

## Minutes of Steering Committee No 63, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### The Village Centre, 7.30pm to 9.00pm

**Present:** Mike Kelly (Chair), Alan Sloan, Melanie Frobisher, Albert Jamieson, Terry Barnett

- 1) **Apologies for Absence;** Debbie Garland, Fred West
- 2) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 62;** 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. There were no administration expenses for running the Committee this month.

An end cost prediction is being maintained on the Central Area Refurbishment Project continues to indicate a potential small saving.

- 5) **Membership, Publicity, Website and Communications:** See attached report from Melanie. Contributions and input from Mike, Alan and Albert required.
- 6) **Parish Council:** See attached report from Alan
- 7) **Projects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Parking,**

- a) **PPP Area Permit Parking Scheme:** Nothing new to report, the design is in the hands of SCC Highways. The PPP Group will be meeting in April to discuss promotion of the scheme to residents ahead of SCC's Public Consultation part of the process.
- 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: Not discussed but-**The 'Estate Improvement Policy' authored by RBC should feature in our next meeting to see if anything useful for the Forest Estate could come from it. A copy of the policy is attached.
- 9) **Planning**  
See Terrys report
- 10) **AOB.**

**Next Meeting-** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Centre

## **Melanie's Report on Membership & Marketing for Meeting On 19th March 2026**

Membership; 1 x new registered members. We now have 410 registered members  
Facebook - 49 followers (increase of 1)

Nextdoor - 14 members (increase of 1) Social Media Posts: Non since February meeting

Next Posts:

Update Central Area

Update Parish Council Website

Updates:

Parking - content added

Parish Council - page updated

Central Area - page updated

Minutes 59 and 62 - content added Membership E-Newsletter We now have membership emails in Hostinger's email service and are paid up for 1 year. I've created a template for a monthly newsletter which means we can do updates for 2-3 topics in one newsletter and point recipients back to the website for more information. Ideas for the March edition are: -

Bakeham Lane - let's highlight our involvement and create a 'win/achievements' section on the website –

Central Area –

Parish Council update

Thoughts on the above or is there anything more important to add?

Melanie Frobisher 17th March 2026

## **Alan's Update for EGVNF Steering Committee meeting on 19 March 2026**

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

#### **Priest Hill - Proposed 40 mph Speed Limit**

Consultation closed on 10 November. Statutory consultation is now expected to commence in March 2026.

I sent an e-mail to Marisa Heath on 25 February and again, following the Councillors' Surgery meeting, on 14 March about the stretch of St Jude's Road between Bishopsgate Gate Road and Castle Hill Road, which is also currently National Speed limit, querying whether that will be included as part of the Priest Hill consultation. Marisa has now confirmed that the short section of St Jude's Road is included in the consultation process. In recent years both Bishopsgate Road and Castle Hill Road speed limit has been reduced to 30mph so it would make sense for that short section of St Jude's Road to be reduced to 30mph as well which would then feed into the proposed 20 mph area.

I have subsequently asked Marisa whether the proposal to reduce the above short stretch of St Jude's Road to 30mph could be included in the Priest Hill 40mph consultation or whether such a proposal would form part of a separate consultation process. She has agreed to investigate with Surrey Highways.

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

Following statutory consultation, the proposed speed reduction to 30 mph has been agreed. Works to install signage as well as speed reductions measures and minor alterations to the highway are now in progress.

Separately at the top of Bakeham Lane towards the junction with London Road and opposite RHUL double yellow lines are now in place on both sides of the road.

#### **Englefield Green – 20mph scheme**

The formal consultation process commenced in February and runs until 18 March 2026.

### **2. Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP)**

Update from Marisa Heath on 25 February "The feasibility stage for Runnymede LCWIP routes including the Egham to Virginia Water via A30 cycle corridor has recently completed. The project team is now preparing for the next engagement back to members to discuss the proposed final scheme which is likely now to be scheduled after the pre-election period-May onwards. SCC divisional member for each local area scheme is required to approve the scheme design before we take forward to the next stage of **public consultation (anticipated summer/autumn 2026)**".

### **3. Progress towards establishing a Parish Council in Englefield Green -**

The outcome of the second stage of public consultation, of which there were 523 responses, was 428 in favour and 95 against.

