

## **Minutes of Steering Committee No 61, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

### **Village Centre, 7.30pm to 9.30pm**

**Present:** Mike Kelly (Chair), Alan Sloan, Melanie Frobisher, Debbie Garland, Fred West, Albert Jamieson,

- 1) **Apologies for Absence;** , Terry Barnett
- 2) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 60;** Approved
- 3) **Declaration of personal interest in topics to be discussed;** None.
- 4) **Accounts:** A report on financial activities was presented to the Committee and approved. Other than bank charges there were no administration expenses for running the Committee this month. Costs associated with the Central Area Hub Project during the month were a deposit on the manufacture and supply of the Village Sign and payment for the bike racks supply.

An end cost prediction is being maintained on the Central Area Refurbishment Project currently indicating a small saving. MK stated there was still a long way to go and as site work starts additional work may be required.

- 5) **Membership, Publicity, Website and Communications:** See attached report from Melanie. Expenditure on Hostingers email creation services approved.
- 6) **Parish Council:** See attached report from Alan
- 7) **Projects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan**
  - a) **Parking, Residents Permit Scheme:** See attached report from Albert. Albert refreshed our memories of how on-street parking stress % was calculated by Project Centre Ltd and tabled a draft position paper on Parking to be discussed further at the February meeting.
  - b) **Speed limits, LCWIP:** See attached report from Alan
  - c) **Transport Hub:** See attached report from Mike
  - d) **Trees and Hedges Project:** See attached report from Mike
- 8) **Forest Estate gardening project:** The 'Estate Improvement Policy' authored by RBC has not been discussed yet and should feature in our next meeting to see if anything useful for the Forest Estate could come from it.
- 9) **Planning**

None of the Planning applications over the last month appear to be contentious.

See also Alans report on Barbara Clark house, where we need to watch out for a possible revised planning application.

**10) AOB.**

There was a discussion on the pros and cons of using generative AI and its use in correspondence. Our etiquette is not to reference it specifically and the author should take full responsibility for the content of Forum correspondence.

Fred reported that in order to crack down on fraud and to comply with recent changes in UK company law, HMRC have given notice that they will be closing their free online service for filing company accounts and tax. From 1 April we will need to use commercial software approved by HMRC which will be able to input information in the required format directly to HMRC systems. The Forum will need to use the commercial software to file the CIC returns for the year ending 30th April 2026. He will be looking at the approved software to give a recommendation to the Directors shortly.

**Next Meeting-** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Centre.

## **MFK report o Central Area and Trees project for meeting no 61**

### **Central Area**

Work has now started with an end date of 28<sup>th</sup> February projected by the contractor.

Some details still to be resolved;

- 1) The group of Wild Cherries that we want removed (now subject to a 30 day notice by Surrey CC Highways and which can be removed if no one objects by 30<sup>th</sup> January.)
- 2) The electrics where I am having difficulty with the Surrey CC installation contractor regarding technical difficulties and 'rules' that are easily solved if they would co-operate. Have been working on this for an unnecessary 2 month period)

Except for these items everything is now settled and I have two or three minor sketches/ instructions to do to allow the contractor to proceed with some of the detail.

All furniture is ordered.

Recent developments- Someone has proposed putting a free book library and a defibrillator on the area and this is under discussion.

### **Trees**

Following involvement by Andrea and Justin Saunders (RBC) it has been agreed that I re-write the application to apply for trees only, which I have been told will be supported by RBC management. The total application stays at £21900 and the wording has been given to us (but needs some mods) This will now involve various other volunteer organisations though will be directed by us so their involvement will be directed by us.

Re application will go in after the weekend.

Mike 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Update for EGVNF Steering Committee meeting on 15 January**

### **1. Speed limits:**

**Priest Hill - Proposed 40 mph Speed Limit-** Consultation closed on 10 November. Statutory consultation is expected to commence in mid-January 2026.

**Callow Hill/Bakeham Lane/Prune Hill – Proposed 30 mph Speed Limit-**

The traffic order team have confirmed that the public notice for the proposals will be advertised on 12 December, and the statutory consultation will run until 17 January 2026. The works should go ahead shortly thereafter.

**Englefield Green – 20mph scheme-** SCC have drawn up a draft plan which, I understand from Marisa Heath, is quite large and covers most of the village. Marisa Heath has been doing some soft engagement through a letter out to residents and a survey. It is very much 50/50 support at the moment. The proper/formal consultation will take place in January 2026 and will include a map.

- 2. Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) -**The Runnymede LCWIP feasibility designs have been received by the SCC team and are now being reviewed. It is anticipated that engagement sessions with elected members on this feasibility work will take place late Jan/early Feb 2026. Members can then share the content from this engagement with EGVRA and other interested groups after these sessions. Public consultation will not take place until after the May elections.

