



Royal Holloway & Runnymede Consultative Group

MEETING MINUTES: Tuesday, 18 June 2024

Meeting held in person at Royal Holloway's campus in Egham

Attendees

Royal Holloway: Professor Tracy Bhamra, Provost and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Global) (Chair); Mike Berry, Director of Estates; Helen Groenendaal, Director of Student Life; Sarah Ixer-Pitfield, Deputy Director of Communications and Events; Minna Ruohonen, Public Engagement Manager

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Royal Holloway Students' Union: Hannah Hockin, President; Tony Logan, CEO

Mayor of Runnymede: Cllr Elaine Gill

Councillors: Cllr Trevor Gates, Cllr Isabel Mullens, Cllr Andrea Berardi

Residents' Associations: Amanda Willis, Englefield Green Village Resident's Association; Willy Burgess, Egham Residents Association

Surrey Police: Inspector Ian Nash

Chamber of Commerce: Nicola Perry, Egham Town Team

Apologies:

Cllr Eliza Kettle, Englefield Green West; Nick Pearce, Royal Holloway; Aileen Baker, Runnymede Borough Council Environmental Health; Cllr Abby King, Englefield Green West; Cllr Sam Jenkins, Egham Town; Cllr Marisa Heath, Surrey County Council; Cllr Geeta Moudgil, Egham Town; and Cllr Paul Gahir, Englefield Green West.

Papers circulated ahead of the meeting:

- Royal Holloway & Runnymede Consultative Group meeting agenda 18 June 2024
- Royal Holloway & Runnymede Consultative Group minutes of meeting 18 April 2024
- Royal Holloway's Community Wellbeing Report
- Flyer promoting a summer camp for children that is open to local families

1. Welcome & introductions

Professor Tracy Bhamra recalled the purpose of the meeting:

To provide a forum where topics of interest and / or concern to the communities in the Egham and Englefield Green Village areas can be discussed and debated by representatives from and stakeholders in those local communities with a view to identifying possible solutions, agreeing actions and allocating responsibility for those actions.

The goal is that through shared understanding and collective action, issues can be resolved and agendas of mutual concern progressed.

2. Actions from the previous meeting (Professor Tracy Bhamra)

All actions were completed, including the sharing of electronic summer ball letter. However, as Max Ross remains unwell, the introductory meeting with Willy Burgess will be scheduled in due course.

3. Update on RH2030s strategy drop-in session (Professor Tracy Bhamra)

Professor Tracy Bhamra updated on the University's drop-in session for the local community which was held on the day of the Science Festival last Saturday 15 June, with Professor Tracy Bhamra, Minna Ruohonen and three other colleagues.

The display boards were also available at the RHRCG meeting for the attendees to view. This event was successful, with 22 people in attendance and much talk around community engagement. There was a focus on Royal Holloway as a civic university of social purpose, which is an ambition of the new RH2030s strategy. Page | 2

ACTION: Royal Holloway to consider an annual drop-in session on campus for the local community related to the University's civic activity. Minna Ruohonen will update the group.

4. RHRCG Questionnaire summary and discussion (Professor Tracy Bhamra and Minna Ruohonen)

The questionnaire sought feedback from RHRCG members on the current structure and format of the meeting arrangements. It also collected suggestions for future improvements. The response rate was 56% (14 respondents). Results of the questionnaire were presented (Appendix A), and the following were discussed in further detail:

- **Co-ordination**

The following was AGREED:

- Royal Holloway will continue to organise the meeting.
- Co-chairing will be introduced.
- The Consultative Group will continue as a closed group, retaining existing agreed membership.
- Royal Holloway will hold an event similar to 15 June strategy drop-in session annually for the local community.
- Royal Holloway will stop holding termly call-in sessions for the local community due to low/non-attendance during this academic year.

ACTION: Professor Tracy Bhamra and Minna Ruohonen will discuss the introduction of co-chairing starting from autumn 2024 and will communicate this via email to the group.

It was also AGREED that three separate Working Groups would be established to concentrate on the following three topics:

1. Transport and parking
2. Housing
3. Antisocial behaviour

It was noted that one working group meeting relating to transport and parking had already taken place.

It was agreed that an external member of the group will chair these Working Groups and take note of the agreed actions. The chair of the Working Group reports on progress to the main RHRCG meetings.

ACTION: Minna Ruohonen and Professor Tracy Bhamra propose the membership and terms of reference for the three Working Groups and gain feedback from the group over the summer (by email). The aim is to establish these Working Groups by early autumn, before the next RHRCG meeting in November.

- **Membership**

It was AGREED to follow up with Runnymede Neighbourhood Watch to invite a local Neighbourhood Watch representative to join the group.

ACTION: Inspector Nash to speak with Malcolm Cressey.

- **Agenda**

It was AGREED that the agenda for RHRCG meetings will be developed with all RHRCG members who will be able to submit proposed agenda items approximately two weeks in advance.

Everyone is also invited to send written updates/reports in advance of each meeting where they have items of relevance to the communities in the Egham and Englefield Green Village. These reports will be shared in advance with some time being set aside for discussion during the meeting.

ACTION: Minna Ruohonen revise the agenda format and allocate the required time for member input before each main meeting.