The **Final Recommendations** are that:

- (a) the parish of Englefield Green should be created.
- (b) the parish will not be warded
- (c) the name of the parish council should be Englefield Green Parish Council.
- (d) the parish council for Englefield Green shall consist of 14 councillors.

These Final Recommendations were approved, unanimously, by the Corporate Management Committee on 12 February and again, unanimously, by Full Council at Runnymede Borough Council on 26 February.

The Corporate Management Committee recommended, and Full Council approved, the following actions:

- To request officers to formulate an appropriate budget for the proposed parish council for the financial year 2027-2028.
- To request officers to clarify the position as to which allotments situated in the area falling within the area of the proposed parish council would transfer to the proposed parish council and under what legal provisions.
- To report back to Full Council at a future date to seek authority to make recommendations to the proposed West Surrey Shadow Authority in respect of making an Order under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 for the creation of the new parish council.

It is proposed that the new parish council will operate from the financial year 2027/28 which will commence on 1 April 2027. Elections for councillors on the new parish council will not take place until May 2027.

An Implementation Steering Group is to be formed to take forward the above recommendations. Further updates will follow in due course.

4. **Barbara Clark House** – At the Councillors' Surgery meeting on 14 March it was reported that negotiations with a developer are on-going. Unfortunately, the site is no longer reserved for social housing and therefore could be used for student accommodation! Further news is awaited.
5. **Former Birchlands Care Home** – I requested an update from Marisa Heath at the February Councillors' Surgery meeting and as requested sent a formal request the same day but did not receive a response. I raised the matter again at the March Councillors' Surgery meeting and was assured that, as previously reported, matters are proceeding, but seemingly at a very slow pace. I will pursue again at future Councillors' Surgery meetings.

Alan Sloan

16 March 2026

## **MFK report on Central Area and Trees project for meeting no 63**

### **Central Area**

Substantially complete. Remaining items; Electrics, bollards, benches, planters and the addition of a Defib unit and possibly a Book Exchange.

This would complete the project for now, so it is suggested that it is allowed to 'settle in' and further suggestions reviewed before anything else is done.

What is needed now is a group called 'friends of the central area' who will look after watering, planting and weeding. At present the new trees are being watered by the Village Shop and Genevive has agreed to ask The Englefield Green Team could organise their bowser to water the hedge once every 2 weeks.

Predicted at present to be in budget, but substantial completion settlement of the contractor remains.

Grant application for two further benches, electrical connections and bollards to prevent parking have been submitted. These items were not in the original scope of work and therefore not in the original grant funding.

### **Trees Project**

Grant Application has been made. At present there are mixed messages as to its success, but it has been recommended by the Developer Contribution Advisory Group on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and approved by the Corporate Management Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. We await the offer- to be followed by lengthy negotiations on what land can be used.

Mike Kelly 17/2/26

EGN Forum meeting March 19, 2026

**Terry's report on planning applications**

0135 Nellore, Bakeham Lane

Pool side building extension. Small size without impact on neighbours".

No comment.

0149 Treberfydd, Bagshot Rd. Single storey front infill extension.

Small addition. No impact on neighbours.

No comment.

0180 RHUL. Removal of pedestrian footbridge over A30.

Will simplify traffic on Egham Hill.

No comment.

0188 Whitedale, Tite Hill. Single storey side extension.

Small addition. No impact on neighbours.

No comment.

0239 7 Thorncroft. Single storey side extension.

No impact on neighbours.

No comment.

0254 Park House Wick Road. Amendments to 21/2188 for conversion of large house/ office building. Building work started several months ago.

No impact on neighbours.

No comment.

0255 Alderhurst, Bakeham Lane. Variations on 24/0723 for large estate development.

RBC has applied tree control by Tree Officer. Site hidden away down Bakeham Lane and no direct neighbours.

No comment.

**RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Estate Improvement Policy Review due: January 2027**

1. Introduction

1.1 Housing Services has an annual Estate Improvement budget to enable specific additional improvements to Council owned housing estates and blocks of flats.

## 2. Aim

2.1 The aim of this policy is to:

- Identify upgrades to communal parts beyond our day-to-day management of areas, using a transparent process that involves residents and benefits them.
- Invest in enhancing bio-diversity on our housing estates.
- Involve residents in the management and improvement of their estates and neighbourhood.
- Publicise estate inspections and encourage resident involvement.

