



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 - 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 11 years) &, 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 2020 include :

- the implementation of the **regeneration of Egham Town centre** through the Egham Gateway West project at Station Road North & future development of the Precinct; ("Gateway East")
- **maintaining High Street pedestrianisation** through continued operation of the bollards system;
- 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;
- 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 far from certain Heathrow expansion)
- watching key **planning issues** and raising concerns with RBC & SCC Planners
- organising **public meetings & speakers** on Egham issues
- **supporting local groups and charities** e.g via the @theLit campaign, 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 join the ERA now & return the membership form from this Newsletter

AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Tuesday 25th February

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

Guest Speaker :

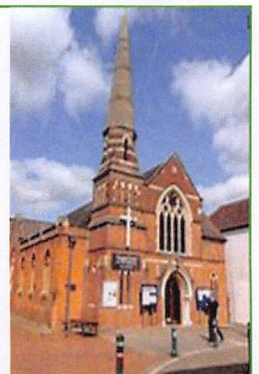
Sarah Corn, Curator Egham Museum

"Progress on @ the Lit Campaign"

1750 009

5450

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



RIVER THAMES SCHEME FUNDING



Question marks hang over whether or not a “significant financial contributor” in the funding of the River Thames flood alleviation scheme can secure the cash. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) has been asked to contribute £52.66 million to the £640 million flood defence works but so far it has only secured £10mm and needs to wait for legislation to be passed on a possible flooding precept to secure the rest of the cash. It can only put forward the full £52.66mm it has been asked to if the Government allows councils to collect a flooding precept similar to the social care precept, a council spokeswoman said.

Surrey County Council (SCC) approved its contribution of £270mm at a Cabinet meeting in November. The Lower Thames floodplain between Datchet in Berkshire and Teddington in West London is the most populated undefended floodplain in the United Kingdom. The River Thames scheme will create three flood alleviation channels along the River Thames (between 2020 & 2025) and improve flow capacity at three weirs. It will also create four new country parks and cycle paths and footpaths.

The Government has confirmed £60mm of funding with grant aid worth £240mm from the Environment Agency and Defra being committed in principle. Surrey County Council is the biggest contributing local council, with other funding being sourced from Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (£31.96mm - confirmed), Surrey Local Enterprise Partnership (£2.5mm - confirmed), Thames Water (£2.5mm - agreed in principle) and other local authorities including RBWM, Surrey, Spelthorne, Runnymede and Elmbridge (£6.17mm - secured and being spent).

A spokeswoman from the RBWM said: “However, to raise the additional funds needed to bridge the shortfall, we must have the legislative changes required to allow us to collect a flooding precept alongside the council tax. We are calling on the government to make this vital change to legislation and unlock the funding which will ensure we can keep all our residents safe from the perils of flooding.”



RBC CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN

RBC is due to launch a new Corporate Business Plan for 2020-2024 in Spring 2020. To help them set the direction and draw up priorities for the next four years, they have asked for resident views on a number of Council related topics, through focus groups, their Citizens Panel (in early January) & online surveys etc.

As a council they are ambitious for the future of the Borough “they want to improve the quality of life for local people through supporting a vibrant Borough with its own identity and which the communities can be proud. They fully recognise guidance from our residents will enable them to do this to the best effect”.

While it is not clear how the Government's Fair Funding Review and changes to the Business Rates system will change Government funding in the future, RBC has been preparing for significant falls in government grants by generating sustainable income through a Regeneration and Property Investment Strategy, making efficiencies e.g. reduced costs through new contracts, shared services & automating processes and expanding their services to create additional income streams, e.g. CCTV, community transport, etc.

The latest on RBC's budget proposals & Business Plan ideas will be discussed during Peter McKenzie, RBC Director of Resources, talk to residents in the United Church on January 14th from 7.30pm - all residents are invited to attend.

EGHAM GATEWAY WEST

With the Section 106 agreement signed in November, demolition of the existing site commenced at the end of November - with John Graham Construction awarded the building contract. The Church Road carpark will be closed from the New Year & main building works are now set to complete in Autumn 2021.



