



## RBC ELECTION MAY 6<sup>th</sup>

With Cllr Clarke's RBC seat up for the delayed election in May (after his election in 2019), we can confirm that **Sian Williams** has agreed to stand & she was thus endorsed overwhelmingly at our AGM in February 2020 as the Runnymede Independent Residents Group (RIRG) candidate for RBC's Egham Town ward.

She added : "I have lived in Egham since 1989 & raised my family here. I have been involved with ERA for more than 20 years, on the Committee & with social events e.g. the Barn Dance at the Egham Royal Show. I have experienced Egham as a commuter, a mother, a teacher & 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 & concerns of Egham Residents as well as the experience & skills required act on your behalf.

Over the past year I have volunteered with the Runnymede Food Bank, been Chair of the Trustees establishing the Literary Institute as a Cultural Community Hub (@TheLit), and, as a member of St Johns Church, I have been involved in supporting individuals in our community during the pandemic. I believe that local politics should be independent of Party Politics, & following the "Party Whip", & that Independent Representation is absolutely the best approach to local council issues. I hope that you will support me as the Runnymede Independent Residents Group (RIRG) candidate for Egham Town ward on Runnymede Borough Council, & vote for me in May. It would be a privilege to serve this community".

## SCC ELECTION MAY 6<sup>th</sup>



SCC also have their normal 4 year poll in May. For this, most of central Egham is in the Englefield Green Division; in spite of its name, it includes Egham residents living on the town-centre side of the railway line & of the M25 at Vicarage Road.

We can advise that **Isabel Mullens**, already a RBC Councillor for Egham Town, has agreed to also stand in her district as the Runnymede Independent Residents Group (RIRG) candidate for SCC's Englefield Green Division.

Isabel added : "Since being elected by Egham residents to be a Runnymede Councillor I've had a busy couple of years. At RBC I'm on the Planning Committee, the Housing Committee & on the Climate Change Members Working Party; just as importantly, I have spent time helping individual residents with their concerns. In this regard I have always tried to be timely in response to your emails and phone calls.

I am now seeking your support to represent you at SCC as well. Surrey receives a large amount of money from residents (77% of your Council Tax) & we need to ensure that residents' voices are taken into account when decisions are made on how this is spent - decisions affecting our libraries, roads and transport, air quality, schools, social care & of course the operation of Egham fire station.

More information will be available in Sian's & my election addresses which will be delivered to you in the next few weeks. We are running in tandem - not in competition!

Egham residents reading this who live beyond the railway line or beyond the M25 are in the Egham division of SCC (confusingly!), & there will be quite a fight over that county seat, so please do engage!"

Polling stations will be safe places to vote in May, but there are other ways to vote. Want to vote by post? Apply early



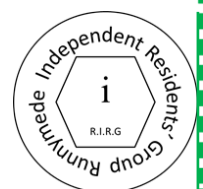
To get a postal vote, apply by 5pm on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April** on [www.runnymede.gov.uk/howtovote](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk/howtovote) or call 01932 838383 if you have no internet access. To apply for a proxy (with someone

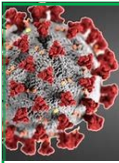
authorised to vote for you), apply by 5pm on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April** on [www.gov.uk/government/collections/proxy-voting-application-forms](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proxy-voting-application-forms). Anyone who is self-isolating due to COVID-19 can now access an emergency proxy vote, up to 5pm on election day.

**They need your vote, so please give Sian & Isabel your support on May 6<sup>th</sup>**

# VOTE INDEPENDENT

Promoted by Willy Burgess, 42 Crown Street, Egham, Surrey on behalf of the above 2 candidates





## COVID-19 Update

# CORONAVIRUS

The surge testing to track the South African variant of coronavirus in northern

Runnymede began on February 6<sup>th</sup> and finished on the 11<sup>th</sup>. In Public Health England figures for the seven days ending on February 10<sup>th</sup>, Egham Hythe & Pooley Green was the neighbourhood with the highest infection rate & it was at the centre of the testing programme. However, frustratingly, we are still waiting for the PHE final results of the testing.