## 3. Scope, definitions and legislation

3.1 Estate Improvements are an opportunity to improve the appearance of blocks, roads or an estate and can help improve residents' quality of life.

3.2 As the budget is funded by the Housing Revenue Account all proposals must benefit Runnymede Borough Council (RBC) tenants and the improvement should be on Housing land.

## 4. Suitable Proposals

4.1 Some suitable projects are likely to be (not an exhaustive list):

- Community gardens and landscaping
- Railings and other new security features
- Bike or buggy stores and racks
- Bin shed/enclosures
- Tables and benches
- Pathways
- Installation of solar panels
- Recycling facilities
- Cycle storage
- Parking improvements

4.2 Approval of projects is subject to land ownership, building regulations and planning permission being considered. All proposals are considered on a case-by-case basis.

## 5. Submitting a Proposal

5.1 Proposals can be made by RBC tenants and leaseholders, Councillors and Council Officers.

5.2 All suggestions should be made to the relevant Area Housing Manager in the Tenancy Services team, who will review the application and put forward a proposal.

5.3 The following will be taken into account when considering each proposal:

- Urgency of work
- Anticipated cost of the proposal
- The scope for the proposal to be funded from another source
- Benefits of the proposal, including the number of residents who would benefit from it
- Feedback from tenants impacted by the proposal
- Severity of issue that proposal aims to address
- Other projects that have been undertaken or are currently in progress in the location
- Ongoing cost of maintenance and upkeep of the improved area and whether this has an impact on service charges.

5.4 RBC will complete an inspection when considering a proposal request. A panel comprising Head of Housing Technical Services, Head of Housing Services & Business Planning, Head of Tenancy Services and impacted tenants (if applicable) will consider any proposal. All impacted tenants will be informed as to the outcome of their proposal following the Panel meeting to consider requests received.

5.5 Although a preliminary decision will be made at this meeting, further investigation could mean a scheme is not feasible, due for example, to Planning restrictions, actual cost of delivering the scheme, extent of benefit, lack of resident support for proposal following consultation. All impacted tenants will be kept informed of any developments with their proposal, as it progresses.

5.6 Due to the limited budget available and the scale of preparations required, not all proposals may be taken forward immediately. They may need to be deferred to the following year and a programme of improvements will be established.

## 6. Tenant and Leaseholder Engagement

6.1 Tenant and Leaseholder Engagement ensures we understand our residents' expectations, so we can deliver services according to their needs and priorities.

6.2 We will work with residents to help shape how services are provided and to ensure they can hold us to account.

6.3 Runnymede Council tenants have been consulted in the preparation of this policy.

## 7. Monitoring and performance management

7.1 We aim to review this policy in three years to ensure it reflects current legislation and latest examples of best practice.

7.2 The Estate Improvement Budget will be monitored to ensure that the policy is fair, that expenditure is not disproportionate in one area and that schemes can be brought forward to ensure parity.

7.3 A 3 year plan will be drawn up to ensure that all areas are considered for improvements and officers and tenants are encouraged to bring schemes forward in unrepresented areas.

7.4 The Head of Tenancy Services will have responsibility for the management of the Improvement Budget.

7.5 The Housing Panel will consist of a minimum of 2 officers and will be convened within 7 working days of a proposal being made.

## 8. Equalities Implications

8.1 In producing this document an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out.

8.2 An EIA is a way of assessing the impact, or likely impact, that a particular policy, procedure or decision will have on particular groups. This is used to assess whether in making the decision whether the Council has complied with its public sector equality duty under S149 of the Equality Act 2010 (as amended) to; eliminate discrimination and any other conduct that is prohibited under this act and to advance equality between those who share a protected characteristic.

8.3 The screening found a full impact assessment is not required. As time goes on and projects are considered, data will be available on who was positively and negatively affected by decisions made.

## 9. Related strategies/Documents RBC's Climate Change Strategy Information on the Planned Capital Programme

## 10. Version Control

Version Number Date Amended Comments Author Approved By Date Approved  
V1  
November 2023 First draft completed January 24 Abigail Travers Housing Committee