

Minutes of Steering Committee No 64, Thursday 23rd April 2026.

The Village Centre, 7.30pm to 9.00pm

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

- 1) **Apologies for Absence;** Debbie Garland
- 2) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 63;** 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. Payments are due to Kear and others. These have been applied for but are overdue from Surrey CC. However we expect them shortly.

- 5) **Membership, Publicity, Website and Communications:** See attached report from Melanie. Membership of the various forms of communication are increasing significantly following the Village Square project, and our call for volunteers to look after the Village Square (watering, sweeping etc) yielded a very good response. Melanie suggested that we purchased some hi viz gilets with 'Friends of the Village Square' on the back to advertise and this was agreed by the committee.

We need to consider whether to have a stall at the Village Fair.

Articles for the next news letter need to be produced (Mike, Alan, Albert)

- 6) **Parish Council:** See attached report from Alan. Now that the Greek Orthodox Church has apparently moved out of the building next to St Judes Church, we are investigating whether this would be a suitable location for the Parish Council.
- 7) **Projects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan**

Parking,

- a) **Resident Permit Scheme:** Progress is now in the hands of Surrey Highways, see attached report from Alberts. The PPP will be meeting to discuss promotion of the scheme to residents.
 - a. RHUL is launching its CP14 pilot next month, we have fulfilled our commitments to assist them in surfacing resident reactions and communicated these clearly.
 - b. We will continue to attend the new Cllr Heath chaired RHUL committee on parking and transport for as long as reasonable hope of progress exists. Input has been given on the Terms of Reference and objectives of the committee's work, these being pointed with decent prospects of delivery will be key to our ongoing investing of scarce resources in the committee's efforts.

- 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 again 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 21st May 2026 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Centre.

Report on Membership & Marketing for Meeting On 23rd April 2026

Membership: 20 x new registered members. We now have 431 registered members

Facebook - 93 followers (increase of 44) Nextdoor - 14 members (increase of 0) Social

Media Posts: Since March Meeting - 20th March: 'We Did It!' Completion of P1 Village Square - 1 April: 'Become a Friend of the Village Square'

Note the power of social media in terms of the increase in numbers following us on Facebook and the increase in registrations.

Next Posts: Update Parish Council Permit Scheme? Article 4? Speed Limit Consultation Results?

Website Updates: *Village Square Page* - content and photos added (Become A Friend of the Square) *Minutes 63* - content added. *About Us Page* - Eric's name removed. *Privacy Policy Page* - Fred's alterations made. *Membership E-Newsletter* - See separate email to follow with suggested changes. We now need to identify 3 topics for the May edition. *Other* - Attached poster now displayed in Square noticeboard - EGVRA sent an email to their membership on our behalf asking for Friends of the Square to come forward - we need more collaboration like this!

Melanie Frobisher 21 April 202

MFK report on Central Area and Trees project for meeting no 64

Central Area

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

Substantial completion and the price for work done has been agreed with Bill Kear and is within budget.

We have placed orders for the benches (6 weeks delivery) and the defib post (3 weeks delivery), and the bollards are being supplied through Bill Kear. We have therefore proposed that these works are carried out during w/c 6th June, when everything will be available and the work carried out in one hit.

We have received funds to cover for the benches (a new grant of £2600) and applied for drawdown of funds from the existing grant to cover the work done by Bill Kear and to pay in advance for the electrical main installation. Unfortunately Surrey CC says they cannot distribute funds during the election, but we are disputing this as it is contrary to our agreements with them. Otherwise we will not receive funds till after 7th May and this may delay further work.

We have appealed for volunteers to look after watering, planting and weeding etc. and suggested the group name 'Friends of the Central Area'. Ten people have responded and a meeting is arranged for 6.30pm on Thursday this week, just prior to the Forum monthly meeting. About 4 have said they are able to attend. At present the new trees are being watered by the Village Shop and we have used the hand pushed bowser stored at Genevieve's to water the hedge a couple of times (though this is a struggle!). We have applied to Affinity Water to use one of their hydrants near the site, but this might prove too expensive when the quote comes in.

The grant application for the electrical connections and bollards (approx. £12000) is 'in process'. Through our settlement of the costs to date with Bill Kear we have made sufficient savings to proceed with these items, but whilst allowing us to commit to them their execution will take place once the grant is received. To prevent parking have been submitted.

Trees Project

Our application for funds for this project has been approved (Approx £20,000). However it will only be transferred to us once we have agreed with RBC where we can plant and received their permission to do so.

We are arranging a site meeting with Justin Sanders of RBC on the 6th or 7th May on site to review locations.

However we remain cautious as we do not know whether an agreement with him will lead to a final agreement or lead to more obstruction from above.

Mike Kelly 20/4/26

Update for EGVNF Steering Committee meeting on 23 April 2026 – Speed limits, LCWIP, Parish Council, Barbara Clark House, Greenacres, Birchlands and HMO's

1. Speed limits:

Priest Hill - Proposed 40 mph Speed Limit

Statutory consultation remains outstanding.