£1m of CIL funding has been secured from Runnymede Borough Council for the LCWIP Programme which enables this funding to match with future Active Travel England funding for agreed priority schemes.

- 3. Progress towards establishing a Parish Council in Englefield Green -**The second stage of public consultation took place between 3 November - 15 December 2025. Specifically, this stage sought approval that;

- the parish of Englefield Green should be created.
- the parish will not be warded (i.e. it will be treated as one area as opposed to being divided into several areas).
- the name of the parish council should be Englefield Green Parish Council.
- the parish council for Englefield Green shall consist of 14 Councillors

RBC sent out an e-mail reminder to residents on 1 December following earlier reminders from the Forum by both e-mail and social media.

A report will be submitted to the Corporate Management Committee on 12 February and Full Council on 26 February. Once this has been approved then the legal department will prepare the order. It is anticipated that a project team will then be formulated to agree the next stage of the process. If the outcome of the review is to create a parish council, they will initially be required to manage allotments and respond to planning applications. Discussions would then take place with the new unitary authority regarding which other functions it would take over.

There was a total of 522 responses to the second stage of public consultation which compares very favourably with the 603 responses to the first survey.

4. **Barbara Clark House** – At the Councillors' Surgery meeting on 10 January it was reported that the land is in the process of being sold to a local developer at a reduced cost as RBC seek to dispose of assets before the new UA comes into force. Unfortunately, it would appear the property will not be reserved for social housing and therefore could be used for student accommodation! It is understood that the developer will be submitting new plans in due course which hopefully will comply with the NP design codes.
5. **Former Birchlands Care Home** – I requested an update from Marisa Heath at the September Councillors' Surgery meeting and received the following update on 3 October:

"Our delivery partner, Places for People, continue to undertake preconstruction activity in advance of submitting the reserved matters planning application. We anticipate the reserved matters planning application will be submitted in 2026 and engagement on this application will be led by the developer in advance of its submission. We will ensure you are notified of any planned pre-application engagement being organised and also will engage with you ahead of this". At this stage there is nothing further to report.

Alan Sloan 12 January 2025

**Report on Membership, Publicity, Communications for meeting on !  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Membership;** 2 x new registered members

Facebook - 46 followers (increase of 14)

Nextdoor - 12 members (no change)

**Publicity;**

Social Media Posts:

1 x Parish Council

1 x Central Area

Next Posts:

Update Central Area

Update Parish Council

Website Updates:

Parking - content added

Central Area - content added

Parish Council - content amended

**Membership Communications**

I think we need to do an update email newsletter to the membership when we know about the Parish Council, but also include the Central Area and Parking updates too.

If we have \$1.59/month available (for a year) we could use Hostingers email creation services. It would mean that our emails are visually appealing as we can add images and laid out in a more engaging way with multiple links back to the website. This would hopefully increase engagement and referrals

Melanie Frobisher 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

## **Report on HIGHWAYS for 15<sup>th</sup> January Meeting**

### **Parking**

Online content worked on and updated with Mel, c. 75% complete with some.

Please see emails during the month on the various parts of our parking strategy and tactics being progressed.

- Dec 12 – incl. possibly to petition the SoS (similar to what we did on the Parish Council).
- Jan 6 – email thread RBC Planning Policy re: Parking SPD 3-Year Review engagement
- Jan 8 – PPP meeting on comms plan + for permit scheme (see below)
- Jan 12 and/or 13 – CP14 pilot thread (no 1st meeting notes/minutes received from RHUL)
- Jan 13 – see below residents permit scheme

RHUL CP14 pilot meeting “Surfacing Implementation Issues” - Mike, Alan and I met before Christmas just after the 1<sup>st</sup> CP14 meeting for over an hour to discuss how to avoid any hesitation that RHUL’s “suite of measures” for parking may have on the progress of the residents permit scheme. This has been executed, on the face of it successfully (Marisa’s latest reply below) but we remain vigilant.

A concern the 3 of us all held is the possible reputational double-bind we may find ourselves in were we to reject any of the parking “suite of measures” RHUL may wish/choose to implement. We agreed taking a “it can do no harm” approach and being supportive for anything and everything that’s offered. My position was let’s see the details you send us of what you’re proposing, I’ll share it with our Steering Committee and come back to you in January (no details received yet). There seems from initial enquiries to be 0 % interest from residents to apply for a free 6-month overnight permit for CP14. Nevertheless, as stated above, we propose to be supportive whilst recognising the possible pitfalls. Albert to send an email to the CP14 Committee members to this effect.

Mike and I are attending RHUL’s inaugural new parking committee working group chaired by Marisa, possibly Jan 23 or 30.

We are waiting for a date from RBC Planning DM to square the circle on *inter alia* planning conditions for Piggery Gate and Rusham Pk that we can leverage.

Thanks Albert 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026