

Minutes of Steering Committee No 53, Thursday 27th March 2025,

At The village Centre, Victoria Street, Englefield Green, 6.30pm to 8.45 pm

- 1) **Present:** Mike Kelly (Chair), Alan Sloan, Albert Jamieson, Fred West, Terry Barnett
- 2) **Apologies for Absence;** Erik Juul-Mortensen, Melanie Frobisher,
- 3) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 52;** Approved
- 4) **Declaration of personal interest in topics to be discussed;** none.
- 5) **Accounts;** Fred circulated a Cash Statement in advance of the meeting showing the current balance of £293 at Barclays.

Quotes for public, employers and legal liability were also circulated in advance with premiums of around £340 including insurance company fees and tax. It was agreed that insurance cover should be delayed awaiting receipt of further funds to pay the premium.

It was agreed current funds with Barclays should be used as follows pending receipt of authorised invoices:-

Confirmation Statement to Co's House due April	£34
Bank fees due July Aug	£17
Printing leaflets	£76
2 years hosting web site (transfer free)	<u>£170</u>
	<u>£297</u>

- 6) **Application for re designation of the Forum;** Approved. Forum is now designated for a further 5 years.
- 7) **a) Membership.** Further flyers were distributed. Committee members continue to do door to door knocking, but most respond with taking the leaflet and saying they will sign up later, which is disappointing, as that response usually results in few actually doing it.
b) Volunteers. The need for a 'Tree and Hedges' committee member- circular to be sent to members.

Someone to redesign the web site is needed

c) Fund Raising- Terry has been asked to approach the Co-Op to see if they will fund the maintenance of the central area once (if) it has been refurbished. Mike to provide a briefing.

d) Commercial: Mike has asked Eric if he could start liaison with the businesses in EG, with a view to forming or enhancing (if it exists) a grouping of businesses that could advise us and assist in proposing ways that business (particularly shops and pubs) can be enhanced through physical improvements to the village and strengthened connections with assets such as the Great Park and Runnymede

8) Infrastructure Development Schedule- Meeting with Stephanie Broadly allowed us to present our list of local projects. We await confirmation that some or hopefully all are included on the IDS.

9) NDHA update. Consultation period has closed. Assessment of complaints being analysed by the consultants on behalf of RBC. Awaiting outcome.

10) English Devolution White Paper. (Proposal to scrap Borough Councils and divide Surrey into unitary councils). Alan has submitted the application. No response so far.

11) Projects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan

a) **Parking:** Most of the new survey has been undertaken, except it would appear that the HMOs have been left out, apparently due to a misunderstanding. The Committee unanimously agreed that the HMOs should be included, and asked Albert to organise this.

It was emphasised that this need to happen rapidly so that the report could go to Marisa Heath et al ASAP.

The Committee thanked the PPP team for the considerable effort they had put in to the survey so far and considered the results of the survey so far to be encouraging.

b) **Speed Limits and One Way systems.** Alan is still getting no response from Surrey Highways but will keep trying.

c) **The A30, Liveable neighbourhoods, National Cycling route 4;** No news

d) **Transport Hub.** No news yet. Mike continues to respond to a number of questions and suggestions from the Surrey CC Placemaking Dept.

A funding decision is due at the end of March. If the application is successful, then a special committee will need to be set up to deal with the various decisions that need to be made prior to construction.

- e) **Bond Street Hedges.** Video meeting with RBC officers took place on the 13th March. Notes attached. There is no funding available so we will have to apply under the next tranche of small projects for CIC and S106 funds. At the same time, it is obvious that permission to use RBC land is a major stumbling block, so pursuing that is a priority.
- f) **Other tree projects-** no comments
- g) **Forest Estate Garden Project-** still in abeyance.

12) Planning;

- a) Birchlands- Mike to remind Xavier Brice re the St Judes road crossing.
- b) Barbara Clark House- Still nothing seems to be happening at the moment.
- c) Oaklands driveway, Dell Park Redesignation, RHUL use of Elliot Hall- All responded to and circulated.

13) AOB-

Action left from previous meeting; Meeting with Windsor Park; Mike would try and set up a meeting with Nick Day.

Reminder that there is the £100,000 CIL money from the N4 cycle route improvements to consider!

14) Next Meeting- 24th April 2025

Note regarding a meeting with Justin Sander and Andi Roy of Runnymede Borough Council at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 13 March 2025 via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Justin Sander - RBC Parks and Green Spaces Manager

Andi Roy - RBC Biodiversity Officer

Mike Kelly - Chair EGVNF

Alan Sloan - Vice Chair EGVNF

Apologies for absence: Elliott Street - Surrey County Council Tree Officer

Trees and Hedging – purpose of meeting

Following on from the previous meeting held on 14 November the purpose of the meeting was to establish what could be achieved in the light of reduced funding in 2025/2026.

MK outlined the background re: the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan (made on 24 January 2024) which included Placemaking and a number of projects residents would like to see implemented including the planting trees and hedging.

There was discussion about the use of whips which have a high mortality rate (circa 40%) as opposed to more resilient bare root plants about 1m high. Whips are costed at 50p each whereas bare root plants cost £2.50 each.

AS said it was important to establish the approval route at RBC to plant trees/ hedging on RBC owned land in Bond Street (thought to be the Housing Department) i.e. could this be dealt with at Officer level or would this need to be considered by a RBC Committee. Also, equally importantly, whether EG Projects CIC was acceptable as a sustainable organisation for the provision of ongoing maintenance. It was noted that maintenance would require the use of a water bowser on a flatbed vehicle which would need to be taxed, insured, maintained and, when not in use, stored in a safe location.

MK said that a funding application would likely to be made to the local CIL fund.

JS agreed, working with AR, to investigate and to set up a meeting to discuss further with MK and AS in the Village Centre within the next couple of weeks.

Alan Sloan

13 March 2025