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5. Brief updates on areas of mutual interest

- **Surrey Police** (Report provided: Appendix B)

As well as presenting the attached report, there was a discussion with Inspector Nash, and some questions answered, with the following highlighted:

- Runnymede is covered by two neighbourhood teams which are split between the north and south. The north team covers Royal Holloway and is led by Sergeant Singh. Of all noise reports since 18 April only one was Royal Holloway related with no nuisance reports linked to the University
- Request to continue with social media posts in advance of the Summer Ball in the future as these were very useful for the local community. Cllr Berardi REPORTED that he'd received the least number of complaints ever.
- Regarding incident reports:
As Royal Holloway, Environmental Health and the Police record incidents reported, as per the presentation (Appendix A) to them separately, they will work together to see if a single data figure for the combined reports can be provided. Each team's figures are shared with each other at the regular partnership meetings.
- Cllr Berardi thought it would be useful to have trended data figures for different times of the academic year, as dynamics vary for students, e.g. these may differ during the exam period.

ACTION: Helen Groenendaal to look at whether collated data can be shared within the RHRCG group.

- There was a discussion about the cause of traffic on Egham Hill (A30) the Saturday 8 June, day of the Open Day, when protests also took place outside Royal Holloway. Inspector Nash explained that there was a direct causal link between the protests and the congestion. In addition, to the parking attendants positioning closer to the main road than would be ideal, the attending officers stated there was further backlog onto the main road caused by the leafleting once traffic was moving freely. Inspector Nash confirmed that this was unacceptable and should this type of obstruction occur in the future, the Police would take action.

- **Environmental Health**

Aileen Baker sent a report in her absence outlining data between 19/02/2023 – 18/06/2024:

- Noise Complaints made to RBC Environmental Health regarding student occupied properties - 22
- Transient noise complaints – 4
- Rubbish/Waste presentation complaints – 50

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- **RBC**

Cllr Mullens asked about GP appointments in Egham for student accommodation, i.e. if these put increased demand on medical facilities. Helen Groenendaal confirmed there is a NHS surgery at the University for students which all students are encouraged to register with if they live in the local catchment area which includes all halls of residence and PBSAs locally

- **Chamber of Commerce**

Nicola Perry from the Egham Town Team attended in place of Mark Adams - Chairman, Chamber of Commerce

Nicola **REPORTED:** The negativity around students has led them to run a project to look at:

- How a university and small towns can work together
- How students can be encouraged to feel a part of the Egham community and enjoy living there. This can be done by engaging in societies and attending events outside the campus.

This project is funded by Royal Holloway and run with the help of an intern. The intern will be speaking at the Egham Residents' Association and to councillors.

- **EGVRA**

Amanda Willis **REPORTED** that small events were taking place, e.g. the Village Fair on Saturday. This is publicised in a newsletter, which Amanda brought along for members to take and requested a possible article from the University.

ACTION: Minna Ruohonen to provide an article for the next newsletter in November. Copy deadline is early November.

- **Egham Residents' Association**

Willy Burgess suggested better information sharing about key events in the future to align Royal Holloway-led events with local activities, such as the Magna Carta Day, which took place on the same day as Royal Holloway's Science Festival. Willy Burgess also echoed the success of the communications for the Summer Ball and the acoustics testing, which worked well.

- **Royal Holloway – Estates**

Mike Berry **REPORTED:**

- The development of Rusham Park remains in abeyance.
- Estates are assisting Surrey County Council with their transport and pedestrian related surveys on the A30, in support of the ongoing work of the LCWIP.
- Estates are looking at ways of re-engaging with the forum on electric bikes, once engagement with RBC/SCC into a potential electric bike pilot scheme had been clarified.

- **Royal Holloway – Student Wellbeing and Volunteering (Appendix C)**

Helen Groenendaal highlighted the children's Summer Holiday Club at the Royal Holloway Sports Centre (leaflet distributed – Appendix D) and pointed out the 15% discount for early booking by 30 June.

- **Royal Holloway Students' Union**

Tony Logan **REPORTED:**

- The SU is now in receipt of the acoustics consultant's report for the Summer Ball held on 31 May:
 - 3,500 students attended.
 - with a silent disco from midnight until 4am.
 - The SU will continue with this model next year.
 - The SU will adopt a similar approach for Freshers' Week, in terms of community engagement.

6. AOB

Amanda Willis (EGVRA) asked where she could send some specific comments/questions from local residents. These should be sent by email to community@rhul.ac.uk

7. **Date of next meeting:** online, Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 17:30

ACTION POINTS

	Action	Owner
1	Tracy Bhamra and Minna Ruohonen will discuss the introduction of co-chairing starting from autumn 2024 and will communicate this via email to the group.	Minna Ruohonen and Tracy Bhamra
2	An annual drop-in session on campus will be organised on a particular theme of interest to the local community. The group will discuss this in further detail during the autumn meeting.	Minna Ruohonen
3	The membership and ToR for the three Working Groups will be developed, and feedback will be gained from the RHRCG group over the summer (by email). The aim is to establish these Working Groups by early autumn, before the next RHRCG meeting in November.	Minna Ruohonen
4	Minna Ruohonen will change the agenda layout and format based on these changes and allocate the required time for member input before each main meeting.	Minna Ruohonen
5	Runnymede Neighbourhood Watch will be invited again to join the RHRCG group. Inspector Nash will speak to Malcolm Cressey.	Inspector Ian Nash
6	The community partners teams will review whether a collated data set can be presented at future RHRCG or Working Group meetings	Helen Groenendaal

7	Minna Ruohonen will liaise with Amanda Willis and provide an article for the next EGVRA newsletter by the beginning of November.	Minna Ruohonen
8	Amanda Willis to send any specific comments/questions from local residents by email to community@rhul.ac.uk	Amanda Willis
9	Willy Burgess and Max Ross to arrange an introductory meeting. PENDING as Max is off sick	Willy Burgess & Max Ross