

Cllr Sharron Sumner

REPORTING BACK



CORONAVIRUS

Please stay safe. Stay at home if you can and only go out for exercise or essentials.

Kingston Council has launched the '[Kingston Stronger Together](#)' website which has essential information, help and advice. It also has a form to allow you to volunteer to help your neighbours. Please take a look and if you can help our community in any way please put your name down. I've been helping out with delivering food supplies and it really is very rewarding.

[Kingston Green Party](#) has also been putting together a [directory of local businesses](#) who are providing home delivery, take away or online services. It's by no means comprehensive – so please feel free to get in touch with your own recommendations for those local businesses who are going above and beyond at the current time.

HOLDING THE COUNCIL TO ACCOUNT

I recently [wrote to the council's chief executive and new council](#) leader to request they use new powers given to them by the government at the start of April to hold meetings remotely. At the moment all important decisions are being taken by the chief executive behind closed doors. Despite the lockdown it is really important local people have confidence that decisions are being made transparently and in their best interests.

SEETHING WELLS FILTER BEDS

The owners of the filter beds in Surbiton – who have destroyed the ecology – are now applying to have the site [designated retrospectively as a water storage facility](#). Seething Wells is metropolitan open land and a designated nature reserve. I have objected and called on the council to issue an Article 4 direction to restrict permitted development rights. [More here](#).

PLANNING UPDATES

It's clear that developers (not just the owners of the filter beds) are taking advantage of Kingston council's suspension of regular meetings to submit applications away from the usual scrutiny. I have objected to the following:

- [Chiltern Works, Berrylands](#) an over development that dwarfs existing homes and damages biodiversity.
- [St James's Road, Surbiton](#) change from existing permission to develop four flats to a single five bed house.
- [Rokeby School, Tolworth, playing field trees](#) – permission to fell protected trees without full arborculturalist report.
- [St Andrew's Square conservation area, Surbiton](#) – permission to fell healthy tree at Maple Road.

And I have asked the planners to enforce apparent breaches of planning consent at the [Fountain Pub, New Malden](#) – including demolition (apart from the facade) of the locally listed pub and a protected tree.

GREEN ACTION

The fence at Meldone Close, Berrylands has been replaced following residents getting in touch with me.

I am still fighting to get the Council to take action to deal with residents' and businesses' complaints about uncollected rubbish at Tolworth Close.

CAN I HELP? PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

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