

EGHAM GATEWAY WEST

The planning application for the major development on Station Road North, known as Egham Gateway West, being managed by Places for People in partnership with RBC as part of the wider borough Runnymede Regeneration Programme, was approved overwhelmingly at the RBC Planning Committee on 10th July by 13 votes to zero (with 2 abstentions). ERA supported the scheme in principle but did, unsuccessfully, ask for a deferment for further consideration of the parking issues & concerns about the height of some of the buildings.



The plans include 28 affordable homes for rent & 6 shared ownership homes, as well as 23 properties for sale & 44 for open market rent. A student accommodation block will also offer 100 study bedrooms. Cllr Nick Prescott, Leader of RBC, said: "The new homes, shops and entertainment which will be created in Egham through this substantial and ambitious plan will deliver a significant boost for the north of the borough. The commitment to affordable and shared homes is absolutely key to the Council's aim of supporting local people and creating a vibrant town." A new four screen Everyman cinema will feature within the plans on the corner of Station Road North and Church Road (see picture above). There will also be retail and restaurant units, a food convenience store and a new public square. Rick Lawrence, Partnerships Director at Places for People said: "We are delighted to have secured planning permission on behalf of the Council for this development which will help transform Egham and bring new homes, amenities and green spaces to the local community. We have worked hard since our public consultation last year to incorporate the views of local people to deliver a scheme which will truly benefit everyone".

Progress is currently held up by a Section 106 Agreement (between a developer and a local planning authority about measures that the developer must take to reduce their impact on the community & infrastructure) & thus site clearance work has not yet commenced. The main building works are now set to complete by Autumn 2021.



RUNNYMEDE PLEASURE GROUNDS

The RBC planning application for the £4.8mm upgrade scheme in Windsor Road was due to be submitted in May this year, with work on the site anticipated to begin early in 2020. However, the application has been severely delayed by the Environment Agency raising concerns about the flood risk assessment & hence querying the number of new lodges (to be run by the Runnymede Hotel). At the time of going to print the application has still not appeared (but is reported as "imminent").

The Pleasure Grounds are a popular destination but the facilities there are in need of refurbishment. RBC, as trustee of the site, is preparing to replace the café, paddling pool, play area & upgrade the parking. The final plan - see above diagram - which has come about after consultation with local people & organisations, includes a new café situated further back into the park, giving views across the grounds and to the Thames (see our last Newsletter).

MILTON PARK GRAVEL

After years (nay a decade!) of so-called "consultation", SCC have now deferred their Planning & Regulatory Committee review of Hanson's Milton Park gravel application until the 18th December (this year!) - as usual, no reason given for the unheard of delay.....



SURREY FIRE & RESCUE CONSULTATION



A public consultation on the plans for “Making Surrey Safer” concluded last May & the SCC Cabinet considered the results on their 24th September meeting. SCC engaged extensively with the public & with their partners, & received feedback from over 1,800 individuals and groups, through the consultation survey, letters & face-to-face engagement events. The most disagreement in the consultation was over changing night crewing at several fire stations (leaving no fire appliances overnight inc. at Egham).

At the SCC Cabinet meeting the plan was eventually overwhelmingly approved. Some Councillors commented that many residents were not believing the planned improvements, especially on response times in those areas where the night-time crew changes were planned. It is, however, planned that responses will stay within the SCC safety target of 10-15mins and there is a planned rollout of the plan to 2023 with external validation & scrutiny of the effects. Overall the HM Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services has ruled that there is less risk of fire at night & SCC have agreed to not cutting the number of firefighters & are enlarging the number of on-call firefighters (& spend an extra £1mm on equipment etc).

Despite this, a Fire Brigades Union petition (“We demand SCC scrap their plans to leave 7 major fire appliances un-crewed at night” - including at Egham) reached the required number of signatures (12,500) & will be considered at the next SCC Full Council meeting - this public meeting will be held at 10:00am on 8th October in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames.