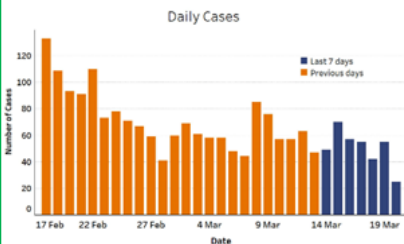
On February 22<sup>nd</sup> the government announced its four stage plan to reduce lockdown restrictions - see opposite for the timetable - the so-called "118 days to freedom". The government has "accepted, at the insistence of the Chief Medical Officer, there will also be long gaps between the steps out of lockdown. Their calculation is that people, after all this time, will prefer certainty over haste".

After schools returned on March 8<sup>th</sup>, as part of Step One, further limited changes were introduced from March 29<sup>th</sup>. This will mean a number of changes across Surrey, most of which will be related to meeting people from outside your household or support bubble (with outdoor gatherings of either six people or two households providing greater flexibility for families to see each other). The most significant change is the

'stay at home' order has been replaced with advice to stay local. However, this does not mean that people will be completely free, the Government is asking people to continue to minimise the number of journeys that they make & to continue to work from home if possible.

The number of infections continues to decrease as shown in the graph opposite (publication date : 25<sup>th</sup> March). The infection rate in Runnymede has, however, increased recently, to above the Surrey, South-East & England average rates, but there is only a small number of cases involved, with the main changes due to schools reopening & young people, parents & local workforces being tested.

### Surrey COVID-19 Cases



MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<b>8</b> at earliest	<b>12</b> at earliest	<b>17</b> at earliest	<b>21</b> at earliest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» All school pupils go back in England, with face masks mandatory at secondary level</li> <li>» Meet one other person socially in park for picnic</li> <li>» Care home residents can see one visitor</li> <li>» From 29 March, 'Rule of Six' gatherings allowed outdoors including in private gardens, 'stay at home rule' becomes 'stay local', and outdoor sports permitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» All shops, gyms, hairdressers, libraries and swimming pools can open</li> <li>» Pub beer gardens and restaurants reopen for outdoor, seated service only</li> <li>» UK holidays allowed for single households in self-contained lets</li> <li>» Outdoor venues like zoos and theme parks open</li> <li>» All university students hope to find out when they can return</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Rule of Six scrapped outdoors, new limit of 30</li> <li>» Six people or two households can meet indoors</li> <li>» Indoor hospitality opens, including pubs, restaurants, cinemas, hotels, B&amp;Bs, museums</li> <li>» Sports venues allowed limited fans, theatres get reduced capacity</li> <li>» Possible return of international travel</li> <li>» Weddings with up to 30 people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» All legal limits on social contact are removed</li> <li>» Remaining hospitality reopens</li> <li>» Large events and performances could restart with full crowds - offering potential for summer festivals and concerts</li> <li>» Theatres allowed full capacity and nightclubs reopen</li> <li>» No limits on people attending weddings and funerals</li> </ul>



## GRAVEL RAISING

There are now 2 major gravel raising projects affecting the southern parts of Egham :



**a) Milton Park Farm (MPF)** - this 12 year old project by Hanson's has been continually deferred by SCC & the latest deferral to their Planning & Regulatory Committee is until **16<sup>th</sup> June** (at the earliest). There have been no formal announcements on the delay but it is assumed that this is related to the continuing problem with the Heathrow 3rd Runway project??

**b) Whitehall Farm (WF)** - despite the never-ending delay at MPF, Cemex have now prepared a project on gravel raising at the neighbouring WF, which would see a "working wet" approach (which lowers the risk of flooding) for only a 7 year minerals supply plus just sand & gravel removal by HGVs rather than a full cement works like at MPF. After some initial residents consultation in October, Cemex submitted their planning application to SCC at the end of February. At the time of going to press we await details of the application but our identified concerns currently include 78x2 HGV lorry movements per day, flooding issues, air quality & Green Belt incursion along with infill of the worked site & general noise concerns.

## RHUL PROCEDURE

Following concerns from a number of residents, ERA has, for some time, been pushing RHUL College to adopt better complaints procedures. At present complaints about student behaviour are automatically acknowledged by the College but in almost all cases that is all the complainant will ever hear. ERA has now asked for all complainants to be informed of the final outcome of their complaint. Up to now the College has refused to do this but seems - repeat SEEMS - to have agreed to tell complainants when an inquiry has concluded (via an "end of investigation" email) and to give end-of-term reports with figures about complaints cases in which disciplinary action was taken.

