

NEWS FROM TWRA

Please note the date for the TWRA AGM has had to be changed and will be one week later than previously publicised now being on Wednesday 28th May with doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start in Chinthurst School Hall.

One of the important topic TWRA intend to address at the AGM is the government proposal to change the structure of local government in a number of counties including Surrey. TWRA Chair Jeff Temple has written a brief summary of the proposals of which TWRA has become aware.

“The debate surrounding local government devolution in England centres for us in Surrey on plans to do away with Surrey County Council (SCC) and our local Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (RBBC), and replace these with a half-way “unitary” authority, covering the work of both authorities. It is proposed to divide Surrey into 2 or 3 of these new authorities, amalgamating RBBC with other local councils.

The government emphasise the need for streamlined local government structures to improve efficiency (but this is far from being a “given”), and have made it clear that they wish to see a larger portion of the country covered by devolved powers. They see this as a way to increase local accountability and engagement, with directly elected mayors playing a crucial role. Meanwhile, the government has postponed our local elections to align with the devolution plans. This has been met with criticism concerning the democratic process.

In the TWRA we fear that moving local services traditionally provided by RBBC to a unitary authority will create distance from users, and we all remember what resulted when SCC took over responsibility for grass cutting so disastrously 2 years ago.

The programme is not yet fixed, let alone put us in a position to allow us to see any analysis as to whether it will actually bring in benefits. The debate highlights the tension between central control and local autonomy, and finding the right balance between national priorities and local needs is a key challenge.

In essence, the argument is about how to create a more effective and accountable system of local governance that empowers communities and drives regional growth. We are not convinced that the presently proposed solution will deliver this, and particularly as the new authorities which emerge will necessarily be a blend of the authorities which went into the pot. In our case RBBC were wise financial managers, showing a small surplus and holding some reserves, whilst Woking were profligate with about £2 billion of debt. Our surplus would be simply swallowed up if we merged with Woking (or with several of the other authorities).

The coming months will determine the final shape, and our financial situation.”

Planning update: The appeal hearing relating to the Planning application for 3 x temporary and 3 permanent pitches for caravans in a field alongside Chequers Lane has been re-scheduled for June 17th – 20th with two further days on the 24th and 25th June if necessary. It will be held at Reigate Town Hall, starting at 10am on 17 June. Members of the public are able to attend and will be able to address the hearing if they have relevant matters to raise not already covered by previous speakers.

For further news or to contact committee members please visit the TWRA website at www.TWRA.org.uk . You can also meet TWRA representatives in person on their stall at the Walton May Fayre on Saturday May 17th.

NEWS FROM THE TADWORTH VILLAGE FORUM

A Community Litter Pick will take place starting from Jubilee Woodland on Saturday March 16th at 10.30. All volunteers welcome –please bring your own litter picker if possible as there will be limited supplies from which to borrow on the day. Purple sacks etc. will be issued. The event is being sponsored by Tadworth Coffee House who will provide a free cookie via a secret code given to those who participate on the day. See a poster giving further details on the TWRA web site here www.TWRA.org.uk

ROAD CLOSURES/DISRUPTION

Complete closure of M25 with diversions will take place on Friday 21 March – Monday 24 March. Details can be seen on

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-east/m25-junction-10/>.

Various local roads are having work done to repair potholes and clear drains – please watch out for signs indicating temporary disruption or closures. You can follow a link from the TWRA web site to see regularly updated details of roadworks planned by the Council and utilities.

The Avenue in Tadworth is subject to closures and delays until 30/3/25 due to work by Southern Gas Networks.

TOAD PATROLS

It is the time of year when toads make their regular move towards Walton Pond. As a consequence Toad Patrols in high vis. jackets will be seeking to enable safe crossings for them. Please take care when driving past Meare Pond.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

I was contacted this week by a resident in Ashurst Road, Tadworth, to tell me that they had just had a man come to their door after dark asking whether there were any dogs in their household. When challenged as to why he was asking he claimed that he was promoting a particular dog food. The resident was rightly concerned by this unrequested visit and the conversation was terminated. Clearly the presence of dogs or otherwise is also of interest to burglars. I recommended that the resident should report the incident on the Police non-emergency help line 101. It is part of the purpose of that helpline to gather intelligence for the police and if for example there was a subsequent house burglary in the road that incident might be followed up. I subsequently provided the resident with a Trading Standards leaflet that includes a notice that can be attached on or by the front door telling uninvited traders not to call at the property. It can then become a criminal offence if they do so.

POLICE REPORTS

Theft Reports

05/03/2025 Between 17:30 to 21:45. High Beeches, Banstead. Attempted Residential Burglary. Method of Entry – Attempted forced entry through the front door of the property.

Stolen: Nothing Taken. (PR 45250027815)

03/03/2025 Between 18:15 to 21:45. Ruden Way, Epsom. Residential Burglary. Method of Entry – Access to the property has been gained through the first-floor bedroom window.

Stolen: Nothing Taken. (PR 45250025815)

Between 15/02/2025 11:00 to 21/02/2025 16:50. White Beam Way, Tadworth. Residential Burglary. Method of Entry – A forced entry through the first-floor bedroom window.

Stolen: A number of Watches and Jewellery. (PR 45250021470)

Vehicle Thefts -

Epsom Downs, Broad Walk. 01/03/2025 13:23 Motorcycle Theft. Honda (PR 45250025230)

Epsom Downs, Oatfield Road. Between 23/02/2025 18:00 to 24/02/2025 09:00 Car Theft. BMW (PR 45250022770)

Follow link for the Reigate & Banstead Police monthly Newsletter

[Reigate and Banstead Police Newsletter March 2025 Final 2.pdf](#)

Contacting the Police

The Police Reference Number (PR) with each of the reports is shown in brackets. If you have any information on any of the reports, including CCTV, please contact us quoting the Police Reference Number (PR).

