

CORONAVIRUS
PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS



STAY AT HOME

Protect the NHS

save lives

Community Helpline numbers:

Runnymede - 01932 838383 Surrey - 0300 200 1008 Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

RBC & SCC have set up the above community helplines to direct you to services, such as picking up shopping, prescription collections or having someone who can be a telephone friend, that can help during the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

With a need for people to self-isolate &/or stay at home there will be many ways you can help out in your community but please be aware of the rise of fraudsters/scammers who have already taken advantage of the situation - see SCC (Stay Connected) & RBC websites for more advice. All volunteers are registered & co-ordinated with Voluntary Support North Surrey, who can be contacted by phone at **01932 571122**.

There is now lots of good COVID-19 information on the RBC website (www.runnymede.gov.uk). Further details for help can be found at www.runnymedeweybridge-prepared.uk, whose website is supported by RBC, & includes a help submission form for residents & allows volunteers to help or donate food or money to the Runnymede Foodbank (www.runnymedefoodbank.org.uk).

Vulnerable residents are in the process of being contacted by RBC & a schedule for regular telephone contact is being arranged for them. RBC is also planning to contact all residents & will be leafleting every household with details shortly (starting from 28th March).

Another source of help is a local group of volunteers, **Egham/Englefield Green Mutual Aid** - see our 27th March EMail Alert. They are picking up and delivering prescriptions & other goods and can be contacted by text message on **07532 687117** or by WhatsApp on **07877 596968**. The ERA is in discussion with this group and we would like to assemble a group of ERA members to volunteer with them. Please contact Sian Williams (**07704 887892**) who can also be found by email on residentsegham@gmail.com. We will do our best to find out where to get help.

Finally, if you would like to talk to someone at ERA, please contact our co-ordinators, Sian Williams or Glenda Thisdell (**07905 917440**), or one of your RBC Councillors (see the contact numbers on Pg 4).

Please share this information as widely as possible



Resident parking Permit required

CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES (CPZs)

Many residents suffer from limited on-street parking, normally caused by RHUL student or commuter cars, & the issue of residents parking rights, and possibilities of a permit scheme, have caused some debate within both SCC & RBC for some time. The joint SCC/RBC Runnymede Joint Committee meeting on 9th March was focused on Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs), with RBC & SCC giving presentations on the way forward - which highlighted that such schemes are intensive in resources (requiring considerable administration, taking 6-12 months in implementing, are expensive (SCC will now charge annually £80 for 1st permit & £100 for 2nd) & need 70% pass mark from residents in a road/area to be approved).

Meanwhile RHUL has plans to build a three storey car park to create 100 extra spaces on its campus and relieve some pressure on residential roads. A planning application for that is expected in the summer.

The plan is now to progress a pilot scheme in an area near to RHUL in Englefield Green (if an appropriate SCC budget is available?) & then have a review by RBC Parking Services, over 2020/21, into other areas in the Borough. While this is in progress, the ERA are considering circulating an questionnaire for Egham residents to gauge support for a CPZ in the area abutting RHUL (Spring Rise, Lynwood Avenue, Clarence Street etc) as an initial consultation for a SCC follow-up? More details shortly...



RBC ELECTION DELAYED TO MAY 2021

With Cllr Clarke's RBC seat up for a delayed election in May 2021 (after his election last year), we can advise that Sian Williams has agreed to stand & she was thus endorsed overwhelmingly at our AGM on February 25th as the Runnymede Independent Residents Group (RIRG) candidate for RBC's Egham Town ward. **However, local elections in England, including the RBC election & the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner poll, will now be postponed for a year to 6th May 2021 due to the coronavirus outbreak. Downing Street said it would be impractical to hold the elections as planned, as they would come during the peak of the spread of the virus.**

She added : "I am married with two grown up sons & I have lived in Egham since 1989. Over the years I have been on the ERA Committee, as their Membership Secretary, run the Best Kept Garden competition and, since 2001, helped to run the Barn Dance at the Egham Royal Show. I have experienced Egham as a commuter, a mother, a teacher and a carer. All of which helps me to understand the needs of the residents. I believe that I have the empathy required to understand the needs and concerns of Egham Residents as well as the experience and skills required act on your behalf.

I have voted for various political parties over the years but have often felt frustrated that a common sense or pragmatic approach could be ignored in favour of the "the Party Line". I also think that a Party's national policies are often far removed from local issues. So, I think Independent representation is absolutely the best approach to local council issues. I hope that you will accept me as an Independent candidate for RBC Egham Town ward and vote for me in May next year. It would be a privilege to serve this community".

We hope you give Sian your support at the ballot box in May next year



VOTE INDEPENDENT (but not just yet!)