## COLLEGE COMPLAINTS.



## COACH TRIP TO NORWICH (17<sup>th</sup> April)

Further to the Winter Newsletter, & in the light of the current Covid restrictions (plus the fact that we have had no bookings so far - as it is difficult to "social distance" in a coach!), we have decided to **cancel the 17th April booking to Norwich** & we shall get back to you later on in the year about re-instigating the trip in the Autumn.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### AGM (25<sup>th</sup> May)

Our AGM was originally planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> February but, due to the ongoing Covid situation, was deferred for 3 months until **25<sup>th</sup> May**. It is still planned to be held in the Main Church in the United Church in the High Street but, depending on the United Church's 3<sup>rd</sup> party use policies, it may have to be held online via the Zoom app. Further updates on the status & contents of the AGM will be made available nearer the time via an EMAIL Alert.

### GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN (5<sup>th</sup> June)

Again further to the Winter Newsletter, & in the current Covid crisis, the organisers of the Great British Spring Clean (GBSC) have now deferred the event by 3 months &, in this regard, we have adjusted our Egham litter pick as part of the GBSC from 13<sup>th</sup> March to be on **5<sup>th</sup> June** starting at 2pm - more details on the location will be issued nearer the time by EMAIL Alert.



### MAGNA CARTA DAY (26<sup>th</sup> June)



Magna Carta Day (MCD) is a light-hearted way of marking the sealing of the Magna Carta, which since 1215 is widely regarded as the foundation of democratic rights & civil liberties in England. MCD is now 26 years old & an example of residents' groups, businesses, schools, charities & RBC working together for the community.

This annual event in Egham High Street was originally scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> June but, due to the dates planned in the government's Covid lockdown reduction programme, it has been deferred provisionally until **26<sup>th</sup> June**. As per usual, the High Street will be lined with stalls displaying crafts, cakes, food etc organised by voluntary organisations, charities & traders. See you then (& please visit the ERA stall).....

### COMMUNITY CULTURAL HUB



Preparations are continuing for the @TheLit project at the Egham Literary Institute in the High Street which will be opening officially on **26<sup>th</sup> June** (provisionally, subject to government Covid guidelines) as a cultural community hub: a space for meeting, learning, socialising, enjoyment and entertainment. To give it its full title, the Literary Institute Cultural Community Hub Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), operating as "@TheLit", is a registered charity made up of 4 founding trustees: Sian Williams, Chair, Brian Perry, Treasurer, Sarah Corn, Secretary, & David Knight and are supported by a Committee, which includes members from the community.

Now they are a registered CIO, they can further continue conversations with RBC regarding the lease for the ground floor of the Literary Institute, which is currently in draft format & is nearing completion.

### FLY TIPPING



If you're getting someone in to work on your house or garden, before you agree anything, check they are a registered waste carrier. That way you'll have peace of mind that when your trader takes your waste away it won't be dumped, causing damage to Surrey's beautiful countryside & unnecessary work for your council. Fly-tipping is anti-social & punishment can result in an unlimited fine, 5 years imprisonment or both. It's could

save you a £400 fine, because if your waste is found dumped it's you who'll be fined, not the rogue trader. Just visit the Environment Agency's website (on: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>) to find out if your trader is registered.

Also email RBC on : [environmentalhealth@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalhealth@runnymede.gov.uk) with the information or call their dedicated fly-tipping hotline on 01932 425656.

