

The main purpose of this Alert is to remind you that the Reigate & Banstead online consultation on Governance is due to close after the 18<sup>th</sup> September. I have also included an updated Events' Section.

It is important that as many residents as possible make their opinions known on the issue of Governance. TWRA organised a public meeting where residents unanimously felt that an additional local government representative body, a Parish Council, should be established to provide a democratic mandate at a more local level once the 11 Surrey Boroughs and the County itself are abolished and replaced by either 2 or 3 Unitary Authorities. Parish Council is the legal term for bodies also known as Village or Town Councils – they have no relation to church parishes. Please use the TWRA submission below and other attached material to form your own opinion. To respond to the consultation visit the council's survey page here [https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/rbbc\\_cgr/](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/rbbc_cgr/)

I include below the text that TWRA used to reply to specific questions raised in the survey. In addition I have attached the material that TWRA provided as supporting evidence and which formed part of the public meeting for those who wish to understand more about the detail.

## **TWRA RESPONSE TEXT**

### ***Do you feel a new parish or town council should be created in any part of the Borough?***

The TWRA supports the creation of a new parish Council consisting of the current RBBC wards of Banstead Village, Nork, Tattenham Corner & Preston, Chipstead, Kingswood & Woodmansterne, Lower Kingswood, Tadworth & Walton, plus parts the Hooley, Merstham & Netherne ward that encompass Netherne, whose Residents' Association (NOTHRA) has indicated it would also wish to be included within a Banstead area council.

The reasons why the TWRA recommends this area as a solution to community governance north of the M25 have been well rehearsed in the two consultation meetings we have held, notably the democratic deficit which will be created by unitary authorities, involving reductions in representation, bigger administrative areas and proposed local boards of representatives consisting of a range of non-elected nominees rather than elected councillors.

We are also concerned about the impact of a unitary authority embracing a large number of separate communities each with its own distinctive identity. We believe the focus of the new parish should be Banstead, as it is the centre of the present district Council north of the M25 for shopping and services and lends its identity to sports clubs, voluntary organisations and community groups. Examples include the Rotary Club, Age Concern, Church associations and voluntary groups.

Similarly, much of the new parish is green belt, an area of great landscape value and an area of outstanding natural beauty. So, there would be a shared interest in protecting its landscape and controlling the impact of development. This adds to the identity, sense of place and purpose of the proposed parish council and is a very important reason for selecting those areas we recommend for inclusion.

### ***If you have any other comments about new town and parish arrangements, please tell us here***

We also recognise that the new parish would consist of several different communities currently seen by residents as a collection of villages. We therefore recommend that within the new parish there should be a number of wards to reflect this individualism. As the TWRA we would like to retain Tadworth & Walton as a single ward to reflect its history and its long association representing residents' interests and concerns.

To provide further detail as to our reasons for supporting the creation of a new council and the steps we took to inform and consult our residents, we have appended the following additional documents concerning our responses above:

- A note describing the steps we took in consulting our residents before submitting our responses above. (Filename: TWRA CGR Supporting Note.pdf)

- A copy of a briefing document made available to our residents (in printed form, via emails and online via our website). Pages 2 and 3 replicate some of the RBBC CGR background information, to provide context for our residents when viewing pages 4

and 5, Hence, we would draw your attention in particular to the cover page and pages 4 and 5 of this document, which outline in more detail the reasons we support the creation of a new Banstead area parish council. This material includes details about the advantages of a new parish council, and notes as to its cost, boundaries and scope. (Filename: TWRA CGR Briefing Document.pdf)

- A copy of the contents of display panels describing the issues, which were available to view for residents who attended our consultation meetings. These were available at both our public meetings and largely replicate the content of the briefing document noted above. (Filename: TWRA CGR Display Boards.pdf)

## **EVENTS' SECTION**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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, sporting or social activities come to this event.**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September closing date for submissions to the Reigate & Banstead Community Governance Survey.**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 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 27<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 – 12 noon the normal Good Shepherd Coffee Morning becomes a Macmillan Coffee Morning adding a raffle, Bring and buy Stall and home-made cakes to purchase**

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

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 10am start of the Planning Appeal re Chequers Lane Caravan Sites in Reigate Town Hall.**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October from 9am Craft Community activities (including crochet, knitting and cross-stitch) in the back of the Good Shepherd Church – all abilities welcome. If you are a beginner materials can initially be provided.**

**Sunday Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Harvest Lunch Good Shepherd Hall.**

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> October: The Walton Village Kitchen will be serving light lunches in the Riddell Hall on the second Saturday of each month.**

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

**Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> 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

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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...>