RHUL ESTATE PLAN

Ahead of their original deadline on 2nd August, RHUL held an Estate Plan consultation event on 22nd July to go over their campus expansion plans (covering the areas marked in the diagram opposite). A follow-up event was also held on 17th September. There is a huge amount of detail in the Estate Plan but ERA has asked RHUL for more information about its new expansion plans, which include a proposal for a new 'Rusham Park Student Village' on the old Procter & Gamble site in Whitehall Lane. It is understood that the 'village' would accommodate up to 2,000 students & that the new plans envisage a further net increase of 800 in the overall number of students

attending the college. The Englefield Green Village Residents Association (EGVRA) are leading the charge on this project but ERA has also asked for clarification on a number of points including the “Southern Link Road” proposal (across Nobles Field?), the scope for a reduction in the number of student HMOs in the town and the traffic implications for Whitehall Lane/Prune Hill and the Egham Hill stretch of the A30 (around Piggery Gate & Harvest Road).

RHUL BACK GATE

Further to recent unsustainable disruption at night being caused to local residents, including our protests on noise issues, RHUL have now altered the back gate access.

The opening times of the gate that opens out into Spring Rise, the so called 'back gate', were revised to enable access and exit from the campus via that gate 24 hours per day. However, this level of access has resulted in a significant increase in complaints from people living locally who are being disturbed by people entering and leaving the campus late at night and in the early hours of the morning.

Having monitored the situation closely over the last three terms, the RHUL Executive made a decision to re-establish closed hours. From this academic year (starting September 2019) the gate has been locked at 12.30am each night and will re-open at 5am.

Although unfortunately there was no public consultation on hours, the timing of the gate closure by RHUL was apparently designed to take into account maintaining access to the campus, including the library, for as long as possible, enabling people to catch the first morning train from Egham station and providing access to the gym which opens at 6.30am on weekdays. The ERA, however, believes that the gate should be closed no later than 10.30pm, and is disappointed - but not surprised - that the college authorities think the decision on this should be a matter only for them.





EGHAM ROYAL SHOW (24th - 25th August)

On the hottest Bank Holiday on record, the footfall at the 161st Egham Royal Show was impressive & the ERA stall was again a success - with all cakes sold on the Saturday. Overall, the stall made £125 net profit & many thanks to those that helped man/woman the stall during the 2 days.

The annual Barn Dance was again a success with a turnout of over 125 (including the Runnymede Mayor) & over £200 made on the raffle. The overall net profit on the Dance was c.£1,000. This emphasises that this Dance, now in its 19th year, is a well-established local event & one of the mainstays of the ERS. Although we lost Proctor & Gamble, thanks go to our continuing sponsors, Chivers Cladding and Aviation Logistics Network - especially the latter who contributed £1,500. Once again, thanks also go to the Pearcey family (helped by Sian Williams), who have been co-ordinating this Dance since it began, & significantly contribute to one of the ERA's biggest annual fundraising event.

CULTURAL COMMUNITY HUB @ The LIT

The ground floor of the Lit in the High Street has been empty for more than a year & RBC have advertised for new tenants. Some commercial interests have expressed possible interest but the vision for the @theLit campaign is based on the Lit becoming a community not a commercial venture. The community uses of the Lit include heritage (Magna Carta etc), arts & exhibits, music, dance & drama, café & retail but the issue all comes down to finances. To get off the ground @theLit needs seed funding via a peppercorn rent from RBC to get the

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) working on redevelopment. The @theLit group is meeting with the RBC Community Working Group shortly & needs campaign supporters to write letters of support. We think that ideally the Lit should stay as a community asset & we have written to support the campaign. For more details of the campaign visit their website : www.AtTheLit.org & help them agree with RBC a peppercorn rent for the Lit to get the Cultural Community Hub up & running by the end of the year.



ERA QUIZ NIGHT (19th October)

This year's Quiz Night is from 7.30pm on 19th October at the Pastoral Centre, behind the United Church, Egham High Street, with General Knowledge again being the Quiz's theme.

Teams of up to 8 people are required with tickets £10 per person.