Alerts on issues that arose between Newsletters this quarter covered :

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a) 6/1 Members Access to Website            | b) 7/1 RBC & Lockdown 3                 |
| c) 7/1 Members Access - Erratum             | d) 12/1 Egham United Charity Secretary  |
| e) 13/1 Deferral of AGM                     | f) 20/1 PCC Precept Consultation        |
| g) 22/1 RBC Housing Allocations             | h) 28/1 Covid Vaccination Progress      |
| i) 28/1 Covid Champions Briefing (w/c 25/1) | j) 30/1 Census 2021                     |
| l) 1/2 Surrey Covid Surge Testing           | m) 2/2 Egham Covid Surge Testing        |
| o) 4/2 Covid Champions Briefing (4/2)       | p) 9/2 Crossland Presn(17/2)            |
| r) 12/2 Project Wenceslas                   | s) 12/2 Surge Testing Complete          |
| u) 17/2 Runnymede Community Safety Survey   | v) 18/2 Covid Champions Briefing (18/2) |
| w) 25/2 Covid Champions Briefing            | x) 4/3 Covid Champions Briefing (4/3)   |
| z) 11/3 Covid Champions Briefing            | aa) 15/3 ERA Leafleting Support         |
| cc) 20/3 EGM Planned (20/4)                 | dd) 22/3 Poster Boards RBC/SCC Election |
| ee) 23/3 Egham Road Works                   | ff) 24/3 Egham Daffodils                |
| hh) 25/3 Over 50s Walk-in Sessions          | ii) 25/3 Covid Champions Briefing       |
|   | k) 1/2 Covid Scams                      |
|   | n) 4/2 Egham Testing Area               |
|   | q) 11/2 Covid Champions Briefing        |
|   | t) 12/2 GBSC Deferred to June           |
|   | y) 10/3 Coach Trip - Deferral           |
|   | bb) 18/3 Covid Champions Briefing       |

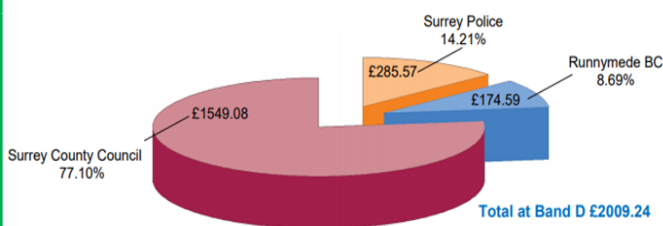


Contact Glenda Thisdell on 07905 917440 or [glendathisdell@eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk](mailto:glendathisdell@eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk) to be sent email alerts



RBC is responsible for collecting the Council Tax for itself & on behalf of SCC & Surrey Police (through the Police & Crime Commissioner).

The proposal to increase the Band D element by RBC by £5 per year (or 2.95%) was approved at their Full Council on February 9<sup>th</sup> &, as in previous years, the RBC percentage continues to fall to only 8.7%. SCC approved at their Council meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> an increase of only 2.49%, comprising 1.99% on core services & 0.5% to cover Adult Social Care services. Overall, the SCC element counts for 77.1% of the total for Band D. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, the Police precept was agreed at an increase of £15 per year or 5.54% for Band D. The overall increase for 2021/2 is thus 3% & the elements are shown below :



By far the largest increase was by Surrey Police & the PCC David Munro said: "This year's precept rise will allow the Force to invest in 77 additional officer and operational staff roles, to add to the 73 extra officers that will be paid for by central government. I believe the role our police teams play in Surrey's communities is more important now than ever as we continue to meet the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic."

SCC Leader, Cllr Oliver, said: "Although any increase is unwelcome, that is half the 4.99% permitted by government. We're holding it at 2.49% because we can afford to do that, but actually this is the year when putting 5% on the council tax would just be wholly inequitable and unfair, so we have worked as hard as we possibly can to keep that down to the lowest level."



## ERA COMMITTEE

<b>Chairman</b>	Chris Fisher	07837 782012
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Graham Basset	07710 841510
<b>Secretary</b>	Adrian Skelt	07956 875329
<b>Treasurer (&amp; Data Protection Officer)</b>	Aneesh Gupta	07915 612291
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Glenda Thisdell	07905 917440
<b>Webmaster</b>	Stephen Williams	07876 573660
<b>Other Members</b>	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
	<b>Social Media Co-ordinators</b>	
	Sian Williams (Facebook)	07704 887892
	Vacant (Twitter)	

## Runnymede Borough Councillors

Alan Alderson	07831 441638
Brian Clarke	07767 258997
Isabel Mullens	07562 644057

## Surrey County Councillors

Marisa Heath	07764 247098
Yvonna Lay	457170

Website : [www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk)

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