RUNNYMEDE PLEASURE GROUNDS

The RBC planning application for the £4.8mm upgrade scheme in Windsor Road has unfortunately been abandoned (due to problems over the holiday lodges) & new plans are now being considered for a simpler/cheaper scheme.

MILTON PARK GRAVEL

For the umpteenth time since the Hanson's original planning application in 2009, the Planning & Regulatory Committee of SCC have now deferred their review of gravel extraction plans at Milton Park to at least 27th February this year - plus ca change, plus c'est la même chose!





NEW COUNCILLOR ISABEL MULLENS

"I was grateful to have ERA's backing to stand for Runnymede Borough Council as an Independent in May. Unusually, the whole council was up for election; there are now 41 members with a larger opposition, more younger councillors and a wider variety of parties - Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, Labour & Green as well as Independents.

At best, Councillors work together for the benefit of residents - Councillors from Egham Town, Egham Hythe, Englefield Green and Thorpe (Independents, Labour and Conservatives) have been co-operating to support the @theLit proposal (see status below). We hope this will be supported by the full Council, to complement the commercial developments of Egham Gateway West. Similarly, I sit on the Housing Committee - on which all parties are united in seeking to provide more affordable housing for local people. But there is work to be done in holding the majority Conservative group to account, and the broad political mix leads to lively exchanges at council meetings.

Are you aware that you can attend RBC's council meetings? It was good to see many people in the public gallery when the climate emergency declaration & related motions were tabled. You can follow the outcome of these resolutions through the Environment & Sustainability Committee and the Planning Committee. The presence of residents in the public gallery improves transparency and keeps Councillors on their toes! Dates of Council Meetings are posted on RBC notice boards and website & agendas are on the website one week in advance.

You can even actively participate in Council meetings - by submitting written questions, to be responded to in public. Recently there have been residents' questions about the third runway at Heathrow and about parking problems and other highways issues. Talk to one of your three Councillors if you would like help in doing this, or any other Council related matter. Contact details are at the end of this Newsletter & we will be at Councillor surgeries in Egham High Street in the New Year (on 11th January, 22nd February & 4th April from 11am to 12.30pm outside the United Church)".

CULTURAL COMMUNITY HUB



Further to the article in the last Newsletter, the @ the Lit campaign is based on the Egham Literary Institute (the Lit) becoming a community not a commercial venture, covering a wide range of community uses - as it used to be.

The campaign is receiving support from RBC Councillors, the RBC Chief Executive, other community organisations (including ourselves) etc and has been drafting the Business Plan, dealing with the finance requirements, which was signed off in December. The timetable is then to present the Plan to the RBC Community Services Committee on January 9th, leading to a Full RBC Council meeting on 11th February to ratify the decision to lease the Literary Institute building to a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). If successful, the new lease would start on April 1st & by May 2020 an opening launch of '@ the Lit'!

For details visit their website : www.AtTheLit.org & Sarah Corn, the Egham Museum Curator & a founder of the campaign, will be giving a progress report on the campaign at our AGM on 25th February (see pg1).



GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN (March 14th)

Over 563,163 people, including 175,055 students, volunteered their time to take part in the 2019 campaign - **the biggest ever!** Cleaning up streets, parks and beaches, #LitterHeroes across the country made big improvements to the environment on their doorstep. In 2020, 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 14th**) - more info will follow in an Email Alert.

ERA COACH TRIP TO NORWICH (April 18th)

This year's trip is to Norwich, which is the largest city in England after London, and the most complete medieval city in the United Kingdom. The Industrial Revolution bypassed Norwich, leaving intact historic cobbled streets such as Elm Hill, Timber Hill and Tombland, ancient buildings such as St Andrew's Hall, half-timbered houses such as Dragon Hall, The Guildhall and Strangers' Hall, the Art Nouveau of the 1899 Royal Arcade, many medieval lanes and the winding River Wensum that flows through the city centre towards Norwich Castle. It is also England's first UNESCO City of Literature - the City of Stories - & the only city in a National Park!



