



RBC ELECTION RESULTS

For those of you who missed the results on 4th May :

Isabel Mullens	RIRG	927	65%
Meera Saravanan	Labour	213	15%
John Osborn	Conservative	212	15%
Ian Heath	Liberal Democrats	82	5%

Turnout : 33%



Isabel added : "I'd like to thank the many people who helped me get elected: the leaflet folders and distributors, the canvassers (particularly Sam Jenkins and Chris Fisher), the many people who put up posters in their windows and gardens, the tellers, and finally many thanks to the Egham residents themselves who turned out to vote for me! I'm very grateful to ERA for supporting me and covering costs, and also to my Agent, Willy Burgess, who notes "ERA volunteers helping with Isabel's election numbered over 30. It's not possible to run such a campaign without a lot of help and it's one of ERA's great strengths that we can muster such a strong team. Thanks to everyone!"



VOTER ID

England's local elections on 4th May were the first in Britain where people had to show photo ID, such as a passport or driving licence, to vote in person. The impact of the rule is being closely watched ahead of the next general election, expected to be held in 2024, when it will also be in force. The policy will be widened to cover all UK elections, meaning it will apply to voters

in the by-elections to replace Boris Johnson, Nigel Adams & David Warburton on 20th July. Ministers also point out that voter ID has been a requirement in Northern Ireland since 2003, as well as in many other European countries.

The Electoral Commission, the elections watchdog, has collected data from 226 of the 230 councils where polls were held this year and said its initial assessment was that the polls were "well run" & that the people initially turned away were a small proportion of the overall voter base (generally less than 1% and in many cases less than 0.5%). Overall, about 14,000 people were prevented from voting because they could not show an accepted form of photo ID during England's local elections. Ethnic minorities and unemployed voters were more likely to be turned away & "significantly more" were put off voting by the requirement to show ID at polling stations. Craig Westwood, director of communications at the Commission, said "it is too soon to draw conclusions", but added "some of the emerging evidence is concerning". Research published by the Commission on 23rd June found 0.7% of voters were initially turned away from polling stations in May but around two-thirds of these returned later in the day and were able to vote (thus leaving 0.25% ultimately not able to vote). The Commission plans to publish its full election report in September.

On a more local basis, RBC also released data showing the number of people who brought ID to the polling station for local elections on 4th May. The data shows that 99.8% of electors voting in Runnymede Borough polling stations brought photo ID that met newly introduced voter ID requirements. Collated figures across the area show 13,321 electors voted at their 40 polling stations on 4th May. A total of 8,886 postal votes were also issued and 6,316 were received back and included in the count. At the end of polling day, 29 electors who tried to vote in a polling station were not given a ballot paper because they did not meet the new voter ID requirements - 0.2%. The figures also show while 76 electors were initially turned away, 47 returned with acceptable ID and were able to vote. This means 61.8% of those initially turned away returned and were issued with a ballot paper.

The total RBC elector turnout in 2022 was 31.6%, and the turnout this year was 32.9%, an increase of 1.3%.



KING CHARLES' CORONATION (6-8th May)



Before 2,300 guests, King Charles and Queen Camilla went through the ancient rituals of the first Coronation in 70 years on 6th May, with a twist of modern signals about diversity, & the event proved to be a sumptuous, seamless and often surreal ceremony. Outside, thousands also lined the Mall, despite the rain, to cheer the King as his horse-drawn carriage passed from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. Millions around the world watched the Coronation &, in the UK alone, at least 18 million viewers tuned in, provisional figures suggest. The royal couple were "deeply touched" by the day's events & were "profoundly grateful" to all who helped to make it "such a glorious occasion" and the "very many" who turned out to show their support, Buckingham Palace said.

Thousands of people also enjoyed the sun at Coronation Big Lunches across the country on the Sunday & Prince William and Kate met the crowds for a surprise walkabout on The Long Walk in Windsor. Egham joined in the fun & there were at least 8 street parties with official road closures to match the Big Lunches, including Osborne Road, Clarence Street, The Crescent, Moore Grove Crescent, Denham Road, Rusham Park Avenue, Crown Street, Manor Way & Vicarage Avenue. In all, some 50,000 Coronation lunches were expected to take place in the UK and across the world.