HEATHROW EXPANSION

On 27th February the Court of Appeal said the government's decision to give the go-ahead to Heathrow's expansion plans was unlawful. The court said the government would not appeal against the judgement, but the judges said that in future, a third runway could go ahead, as long as it fits with the UK's climate commitments. It was "legally fatal" to the government's Heathrow expansion policy that it did not take those climate commitments into account, the judges said. This has meant that Heathrow meetings & further consultation processes have been cancelled & it requires a 18-24 month delay in progressing the project (if it is not eventually cancelled outright)?

In addition to the above, the Civil Aviation Authority in January had turned down Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL)'s request to start early construction before they have got planning consent - as a result, HAL's plans to open the 3rd runway in 2026 has been deferred by at least 3yrs to 2029.

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

This year's Egham litter pick, as part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign, was due to be held on 21st March but the Keep Britain Tidy organisers have now postponed the campaign until 11-27th September (now renamed the "Great British September Clean"). In light of the government's social distancing effort, "now is the time for everyone to stop non-essential contact with others and to stop all unnecessary travel," the Prime Minister says. More details will be provided nearer the rescheduled time.....



MILTON PARK GRAVEL

In a long-established tradition, SCC has now deferred their review of the planning application by Hanson's for Whitehall Lane gravel raising until 21st May at least - that's getting on for 11.5yrs after the first submission (which SCC still won't admit is a world record!).....

Reports (25th February)

Chairman

Opened that the single most important event in the Town in the last year was the approval of the Egham Gateway West (EGW) development. This was a decision that caused plusses & minuses (the latter on building heights & parking grounds) within ERA but was thought on balance to be positive for the Town.

On other issues, he mentioned that SCC are to consult on the issuing of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs), initially within Englefield Green but with a possible extension within Egham (covering the Ripley Avenue/Spring Rise/Lynwood Avenue areas). More detail in the coming months.

On planning items, he advised an outline application is being considered for Rusham Park Student Village, which we thought caused some concerns on flooding & parking issues but could help the general HMOs problem in the Town. He also mentioned that the planned Runnymede Hotel extension is being strongly contested by the Environment Agency on flooding grounds. The old saga of the Heathrow 3rd Runway extension had now at least faced a 3-year delay to opening (up to 2029).

On Runnymede Borough Council issues, he applauded the results in last May's election, with Isabel Mullens, Alan Alderson & Brian Clarke winning the 3 seats in Egham Town, which he thought showed the strength of the ERA message (with Independents now holding the RBC Egham Town seats since 1984).

On ERA membership, the level had seen an increase this year, but he was still worried about attracting younger members (with, for example, the audience tonight had nobody younger than in their 40s)? We should therefore consider having more presence in social media outlets - but how & on which app?

In conclusion, he thought that the Town would see a transformation through the EGW development (by the time it is completed in 11/21) & it would be interesting to see the impact by the 2022 AGM. He finally wanted to give a big thank you to the Committee members & the Area Reps for all the time & effort they put in to help keep Egham a great place to live.

Treasurer

Examined accounts as @ 31/12/19 were circulated at the meeting & the key points were that our 2019 expenditure was c.£680 in excess of income, with the main income items being the relatively flat subscription levels, the continuing biggest generation events at the Egham Royal Show & the Barn Dance (thanks to the efforts of Jim Pearcey & family) & outstanding donations from the 2017 Community Fair. Expenditure was some £1,400 more than in 2018, due to purchase of ERA pens, higher election expenses (due to 3 Councillors being elected last year) & the one-off purchase of a new gazebo for use at fundraising events. Overall ERA had net reserves of c.£6,700.

Councillors & Candidate

The Egham Town Independent Councillors on RBC gave their annual reports, with Isabel Mullens serving on the Housing & Planning Committees. She had made progress on several issues including setting up a Councillors surgery, involvement in the RHUL Spring Rise gate decision & starting a RHUL/ERA residents sub-committee; Brian Clarke had medical issues throughout the year but is serving on the Environment & Sustainability and Standards & Audit Committees; and Alan Alderson (first elected in 2002), served on various RBC Finance Committees, with the main issues being on funding for Addlestone One & the EGW developments. Future plans under review by RBC include overhauling the RBC Depot, revamping the Yellow Buses & return a Peterbus option to St Peters Hospital. On the downside, the Council Tax proposals mean overall tax will raise by c.4% from April - but RBC are only c.8.5% of the total (see Pg 4).

With Brian Clarke standing down as a Councillor at the May election, Alan Alderson & Isabel Mullens wanted to thank Sian Williams for putting herself forward as a possible new candidate. Sian has lived in Egham since 1989, has been on ERA Committee before as Membership Secretary & has experience as a commuter, mother, teacher & carer. A motion for adoption of Sian as candidate for Egham Town was proposed & was overwhelmingly supported from the floor.

