

Dear Resident,

We hope that you have been keeping safe and well during this uncertain time. The COVID-19 situation has brought us several challenges since March 2020. As a council, we have been agile in responding to the crisis. There are a number of things we have been working on this year of which we would like to inform you:

Runnymede Welfare Cell & Foodbank

We have worked tirelessly to ensure that vulnerable residents in the Borough are looked after during lockdown. The Welfare Cell at RBC is supported by officers across different departments and Councillors. We made proactive calls to our list of vulnerable residents each week, ensuring they had food and medication. Councillors cross-party secured a warehouse for the Foodbank to continue running its service in a safe and COVID compliant manner. Watch the [video](#) here to see how fundraising efforts have helped ensure those who are in need are being provided for by volunteers across the Borough.

Green Agenda

We have set up a transport working group with Royal Holloway to identify some joint initiatives around greener transport in the area. We will look at electric bikes, electric vehicle parking, and less polluting buses to get people back and forth to the train station. More broadly at the council we are making the green agenda a key focus of our post COVID recovery plan. We want to tackle air pollution, get less car usage, reduce food waste and drive up recycling.

Barbara Clark House

Former Ashdene House progressed through planning for 26 residential units inclusive of parking. The demolition has taken place and RBC are working to ensure the build contract is secured to begin in Summer 2020. The new name is in memory of Mrs Clark who worked tirelessly for our community, raising money for the Queen Elizabeth Centre and her involvement with Guiding in Englefield Green. We are excited to be offering residential homes to families/new buyers. We feel this new build will significantly improve the look and feel upon entering the Green.

Continuing Democracy

The planning committee was first to trial a virtual committee meeting with the ability to have public speaking and decision making. It has been hard work but proven to be a success. We have now started to implement other committee meetings to take place virtually to ensure we stay ahead and can continue to operate as a council. If you want to watch those meetings you will find the agendas and registration instructions for Microsoft TEAMS on the RBC website.

Car Parking

We understand the frustration around car parking during lockdown owing to people visiting the area to walk in the park. We have been working closely with Surrey Police and Runnymede Borough Council Enforcement team to police and fine dangerous and illegal parking in the local area. We are aware that there are areas which don't have restrictions near the Great Park that have been abused and we are looking at what measures can be taken to place restrictions in these areas without harming residents ability to park.

On the local parking, there is still working ongoing to design an outline solution which would consider residents permits as one option to tackle the student parking issues around the proximity of the campus. The Surrey Highways parking team have worked out the roads which have the biggest problem and how a scheme could work. Any proposals need to have thorough resident input and consultation so the current COVID situation is preventing it moving forward at the moment. The situation with student numbers has also been impacted by COVID and the university will no doubt be considering its situation. We will seek to hold a virtual surgery with Royal Holloway in due course so that we can ask questions on their plans.

Planning

We understand there have been some issues around the development by Danehurst with noise and large vehicles moving around at times outside of the planning conditions. We have taken this up with planning enforcement and the developers directly and both parties have assured us it is being tackled. We fought to stop the development but lost it at national appeal and now our focus is on trying to find ways of balancing the new development with the needs of our residents. Some of this is around parking which is a priority.

The Wants site on Victoria Street was approved on 3rd June. The applicant produced a scheme which was sympathetic to the issues the village faces. An upcoming large development to look out for is Rusham Park (RU.20/0098, RU.20/0092 & RU.20/0260). RHUL Car Park 14 (South Road) remains a possibility. We are aware of the significant impact this development would have on the local area and therefore will keep residents up to date as RHUL's development plan progresses.

We have lots of ideas and projects but, as ever, we are keen to hear your thoughts. You're welcome to email or call us, and you will find us at our monthly **virtual** councillor surgery (further dates posted online). If you want to keep up to date with news or information related to Englefield Green, email us to sign up at englefieldgreencouncillors@gmail.com

Yours,

Marisa and Jap

Councillors for Englefield Green East

Virtual Councillor Surgery	
Date	18 th June 2020
Time	18:30 – 19:30
Location	Zoom

Your Local Councillors



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