Ways to Contact Surrey Police

Contact the Neighbourhood Team

As always, the local Neighbourhood Team are keen to receive information on all crime spotted or believed to have occurred as this can assist with ongoing enquiries, as well as helping to pool information to build a wider understanding.

If you believe you have any information relating to relevant information or concerns you can:

·Call 101

·Online reporting <https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

·If you have social media, why not give us a follow. You can also message us if you want to report something to us

- Our Facebook is Reigate and Banstead Beat (Surrey Police) and our twitter is ReigateBeat

You can also give information totally anonymously by contacting the Independent Charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111; or through their anonymous online form <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

In an Emergency please contact 999.

For general enquiries please email us at: reigateandbanstead@surrey.police.uk

Trading Standards Report (Scams etc)

This edition highlights the dangers of Lithium-ion batteries and how TS worked with Surrey Fire and Rescue service to identify the battery and get it removed from sale.

There is also a warning to residents about home insulation cold calls, and scams relating to WhatsApp, Boots, Just Eat and the digital switchover.

It's essential reading so please do share!

[You can read the newsletter here](https://news.comms.surreycc.info/pa2/send/jj8-4je87) or copy and paste this url into your browser: <https://news.comms.surreycc.info/pa2/send/jj8-4je87>

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Police Retail crime survey

If you work in the Retail sector please read this article and bring it to the attention of the relevant person in your organisation.

Members of Surrey's business community are being urged to share their experiences of retail crime in a new survey. Surrey Police has teamed up with the county's Police and Crime Commissioner Lisa Townsend to gain a true understanding of the scale of retail crime across Surrey

The survey asks people to have their say on the number of offences experienced and the financial impact. It also provides space for victims to share more about how the offending has affected them.

Please find a link to the survey [here](#).

Retail crime is rising in Surrey, as it is around the country. While the Force must prioritise reports of crime by the risk of serious harm, we are pleased to say that arrests, convictions and out-of-court interventions for retail crime are improving. In the past year, almost 1,300 arrests for shop thefts were made, up from 555 in the preceding 12 months. At the same time, the number of retail crimes identified by the Force has more than doubled, from 636 to 1,537. However, retail crime is still known to be under-reported. Surrey Police's Chief Constable Tim De Meyer said: "Retail crime isn't a 'victimless crime' impacting large corporations, it can lead to fear in a whole network from business owners to employees and customers – who are all part of a community we are here to protect. We are committed to tackling retail crime head on, relentlessly pursuing those who walk into shops and take what isn't rightfully theirs. To do so, we rely on every instance being reported so that we can identify hotspots and trends, act swiftly, and ideally prevent these crimes ever happening in the first place. Pursuing all appropriate avenues to identify offenders, collect evidence, recover stolen property, ensure witnesses are located and interviewed, and get these crimes to court, is a priority for our officers. Work continues to robustly deal with offenders of retail crime. We have made great strides in this area, but there is more to do with your help."

EVENTS

Friday Feb 21st Curzon Country Cinema at the Riddell Hall "Paddington in Peru" at 4.45pm and "Lee" at 2pm and 7.15pm all seats £8.

Saturday March 15th Community Litter Pick 10.30am Jubilee Woodland – All volunteers welcome see Tadworth Village Forum article above

Saturday March 15th Walton Village Kitchen is replaced by Soup + Bread & Cheese Lunches 12.30 to 1pm in the Riddell Hall also on 22nd, 29th March and 5th, 12th April.

Saturday March 15th Coffee Morning Good Shepherd Church from 10.30 am and subsequent Saturdays usually in the Church.

Saturday March 15th 10 – 4.30pm Model Railway Exhibition in Good Shepherd Hall. Adm. Adults £6, OAP £5. Under 16 £3. All day refreshments. Proceeds to Church funds.

Wednesday 19th March Defibrillator and CPR training see poster on WWW.TWRA.org.uk

Wednesday 19th March The Friends of St Peter's Quiz Night at the Blue ball. 7.30pm (doors open 7pm) £10 ticket including a glass of wine.

Thursday 20th March Community Health Fair 10am – 5pm at Tadworth Leisure Centre. See poster and more details at www.twra.org.uk/news/events/

Friday 21st March Curzon Country Cinema at the Riddell Hall "Conclave" at 2pm, 4.35pm and 7pm all seats £8.

Saturday 29th March 7 – 10pm Quiz Bingo Evening in Good Shepherd Hall. Bar, Hot dogs, raffle. In aid of church funds Tkts. £5 adults, £2.50 children contact 07740 373985 or events@goodshepherdadworth.org.uk

Friday and Saturday 4th & 5th April TWOAT Street Collection

Sunday April 6th Good Shepherd Parish Lunch note you must book in advance with your name on the list in the back of the church.

Saturday 12th April TWOAT Quiz Evening St John's Hall ticket including buffet £15 BYOB

Friday 26th April Curzon Country Cinema at the Riddell Hall "Wicked" at 2pm and 7pm all seats £8. See poster and more details at www.twra.org.uk/news/events/

Sunday 27th April 2-5pm Open Garden by Keith Lewis in aid of TWOAT at 41 Shelveys Way. Adm £5, homemade cakes, tea, coffee and soft drinks available.

Thursday 1st – Saturday 3rd May - The Gage Players present "The Actress" by Peter Quilter at the Lord Riddell Hall doors and bar open at 7.30pm each day. Tkts £12.50 contact 812703 See poster and more details at www.twra.org.uk/news/events/

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 the May. 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...>