



THORPE WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ONLINE ON 14TH JUNE 2021

Open Forum: There were no questions or requests from the membership.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the May meeting were approved and signed-off by the Chairman. The matter regarding two potential new members who were interested in joining the Committee was raised and the Councillors (who had mentioned the respective individuals) agreed to contact them and take the matter forward with them.

Councillors Reports:

Cllr LG gave a report on two new consultations which will affect Runnymede Borough.

- the first consultation concerns recycling schemes for small plastic bottles. Residents would be given a token or cash back for depositing bottles into a bottle bank
- the second consultation relates to producers of bottles and encouraging them to think about “end of life” for their product and give councils money to collect them.

Mayor EG stated that due to the Pandemic not much had gone on in the way of mayoral duties, she did attend virtually several meetings and it is hoped that as the current restrictions were lifted then more face-to-face activity would take place.

Cllr MH attended the Vegan Street Fair in Egham and helped out with the Mayor at the Virginia Water Street Jumble. She also attended the Pub Watch at Royal Holloway College. She has been approached by several residents about the grass cutting or lack thereof in the Ward. Residents are also unhappy about RBC's response to the Whitehall Farm Gravel Raising application and this would be discussed further on in the agenda under Planning.

Cllr EG explained that due to the pandemic her Mayoral activities have been greatly curtailed although she did attend the RAF Commemoration at the RAF Memorial at Coopers Hill on 6th June. She was also present when Cllr Dolsie Clarke received an award from Surrey Youth Awards. She reported that Chertsey & Egham Shows had been cancelled, although it was thought that Magna Carta Day would take place. There was some question over whether the Black Cherry Fair would take place this year. She confirmed that her Civic Service would take place at St Marys Church Thorpe on 20th June but with only 40 people in attendance.

Cllr JH (SCC) was delighted to represent Thorpe at County level and he had been appointed to the Surrey Planning Committee and Highways, Environment and Infrastructure Committee. He has contacted the Highways Officer responsible for this area of the Ward and asked that all Highways issues be directed to him so that he can forward them to the relevant officer.

Cllr RK (SCC) has also been looking at Highways issues, particularly in Egham Hythe in relation to the number of HGV's passing through the community. He is also working on improving the performance school children, in particular boys in primary schools in his area. He has been appointed to Resources and Performance Committee at Surrey.

It was raised by Cllr MH that that SCC Councillors they have small pots of discretionary funding available, together with another small pot for Highways issues. It was raised at this point that the roundabout at the entrance to Thorpe Park continues to be a major problem stopping residents from Penton Park entering the roundabout to turn right towards Staines. Cllr JH (SCC) agreed to meet Thorpe Park management to discuss the situation.

Association Officers Reports: These were all distributed to Committee before the meeting.

Documents are now on the web site "*How to object to a planning application*", "*Riparian Rights*" "*Overgrowing trees and hedges*". Also, that the problem with the Trees in the Gower had been raised with Cllr JH who had actively followed up on this with the Council.

Town Planning & Allied news: The monthly list of Planning Applications were discussed and where agreed appropriate letters of objection would be sent to Runnymede Borough Council.

Whitehall Farm Gravel Raising Application Cllr JH (SCC) stated it was a very complicated application and went on to praise the very thorough and comprehensive submission by Stroude Residents Association. Apparently, RBC will be holding all objection to this application but will be forwarding these comments onto Surrey. However, the RBC comments to SCC on this application were very worrying. The initial comments sent by an unelected council official stated that RBC had "No objection"; after subsequent pressure this was changed to "No Objection but had concerns" which was still not considered a satisfactory affair. Pressure is now mounting to have this application fully discussed at a Runnymede Planning Committee so full weight can be given to the objection. The comparison was shown between this application and the Milton Farm one some 12 years ago when RBC response was much stronger.

River Thames Scheme: TWRA had received a letter from Dr Ben Spencer MP with an update on the scheme which confirms it had received its first grant of £60 million to kick the process off.

Other Matters

- The Secretary also brought up several planning matters which had been received in the last few days.
- Uproar continues in Spelthorne Council area about the proposed building of several large blocks of flats in Staines upon Thames. Although outside the ward, this will continue to be followed closely.
- The update to the RBC Local Plan starts its journey now and TWRA have been asked to supply a representative to the reformed Community Planning Panel. TWRA would respond positively.
- A resident had emailed TWRA about the Staines to Heathrow Light Railway scheme and asked if it was being resurrected. Apparently, this is one of 15 options still under discussion by Department of Transport who cannot make up their minds on which are their preferred schemes.
- An application for a Goods Vehicle Licence had been sent to TWRA for comment. This is the first time TWRA has been approached on such a matter. Resident Associations are not allowed to comment directly, but must put their views to an authorised objector i.e. SCC, and it would be the authorised objector that would express the views of the residents association.
- The Committee agreed that its members should be encouraged (via a MailChimp notice) to visit the Runnymede Planning Web site to view current Planning

Applications and to also register for notifications of all planning application within 1000 metres of their property.

- The Committee agreed it needed to find new Committee members and Officers to reduce the workload of existing Committee members.

Any Other Business: The land in Penton Park which was started to be cleared for development has stalled and help was requested from the Cllrs to either get the land reinstated or a Planning Application would need to be submitted. It was also reported that about a third of the residents of Penton Park had received their new gas installations