26th February Annual General Meeting (pg 1)
- 23rd March Great British Spring Clean (pg 3)
- 13th April Coach Trip to Leicester (pg 3)
- 15th June Magna Carta Day
- 3rd August ERA Community Fair
- 24th August Egham Royal Show Barn Dance
- 19th October Autumn Quiz Night
- 7th December Egham Christmas Fair

Details available in the quarterly Newsletters during the year (which you receive if you join ERA using the enclosed membership form)!



ERA COMMITTEE

Chairman

Jim Pearcey 432805

Vice-Chairman (& Planning Co-ordinator)

Chris Fisher 07837 782012

Secretary

Adrian Skelt 07956 875329

Treasurer

Aneesh Gupta 07915 612291

Membership Secretary

Glenda Thisdell 07905 917440

Webmaster

Stephen Williams 07876 573660

Other Members

Graham Basset 07710 841510

Bill Bessant 07775 333396

Patrick Macavoy 07912 425826

Cynthia Reilly 07790 273225

Julian Richardson 435578

Monica Whynot 433132

Social Media Co-ordinators

Leah Robson (Facebook) 07812 084868

Isabel Mullens (Twitter) 439583



COMMUNITY

RHUL held their twice-a-year "Community Meeting" on 14th November, with only c.25 residents attending. Not much progress, with discussions focusing on noise complaints & the Spring Rise gate, which many residents argued that the gate should be closed (rather than just RHUL's approach of instigating patrols). Next meeting is 6th March @ 6pm at the United Church.

We have now set up an ERA-RHUL residents sub-committee to focus on issues arising from having the University in our midst & there will be area-specific leafleting on this issue - see local insert or upcoming Email Alert.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Due to the efforts of the Egham Town Team, new Christmas lights (on the tree outside Tesco's & on the lampposts) were switched on in late November (& were turned on officially by the RBC Mayor during the Christmas Fair).



This year's Christmas Fair, run by the Egham Chamber of Commerce, saw a

good turnout of stalls & visitors in the High Street on 8th December. In a mostly dry day the ERA made a modest £65 on cakes etc & thanks to Monica, Aneesh, Graham, Glenda, Julian & Adrian for helping out running the stall.

Runnymede Borough Councillors

Alan Alderson 07831 441638

John Ashmore 432819

David Knight 07854 843239

Surrey County Councillors

Marisa Heath 07971 666317

Yvonna Lay 457170

Website : www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk

Find us on

www.facebook.com/eghamra



@EghamResAssoc

Newsletter Editor : Adrian Skelt