

Minutes of Steering Committee No 57, Thursday 14th August 2025,

At the Village Centre, Victoria Street, 6.30pm to 8.30pm

- 1) **Present:** Mike Kelly (Chair), Alan Sloan, Melanie Frobisher, Terry Barnett, Albert Jamieson, Debbie Bates
- 2) **Apologies for Absence;** Fred West, Erik Juul-Mortensen
- 3) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 56;** Approved
- 4) **Annual General Meeting:** It was agreed to hold a virtual AGM on 11 September.
- 5) **Declaration of personal interest in topics to be discussed;** None.
- 6) **Accounts:** A grant of £2000 was received from Surrey CC on 27 July. The grant of £6931 received from RBC will shortly be paid to SCC which will enable the S278 to be signed. There is a further £400 which needs to be paid to SCC for fees which temporarily will be paid from the £2000 grant and reimbursed later when a subsequent bid for £400 has been approved.
- 7) **Membership:** The number of members for whom we now hold e-mail addresses has increased to 377 with a net gain of 71 from the recent petition to approve the planting and maintenance of trees and hedges on selected land owned by RBC.
 - b) **Volunteer drive:** No progress
 - c) **Publicity and website:** It was agreed that a short article on the recent accident on Priest Hill and our previous endeavours to lower the speed limit from National to 40 mph should be circulated to all members where we hold an e-mail address and any other media as appropriate
- 8) **NDHA update:** Awaiting approval by the RBC Planning Committee which meets in September.
- 9) **Parish Council - Community Governance Review:** The initial consultation (survey) period runs from 2 August - 15 September. Where RBC already hold a resident's e-mail address they would have received an e-mail on 1 August. A hard copy document was sent out to all residents on 8 August and received on 13 August. Responses, which have to be made online, as of 14 August, total 210. Alan will be in contact with Kath Richards at RBC on a weekly basis for an update. Mike asked Alan to speak to Kath to see whether there were any spare leaflets which we could have to distribute to the Village Centre and shops.
- 10) **Climate and Nature Action Plans** – No progress. Niamh Ryan at SCC has established possible blockages in RBC but has had no responses to her emails to them. SCC have no suitable land in Englefield Green for planting, it's all RBC owned, Mike will recommence pursuing RBC.
- 11) **Projects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan**
 - a) **Parking: Forum's 2024 Parking Review submission** – this removes/changes existing parking restrictions in the Pilot Project area to free up a significant amount of additional parking spaces and has now entered the consultation phase (Phase 3 (of 5) Advertisement), which has been held up due to staff shortages at SCC. All Steering Committee members and whomsoever they can rally to submit supportive comments online before the deadline, Albert will do so on behalf of the Forum.

- b) **CPZ:** Progress on the above enables SCC Parking to move forward with a parking permit scheme in the PPP area. A first meeting with Peter Wells and the PPP Group has been scheduled for 28 August to discuss the various options.
- c) **Speed Limits: St Jude's Road (Middle Hill to the junction of St Jude's Road and the A30) – 30mph – 20mph.** Marisa Heath reported at a recent Councillors' Surgery meeting that this was included as part of the SCC's 2025/2026 integrated transport scheme programme. Experience suggest that this will be delivered across two financial years (includes undertaking surveys in roads across Englefield Green) **Prune Hill and Bakeham Lane to Callow Hill** – out for consultation. **Priest Hill** – after 18 months of badgering Councillors' on our submission we've been informed that finally legal agreement has been reached between SCC and RBWM regarding the bottom 100m of Priest Hill, which falls within Windsor and Maidenhead. The recent accident involving a car, horses and riders, with the death of a horse was noted – see 7 c) above. **The A30, Liveable neighbourhoods, National Cycling route 4:** at the July Councillors' Surgery meeting it was reported that consultation would commence in August. Hopefully this would inform our proposals for any one-way systems in Englefield Green.
- d) **Transport Hub:** Mike reported on a recent onsite meeting with SCC officials (Katerina Organtzi and Shaista Salem) in an effort to finalise any outstanding issues prior to completion and signing of the S278 agreement. Providing the various queries from SCC can be resolved soon it was hoped that work would commence in mid-September. Afterwards there was a meeting with Risto Hannonen-Gladden (Director, Englefield Close Residents Association and Director, Englefield Close Freehold Limited) who was concerned with security and access to the properties backing onto the area. It was agreed to move the Information Board and for the hedge to be continuous along the boundary. Risto said that they may wish to install a metal fence on their side of the boundary line in due course.
- e) **Bond Street Hedges:** The petition containing 98 signatures for “*Runnymede Borough Council to approve the planting and maintenance of trees and hedges by voluntary groups on selected land owned by Runnymede Borough Council in accordance with the RBC Runnymede Climate Change and Nature Action Plan (Adopted Feb 2024. Reviewed and updated April 2025)*” was handed over to Cllr Andrea Berardi at the Councillors' Surgery meeting on 12 July. The next stage is for Cllr Berardi to present the petition to a RBC Full Council meeting in the Autumn.
- f) **Other Tree and Hedges Projects:** Delayed as a result of the reluctance of RBC to approve planting on RBC land - see also 10 and 11(e) above. Mike explained his research on irrigation systems involving either the purchase of a flatbed truck and tank or a battery-operated system. Both options would require a team of volunteers to operate. The three year maintenance option by the installer which was available last year would be ideal if still available.
- g) **Forest Estate gardening project:** No progress

12) Planning

- a) Surinder Arora meeting – Mike reported that Surinder Arora had requested a meeting with the Forum to discuss his plans for a Golf Course on the current Parkwood site. A meeting has been arranged for 10.30 on 18 August.
- b) The planning application for a 15-metre mobile phone mast on the corner of Kingsley Avenue and Larchwood Drive was raised by residents at the July Councillors' Surgery meeting. Legal advice was that to object only two key points are likely to carry weight with RBC which are as follows: Visual and Community Impact and Availability of Better Alternatives.
- c) Meetings with RBC Policy Planning with Mike and Albert and with SCC Highways Development with Marisa and Albert have yielded positive outcomes relating to our recent planning objections in relation to applications with on-street parking impact, including RHUL related applications e.g. see 13 b) below. Follow-up meetings are being arranged and will be reported on in due course.

13) AOB.

a) Middle Hill: Two residents have contacted our county and Ward Councillors (one also directly through our website), who in turn asked for the Forum's help. Accordingly, Albert contacted and met with each of the two concerned residents in the road on their behalf. After two months of trying the two residents have been unsuccessful in enrolling other road residents to further meet with the Forum; first establish what exactly the problems are; and then assist them with following the relevant council resolution processes. We are awaiting to hear further from the two residents once they have had some success.

b) George Eliot Halls: Albert reported the planning application in respect of the student accommodation at George Eliot Halls had been withdrawn but it was suspected would be resubmitted in the future.

c) Drop in planning applications: Some concern was expressed about the low number of planning applications currently being referred to the Forum in its role as a Statutory Authority. Mel to investigate.

14) Next Meeting- 11 September 2025 circa 7.30 p.m. at the Village Centre following the virtual AGM at 6.30p.m.