



Runnymede residents' newsletter



March 2026

Dear resident,

Thank you for subscribing to Runnymede Borough Council's monthly newsletter, we hope you find our latest news and information useful. Please follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram for daily updates.



Runnymede's best celebrated at the 2026 Civic Awards



Civic Awards finalists celebrated with the Mayor at Thorpe Park on 10 March 2026

Winners, highly commended recipients and finalists of the 2026 Runnymede Borough Council Civic Awards gathered at an event at Thorpe Park on 10 March 2026 to celebrate the people and community organisations making a difference across Runnymede.

The Awards shine the spotlight on people making difference to the Borough, yet whose efforts often go unsung. These are people who help neighbours in need, coach local sports team, give up their free time to volunteer or achieved something amazing.

This year, 177 entries were received across 17 categories, and a number of Special Recognition Awards were issued also. Winners received an engraved trophy, Highly-Commended entries took home a medal, and Finalists a certificate.

The Mayor, Cllr Margaret Harnden said: "This event is a great celebration of the borough's community spirit and willingness to support each other, making Runnymede a great place to work and live.

"Congratulations to everyone who was nominated, regardless of whether you were recognised - you all make a difference and should be rightly proud of what you do."

[Read the full story](#)

Runnymede officer wins national award following Royal reception



Runnymede Borough Council is celebrating Community Safety Officer Abi Marsh, who has won the Outstanding Apprentice Award at the Resolve National ASB Awards.

Abi joined the Community Safety team in September 2023 and recently completed her Level 4 Apprenticeship in Antisocial Behaviour and Community Safety with a Distinction. The award recognises both her academic achievement and her work supporting residents and tackling antisocial behaviour across the borough.

Abi was also recently invited to attend a reception at St. James's Palace, where local government professionals from across the UK were recognised for their service. She said she was "shocked and incredibly grateful" to receive the award and proud to have her work in community safety recognised.

Runnymede Borough Council is extremely proud of Abi and the contribution she continues to make to our communities.

[Read the full story](#)

Runnymede announces 2026/27 council tax arrangements



Council tax bills for 2026/27 are now being issued. Residents who pay by Direct Debit do not need to take any action, as instalments will be updated automatically.

For a Band D property, Council tax will be £2,492.99 for the year, which represents an increase of £2.17 per week. This funds services provided by Runnymede Borough Council, Surrey County Council and Surrey Police.

The council has also announced plans to introduce a 100% Council tax premium on second homes from 1 April 2027 to encourage properties to be used as main residences or brought back onto the housing market. Around 244 properties in

Runnymede are estimated to fall into this category, with exemptions available in certain circumstances.

[Read the full story](#)

West Surrey Council election – 7 May



Surrey will move from twelve existing councils to two new unitary councils from April 2027 – East Surrey Council and West Surrey Council. It is the biggest change to local government in 50 years.

On Thursday 7 May 2026, you will get the opportunity to elect who you want to represent you in your new West Surrey Council. Your vote can make a real difference in shaping Future Surrey. There will be fewer councillors overall in each area, so it is even more important that you have your say on who represents you.

From April 2027, West Surrey Council will deliver all local government services in your area, including adult social care, children's services, waste and recycling, local planning, greenspaces, highways and leisure provision - in a similar way to how London Boroughs operate.

West Surrey Council will start as a 'shadow authority', working in the background with your existing councils to make sure there is a smooth transition of services before it legally takes over on 1 April 2027.

The councillors you elect on 7 May will have a critical role in setting up and then running your new council – including the transfer of services, setting budgets and appointing senior staff.

[Register to vote](#)

The history of beverages in the borough



Discover the story of what we drink in this new exhibition at Chertsey Museum. From ancient brewing traditions and Roman taverns to tea, coffee and temperance coffee houses, the display explores how beverages have shaped daily life and social culture in Runnymede.

Come along and raise an imaginary glass as you explore the fascinating history behind the drinks we enjoy today. *Exhibition open: 6 March – 20 June 2026*

[Visit Chertsey Museum](#)

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