RBC PLANNING ENFORCEMENT



Councillor Isabel Mullens writes : Unless there's been a significant history of breaches of planning on a site (for example where buildings have been put up without permission or exceeding the permission) it is not a normal part of the UK planning system for Councils to check that developments have stuck to approved plans. **Contrary to what might be expected, there's no 'sign-off' procedure in the English planning system.** A Council building inspector is sometimes requested to visit sites to check that building regulations have been followed; however, Building Regulations and planning are not the same thing.

Enforcement in the UK generally relies on the reporting of breaches of planning permission, so an important way that Runnymede Council learns if a development has exceeded the agreed plans, or indeed been built without any approval, is if they are informed by a member of the public i.e. if an enquiry is raised or a complaint is made. The Council has a statutory duty to investigate these, but it has sole discretion as to whether to instigate formal enforcement action. Anyone is entitled to ask the council to investigate a potential breach of planning control. You can do this on the RBC website, using 'Report an Issue'. Runnymede's Enforcement Charter explains the process. Here's a link to a comprehensive, and quite readable, explanation: <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/downloads/file/715/planning-enforcement-charter>. Initially, a site investigation may be made, and if a planning breach is confirmed, resolution will usually be sought through negotiation. Further action will depend on the perceived 'harm' of the unapproved development. This can be a highly technical area because there are many different types of 'harm'. Some breaches (such as felling a protected tree or destroying a listed building) are criminal offences. Only in the last resort will the Council seek to have unapproved building dismantled, but it does happen. If you have questions or concerns about Planning Enforcement, do contact me (on cllr.isabel.mullens@runnymede.gov.uk) and I'll point you in the right direction to take any question further.



GRAVEL EXTRACTION - sometime never?

In their insatiable need to not make a decision, the review by SCC of the Milton Park Farm (MPF) & Whitehall Farm (WF) gravel extraction planning applications has now been deferred until at least 27th September - which is beyond the assumed date of the start of the review of the Surrey Minerals Plan (in June 2023, which is now very out of date from their 2011 version).

These applications will almost certainly not be considered at these meetings as the developers have still not provided the required additional information to SCC before they can trigger a new round of public consultation.

On the new Minerals Plan, SCC have apparently been unable to identify sufficient suitable sites for mineral extraction or waste disposal in Surrey & therefore the planned start of their Preferred Options consultation could not commence in June. Indeed, they have now announced that the public consultation will be deferred by 2 years to June 2025 while SCC "clarifies several uncertainties". Despite the SCC calendar saying different, the view is therefore that none of this will see much progress this year (with the new Minerals Plan only becoming effective in late 2027).



MAGNA CARTA DAY (17th June)

The Magna Carta Day (MCD) celebration is an annual event held in Egham High Street to commemorate the sealing of the Magna Carta on Runnymede, on 15th June 1215 by King John and his Barons. Magna Carta Day was opened by the current Mayor of the Borough of Runnymede (Cllr Shannon Saise-Marshall from Chertsey) and a parade along the High Street commenced shortly before the opening ceremony. There were stalls, funfair rides, food and drink and all forms of entertainment, including live music, children's entertainment etc.

Held in the middle of the June "heatwave", MCD was well attended this year with the 35 stalls attracting good footfall (which was helped by the weather) & saw the Egham Band & the Mayor opening the proceedings.

The ERA stall did particularly well, making over £300 profit & gaining 5 new members. The profit was mainly due to a new ERA raffle, for which we sold over 275 tickets & made about 75% of the income. This was due to the notable prizes from local enterprises (ably collected on our behalf by Brigitte Kreuger).

Particular thanks go to those who helped man/woman the ERA stall during the day.



EGHAM ROYAL SHOW (26-27th August)

Egham Royal Show (ERS) is happy to announce that the 2023 show will be going ahead on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th of August! For the 164th year ERS have a host of exciting events & shows lined up, including livestock, horticulture, stunt shows, vintage & classic car show, dog shows and lots more. Opening times are 10am to 5.30pm on both days. Prices are : Adult (Aged 15-64) £12.00, Adult Weekend 2 day (Aged 15+) £18.00, Children aged 14 & under Free & Concession (Aged 65+) £10.00 per ticket - free parking available. Advance online tickets are available on <https://eghamroyalshow.org.uk/tickets/> at a £2 discount from July.



