

The following statements have been produced by TWRA.

Community Governance Review

Reigate and Banstead Council has initiated a community governance review to consider how its residents should be represented in the light of the Government proposals for reform of local authorities. In Surrey this means that district/ borough and county councils will disappear and be replaced by probably two unitary authorities which will take over their existing responsibilities.

Reigate and Banstead has asked its local communities to review the present arrangements about how they are governed. In the south of our borough there are two civil parish councils (note these are not related to church parishes), but most of our borough does not have such bodies. The TWRA has concerns about the implications of the Government reforms for our area and believes that local interests would best be served by establishing a new **community council** north of the M25 based on Banstead for the following reasons.

Democratic deficit

The new unitary authorities will be at least four times the size of Reigate and Banstead in terms of population.

They will be geographically large stretching from Esher to Gatwick and Effingham to Caterham.

The current 250 district and county councillors will be replaced by about 50 from the unitary authority.

Giving our community a voice: a new community council

The new unitary authority is likely to include Epsom, Dorking, Caterham, Weybridge, and other urban centres in East Surrey. To give our area a voice we need to have a **community council** covering a big enough area to make its presence felt which is why we think it should be based on Banstead.

What do community councils do?

Community councils are another name for town or civil parish councils. Most areas of England outside the major cities have a network of such councils which are statutory bodies. They have discretionary powers such as managing community halls or looking after areas of open space which they can negotiate to support or take responsibility for. A good example would be Banstead Common. They also have a right to be consulted on planning issues and can influence the unitary authority to make sure local interests are represented.

They consist of councillors who are not paid and are elected every four years. Councils can be funded by a combination of fees, a share of the community infrastructure levy on planning applications, rents, grants and a precept on the council tax. They normally have a Clerk of the Council but do not have a large bureaucracy.

Why should I be interested?

This is only a summary of the implications of the impending changes to local government but if you are involved with voluntary organisations, local planning matters and the future of your community, then this is important for you.

More information can be found in this link to a [flier](#), which has also been delivered to households in Tadworth and Walton, and from the TWRA website www.TWRA.org.UK . If you would like to explore further, discuss your concerns and hear what local councillors think, then visit the walk-in session between 2 and 4pm at the Riddell Hall on Thursday 28th August and come along to the public meeting, again at the Riddell Hall from 7pm for a 7.30pm start on Thursday 4th September.

The Next Steps

Proposals for the review must be submitted to Reigate and Banstead Council by 18th September, so we haven't got much time to decide what we want. Draft recommendations are subject to a further consultation between early November and mid-January and final recommendations go to full council in March. Elections for a new community council, if approved, will be held on 6th May 2027.

EVENTS' SECTION

Saturday August 23rd the Coffee Morning will be held in the Good Shepherd Church from 10.30 am to 12 noon. It will normally take place every Saturday in the back of the Church.

Saturday August 23rd Horticultural Society Flower Show from 2pm in the Good Shepherd Hall adm £1 teas and plants available.

Thursday August 28th TWRA 2 – 5pm drop in session – an opportunity to discuss Local Government Reorganisation at the Riddell Hall. See details above.

Saturday 30th August Model Railway Exhibition in the Good Shepherd Hall 10am – 4.30pm. Adm. Adults £6, OAP's £5, Under 16 £3. Child friendly layouts. All day refreshments.

September 2nd 7.30pm at Banstead Downs Golf Club, SM2 7DD. Public Action Meeting organised by Banstead Commons Conservators for those concerned about the use of off-road powered bikes on The Commons. See more details at: www.TWRA.org.uk/news/events

Thursday September 4th doors open at 7pm for a formal start from 7.30pm. TWRA organised discussion involving representatives from other areas in the North of the Borough concerning the formation of Community Councils as a method of maintaining a democratic voice following the abolition of Borough Councils in Surrey. See details above.

Sunday 7th September Good Shepherd Parish Lunch in the GS Hall – note you must book on the list in the church in advance.

Sat 13th September at 10.30am TWOAT is organising a Magical Mystery Tour through Narnia incorporating a quiz and a walk designed for all ages. This will take place in the lovely Banstead Woods, meeting at the main car park at the junction of Park Road and Holly Lane at Chipstead. The cost is £10 for adults and £5 for children. See www.twoat.org

Sat 13th September Resumption of the Walton Village Kitchen serving light lunches in the Riddell Hall on the second Saturday of each month.

Sunday 14th Sept from 12.30pm Parish BBQ and Farewell to Revd. Tim Astin in the Church Grounds – please put your name to participate on a list in the Church.

Wednesday 17th September 2.30pm – 4pm u3a Groups' Showcase Event in Banstead Community Hall. If you are no longer in full-time work and wish to participate in learning or

Friday 26th September Curzon Country Cinema presents "The Salt Path" at the Riddell Hall. Screenings at 2pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm. Tkts £8.

Sunday Oct 5th Harvest Lunch Good Shepherd Hall.

Saturday October 11th TWOAT Quiz St John's Hall doors open 7.15pm Adm £15 including light buffet refreshments BYOB. Enquiries Mike Fox 350452

Saturday October 20th Barn Dance – Good Shepherd Hall organised by Church Social Committee.

For details of the many Group Activities and Events organised by Banstead u3a for those no longer in full-time work, visit here <https://u3asites.org.uk/banstead/home>

Please let me know if you have an event taking place in the next 2 months.

Mike Fox

For TWRA, Community Support & Neighbourhood Watch

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Note. The next issue of "The Tribune" is expected to be distributed in November. If you wish to read an online version of the current or previous versions of The Tribune please visit the TWRA web site here <http://www.twra.org.uk/about/t...>