This will include a fish & chip (or veggie burger & chip) supper but please bring your own drinks and any nibbles! Places are limited so book early!

Tickets available from Cynthia Reilly (431019 or 07790 273225)

EGHAM CHRISTMAS FAIR (7th December)

The Egham Chamber of Commerce are again organising a Christmas Fair in the High Street on Saturday 7th December from 11.00 to 16.00. As last year a range of stalls selling food, drinks & gifts are expected plus a Santa's Grotto, carol singing & fairground rides plus there will be an ERA stall - cake contributions welcomed!

Contact Cynthia Reilly on 01784 431019 or cr@kseakens.co.uk



EGHAM BAND @ CHRISTMAS (13th December)

The sound of a brass band at Christmas is certain to get you into the festive mood! The Egham Band's Christmas schedule will include a Concert from 7.00pm on Friday 13th December at St Johns Church - free admission.

EGHAM CHORAL CONCERT (14th December)

Their Christmas Concert will take place at St. Jude's Church, EG on Saturday, 14th December at 7pm. The programme features a variety of traditional and modern Christmas music, some with audience participation. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie in the interval. Tickets will available 1 month before & can be purchased via email on tickets@eghamchoral.org or by phone on 07508 320348.





Email Alert

Alerts on issues that arose between Newsletters this quarter covered :

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| a) 1/7 Glanty & A30 Roadworks (from 10/7) | b) 9/7 Website Update |
| c) 10/7 Meet the Councillors (13/7) | d) 12/7 Runnymede Roundabout |
| e) 16/7 RHUL Consultation (22/7) | f) 18/7 RHUL Back Gate Closure |
| g) 29/7 RHUL Consultation Deadline (2/8) | h) 5/8 ERS Barn Dance (24/8) |
| i) 21/8 ERA Barn Dance (24/8) Reminder | j) 10/9 RHUL Consultation Follow-up (17/9) |
| k) 11/9 Meet the Councillors (21/9) | l) 25/9 75th Anniversary D-Day Ball (12/10) |

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

HEATHROW EXPANSION



Heathrow's Airport latest Expansion Consultation ran until 13th September - it gave people the chance to provide feedback on

the future layout of the airport, including the new runway and infrastructure like terminals and road access. The consultation documents show plans for the airport's growth in phases - from runway opening in approximately 2026, to the completed development in approximately 2050.

However Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has said a 3rd runway may not "stack up" financially. Speaking to Sky News about the third runway, he said that there are "questions about whether the whole plan stacks up" and that Heathrow is going to need to "make sure they bring in enough income to justify the billions of pounds spent on it. There are of course court cases to do with emissions, so what we've said is we'll watch that process very carefully and in the meantime I'll be having a really close look at whether figures stack up or whether building more capacity, another runway there, would add to the charges to such an extent that it doesn't."

British Airways' parent IAG has told the CAA that it has 'absolutely no confidence' in Heathrow's ability to deliver cost-effective expansion. IAG claims that the original estimate for both the third runway and additional terminal and aircraft stand capacity was £14 billion, but now it claims that Heathrow's latest masterplan shows the runway alone will cost that much and the total expansion will cost £32 billion.

Campaigners against the expansion of Heathrow were granted permission to challenge a High Court ruling over plans for a third runway, which will be heard at the Court of Appeal in October (with live streaming over six days from the 17th).



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

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Julian Richardson 435578

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Vacant (Twitter)

Runnymede Borough Councillors

Alan Alderson 07831 441638

Brian Clarke 07767 258997

Isabel Mullens 07562 644057

NB. The next "Meet the Councillors" session is on 12th October outside the United Church in the High Street

Surrey County Councillors

Marisa Heath 07971 666317

Yvonna Lay 457170



TWITTER CO-ORDINATOR

Our previous Twitter co-ordinator (Isabel Mullens) is now a RBC Councillor & thus a new Twitter fan is required to takeover our ERA co-ordination. If anyone is keen on "tweets" for residents, then please contact Isabel Mullens on 07562 644057 for details of our system.

Website : www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk

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