We plan to be at the Show with an ERA stall (see last year's effort above), where we will be selling our merchandise including cakes etc and offering games on both days. **If you are available for two hours to help on the stall on either day**, (with free entrance to the Show), please contact :

Adrian Skelt on 07956 875329

find the ERS at Caddey's Field, Whitehall Lane, Egham, TW20 9NW



EGHAM BARN DANCE (26th August)

We have been invited to again host a Barn Dance at the Egham Royal Show on the evening of 26th August over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Planning is under way and our usual folk band, 'The Local Yokels' (see opposite), has already been booked. As well as music and dancing from 7.30-10.30 pm, expect the usual fare and fun, including fish 'n chips, the availability of the Egham Royal Show bar, and a raffle. Watch out for posters and an Email Alert shortly with the final details, ticket prices, booking arrangements etc. Email any enquiries to **Willy Burgess at chair@eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk**.

HOUSES of MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs)

Earlier this year in March, the RBC Planning Committee agreed that the Planning Policy Team should continue to gather evidence on the distribution and impact of HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupation) in Runnymede, with a view to introducing an Article 4 Direction to help curb a further increase in these types of properties. This agreement followed the team's initial report on HMOs, which found that there was a disproportionate number of HMOs in Egham and Englefield Green as a result of private landlords renting properties to students of RHUL.



The report cited a number of potential impacts of concentrations of HMOs including lifestyles that exacerbate noise nuisance, car parking issues, dilapidated properties, unkempt gardens, proliferation of 'to-let' boards, and an increase in domestic refuse. It's important then that you report all examples of these impacts as you become aware of them, as this information will be vital to the Planning Policy Team in helping to build up a picture of the effects of this type of housing.

Help on reporting issues can be found on the website: www.WeNeedToTalkAboutRoyalHolloway.com

Alerts on issues that arose between Newsletters this quarter covered :

- a) Support for Isabel Mullens (2/4)
- b) RALG Accessibility Awards (4/4)
- c) Tellers for RBC Election (2/5)
- d) RBC Election Results (4/5)
- e) Runnymede in Bloom (8/5)
- f) Egham Environment Day (26/5)
- g) Meet the Beat (9/6)
- h) ERA - 40 Years On (12/6)
- i) NT Tree Identification (18/6)
- j) RHUL Concert (30/6)
- k) RHUL Neighbour Publication (21/6)
- l) River Thames Scheme (21/6)



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



The Great Big Green Week was the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change & protect nature. It saw everything from litter picks to letter writing, festivals to football matches, seaweed foraging to school assemblies.

The first Great Big Green Week took place in September 2021, when over 5,000 events celebrated how communities are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces. Communities came together once more in September 2022 to show how people are ready & willing to take action to tackle climate change.

As an example, Egham Environment & Sustainability Day, hosted by RBC, was held on 10th June in the High Street. The event focussed on the themes of sustainability, nature preservation and climate change action. It comprised regulars like the Ethical Vegan Market, activities running all day at St Johns Egham Eco Church, situated at the top of Egham High Street, and stalls on Egham High Street hosted by different environmental, community and nature-based organisations.

The ERA organised 2 events on 10th June :

- i) a Great Big Litterpick, starting in Hummer Road & covering Runnymede Road & the Egham Library (run by Cllr Jenkins) - see below; &



- ii) the launch of an Egham Treewatch group, which aims to raise awareness and lobby for further tree planting to enhance our town (run by Sue Holloway, Willy Burgess and Cllr Mullens). Text Willy on 07864 397208 for further information.



ERA COMMITTEE

Chair	
Willy Burgess	07864 397208
Vice-Chair	
Vacant	
Secretary (& Newsletter Editor)	
Adrian Skelt	07956 875329
Treasurer (& Data Protection Officer)	
Aneesh Gupta	07915 612291
Membership Secretary	
Glenda Thisdell	07905 917440
Planning Co-ordinator	
Chris Fisher	07837 782012
RHUL Relations	
Stephen Pollard	07949 356537
Webmaster	
Vacant (<i>temporarily filled by Aneesh Gupta</i>)	
Other Members	
Bill Bessant	07775 333396
Sue Holloway	07906 938041
Brigitte Kreuger	07887 891456
Jim Pearcey	432805
Social Media Co-ordinator	
Stephen Pollard	07949 356537

Local Councillors

Runnymede Borough

Sam Jenkins	(Independent)	07539 478951
Isabel Mullens	(Independent)	07562 644057
Sian Williams	(Independent)	07783 010121

Surrey County

Marisa Heath	(Conservative)	07816 117404
Robert King	(Labour)	07506 274314

Website : www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk



@EghamRA



@EghamResAssoc



eghamresassoc