Guest Speaker

In a slide presentation, Sarah Corn (Curator, Egham Museum) introduced the concept of a cultural community hub at the Egham Literary Institute through the @TheLit campaign. The ground floor of the Lit has been empty for more than a year & RBC have advertised for new tenant - but without progress to date. The community uses of the Lit could include heritage (Egham Museum, Magna Carta etc), arts & exhibits, music, dance & drama, café & retail spaces. To get off the ground @theLit needs seed funding from RBC to get the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) working on redevelopment. This has been estimated at £80,000 over 3 years. The campaign presented to the RBC Community Services Committee on 9/1 & has had follow-up sessions with the RBC CEO & Council Leader etc but, despite positive vibes, they are still in limbo waiting for a response by RBC. Many RBC Councillors are in support of the project & it was noted that Chertsey Museum gets £220,000 funding, so the £80,000 request should be affordable? More information on the project is available online at www.atthelit.org.



Email Alert

Alerts on issues that arose between Newsletters this quarter covered :

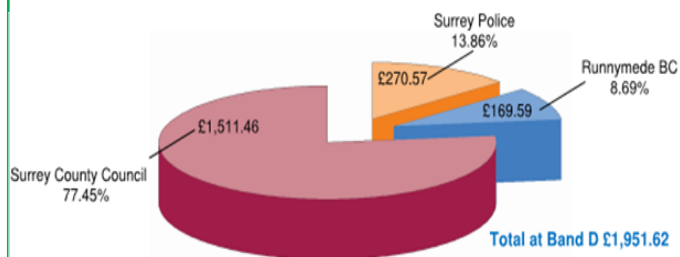
- | | |
|--|---|
| a) 1/1 Egham Gateway West Parking | b) 3/1 Manorcroft Nursery |
| c) 12/1 SCC Budget 2020/21 | d) 12/1 Runnymede Roundabout Works |
| e) 13/1 Rivermede Court | f) 16/1 RBC Budget Proposals |
| g) 17/1 Thorpe & Egham Half Marathon | g) 23/1 Police "Meet the Beat" Sessions |
| h) 27/1 Community Safety Survey | i) 29/1 EGWest Buildings |
| j) 4/2 RHUL & Coronavirus | l) 7/2 NHW Weekly Report |
| m) 7/2 SCC Budget 2020/21 | n) 8/2 Surrey Police Precept '20/21 |
| o) 10/2 Egham Daffodil Day (21/3) | p) 16/2 Great British Spring Clean (21/3) |
| q) 20/2 Runnymede Joint Committee (9/3) | r) 21/2 Hythe Singers (21/3) |
| s) 21/2 Meet the Councillors (22/2) | t) 22/2 Runnymede CIL Consultation |
| u) 23/2 Barclays ATM | v) 26/2 Coronavirus Travel Update |
| x) 5/3 RHUL Science Festival Cancelled | y) 13/3 February Burglary Map |
| z) 14/3 St Johns Church Bells | aa) 17/3 Coronavirus Social Distancing |
| cc) 19/3 Police "Meet the Beat" Schedule | bb) 17/3 Egham Litter Pick Postponed |
| ee) 22/3 Runnymede Foodbank Appeal | dd) 21/3 ERA Help During COVID-19 |
| | ff) 27/3 Egham/EG Mutual Aid |

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



The money to be paid in Council Tax is split between SCC, Surrey Police & RBC. Overall **Council Tax bills in Runnymede for 2020/21 will rise by 3.88% when households receive their annual statement in April.** SCC & Surrey Police have both increased the amount they need to provide services (SCC by 3.99% (1.99% + 2% for adult social care) & Police by 3.83%).

SCC receives 77% of people's bills, to fund services like children's and adults social care, roads, schools and libraries, while the Police receive 14%, to fund crime fighting, intelligence and community-based activities. After the £5 a year average increase for Band D properties, RBC will receive 9% of the total bill to fund its services.



SCC Leader, Cllr Tim Oliver, argued that : "As part of our drive to increase investment in Surrey, to make it a place fit for the future, we are raising core Council Tax by 1.99%. In addition, the Government are allowing an increase of up to 2% for the Adult Social Care precept, which will be added to your bill, to help support our vulnerable adults and those in need of social care".

RBC Leader Cllr Prescott said: "We are one of the few councils in S.E. England which is not making any cuts to front line services & is investing for the future to make us more effective for the needs of digital transformation and provide more agile services. The challenge in the last 10 years has been the loss of the government Revenue Support Grant, so instead we have found a pathway through investments to create a sustainable revenue stream to enhance & improve services."



ERA COMMITTEE

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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
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Jim Pearcey	432805
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Ian Rosteghin	07866 329249
Sian Williams	07704 887892
Social Media Co-ordinators	
Ian Rosteghin (Facebook)	07866 329249
Vacant (Twitter)	

Runnymede Borough Councillors

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Brian Clarke	07767 258997
Isabel Mullens	07562 644057

Surrey County Councillors

Marisa Heath	07971 666317
Yvonna Lay	457170

Website : www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk

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