Given the longer journey, ticket prices this year are £18.50 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**



Email Alert

Alerts on issues that arose between Newsletters this quarter covered :

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) 1/10 RBC Corporate Business Plan | b) 5/10 SCC Fire Service Consultation |
| c) 5/10 RHUL Estate Plans Update | d) 9/10 RHUL Drop-in (15/10) |
| e) 13/10 St Peters Car Parking | f) 14/10 RBC Council Motions (17/10) |
| g) 22/10 River Thames Scheme | h) 22/10 EG Farmers Market (26/10) |
| i) 28/10 FLAME AGM (6/11) | j) 29/10 Flood Actions & First Aid Training |
| k) 1/11 SCC HQ Moving | l) 3/11 Runnymede Joint Committee (25/11) |
| m) 6/11 RBC Councillors Surgery (9/11) | n) 6/11 RHUL Estate Plans Update (22/11) |
| o) 18/11 RBC Budgets/Business Plan(14/1) | p) 19/11 Egham Gateway Progress |
| q) 22/11 Scam in High Street | r) 25/11 RHUL Estate Plan Update |
| s) 26/11 SCC Priorities Review | t) 27/11 GE2019 Hustings (3/12) |
| u) 3/12 Air Alert Service | v) 5/12 Christmas Fair & Cakes (7/12) |
| w) 10/12 RBC Business Plan-Focus Groups | |

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

remember

A FEW DATES FOR THE DIARY

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 25 th February | Annual General Meeting (pg 1) |
| 14 th March | Great British Spring Clean (pg 3) |
| 18 th April | Coach Trip to Norwich (pg 3) |
| 13 th June | Magna Carta Day |
| 29 th August | Egham Royal Show Barn Dance |
| 5 th September | ERA Community Fair |
| 17 th October? | Autumn Quiz Night (possibly) |
| 12 th 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)!

HIGH STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Due to the efforts of the Egham Town Team, & the sponsorship of £2,000 by Places for People, improved new lights (on the tree outside Tesco's & on the lampposts) were switched on during 14th November (& were turned on officially by the RBC Mayor, Cllr Pohl, during the Christmas Fair).

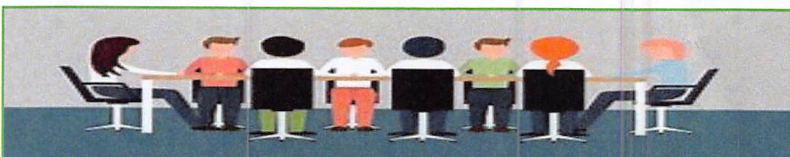


7th December

This year's Egham Christmas Fair, run by the Egham Chamber of Commerce, saw a lesser number of stalls from last year in the High Street. During a thankfully dry day the ERA stall made a surprising £150 on cakes, aprons, tea towels & mugs - we also had 4 new members.... Thanks to Ian, Aneesh, Graham, Chris, Sian, Julian & Adrian for helping out running the stall outside the United Church.

EGHAM TWITTERATI

As was mentioned in the last Newsletter, we are still searching for a Twitter fan who can takeover our Twitter account on behalf of residents.....



ERA COMMITTEE

Chairman

Chris Fisher 07837 782012

Vice-Chairman

Graham Basset 07710 841510

Secretary

Adrian Skelt 07956 875329

Treasurer (& Data Protection Officer)

Aneesh Gupta 07915 612291

Membership Secretary

Glenda Thisdell 07905 917440

Webmaster

Stephen Williams 07876 573660

Other Members

Bill Bessant 07775 333396

Brigitte Kreuger 07887 891456

Jim Pearcey 432805

Cynthia Reilly 07790 273225

Julian Richardson 435578

Ian Rosteghin 07866 329249

Sian Williams 07704 887892

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Vacant (Twitter)

Runnymede Borough Councillors

Alan Alderson 07831 441638

Brian Clarke 07767 258997

Isabel Mullens 07562 644057

Surrey County Councillors

Marisa Heath 07971 666317

Yvonna Lay 457170

Website : www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk

Find us on

www.facebook.com/eghamra



@EghamResAssoc

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