Following earlier e-mails to Marisa Heath about the stretch of St Jude's Road between Bishopsgate Gate Road and Castle Hill Road, which is also currently National Speed limit and which forms part of the Priest Hill consultation, Marisa has now heard from Highways colleagues that whilst it is eminently sensible to reduce that section of road to 30mph she has been advised that 30mph signage of its own would be insufficient and that streetlights together with some form of speed reduction measures would be required which would require funding. I have suggested that as the road is quite wide at the Castle Hill Road end the introduction of a pinch point together with white gates displaying 30 mph signs could be a solution. Marisa has agreed to pursue including ascertaining the estimated cost.

Englefield Green – 20mph scheme

The formal consultation process closed on 18 March 2026. Initial indications are a 50/50 split. Detailed analysis will now take place.

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

The feasibility stage report for Runnymede LCWIP routes including the Egham to Virginia Water via A30 cycle corridor has been completed and was presented to elected members on 2 April. Apparently members were asked not to share with local interested groups. Public consultation is now scheduled to take place in autumn 2026. I asked whether the Forum could see a copy of what was presented to elected members and Marisa agreed to investigate.

3. Progress towards establishing a Parish Council in Englefield Green

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 recommendations approved by Full Council set out in previous reports.

It is anticipated that there will be progress once the local elections have taken place on 7 May.

4. **Barbara Clark House** – At the Councillors' Surgery meeting on 11 April it was reported that negotiations with a developer are still on-going. Unfortunately, the site is no longer reserved for social housing and therefore could be used for student accommodation! We are patiently awaiting further news.

5. **Greenacre site** – Despite the dilapidated hoarding it is understood that the developer is proceeding with the build. The condition and appearance of the hoarding appears to be contrary to the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM Regulations). Poor quality hoarding on a building site poses significant safety, legal, and reputational risks. Concerns were also expressed by attendees at the Councillors' Surgery meeting about nearby roads being obstructed to allow cement lorries in, due to there being a lack of space on site to mix cement, and with there being such a large hole in the ground and poor quality hoarding that children could easily access the site and cause themselves injury. Cllr Trevor Gates agreed to

investigate and reported that an unknown resident had already raised the use with RBC who are monitoring the situation.

6. **Former Birchlands Care Home** – At the April Councilors' Surgery meeting Marisa confirmed that the project is moving forward and that a new planning application is due to be submitted within the next 3-4 months. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2027.

7. HMO's – 58 Victoria Street

The recent planning alert in respect of 58 Victoria Street, Englefield Green (RU.26/0349) is another example of a family home being turned into a six bedroom HMO which could, potentially, have been avoided had an Article 4 direction been in place.

I submitted a Letter of representation (LOR) and, as suggested at the Councillors' Surgery meeting, also written to Jack Rankin MP requesting that he lobby RBC to properly resource the work necessary to achieve an Article 4 Direction in Englefield Green and Egham.

Alan Sloan -20 April 2026

Forum Steering Committee Update- Thursday April 23rd 2026- Parking etc

Parking

Preliminary draft design criteria for the residents permit scheme were supplied exclusively to Marisa Heath from Highways and I did a walk-about with her on Sunday April 12th to check on some things in the area. E.g.

- 2-yellow bar kerb loading markings to be removed on St Jude's Rd, incl. around The Village Square.
- No extension of double yellows on Alexandra Rd because 2 spaces are lost.
- Extension of yellow lines on the West side of Armstrong Rd to emphasise no double-sided parking.

A map of the proposed scheme boundaries to attached, the PPP is double-checking this. Please be discreet with this as it's yet to be put in the public domain.

A PPP meeting is scheduled for April 30th to discuss pre public consultation promotion.

RHUL CP14 pilot out-of-hours 6 month parking trial -this resurfaced after a 3 month pause and RHUL are proceeding with launching their idea in the coming weeks. I have supported to the extent agreed at our January Steering Committee and our internal position paper on parking, and communicated our precursor surfacing efforts to RHUL. Our suggestions and comments have not been taken on board, just noted and not incorporated in the pilot design. I repeated our criteria and suggestions in Cllr Heath's new RHUL Transport and Parking Committee. RHUL senior management have approved the pilot trial. There is no further

involvement required from us. Accordingly, RHUL will promote and monitor the trial further we will only approve materials that refer to the Forum, of which there are none so far.

RHUL Transport and Parking Working Group - the next meeting was postponed until after the local elections in May. ToR are awaited.

Planning/Travel Plan alleged breach – no further report backs from the officers investigating this. Will follow-up in May. We have helped Marisa draft a letter to send to the Highways and Planning departments on the systemic failure of their systems to prevent on-street parking overloads in the PPP area.

Albert- 20/5/26

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