

Outside Body: Addlestone Chamber of Commerce
Councillor: Sam Jenkins

It is challenging to write an activities report about an Outside Body that no longer exists.....

This municipal year, Runnymede Borough Council appointed Member representatives to Egham Chamber of Commerce who were elected as Councillors outside of Egham Town. This indicates that RBC Chamber of Commerce representatives do not need to come from the same ward. As such, I put myself forward for the Addlestone Chamber of Commerce vacancy and my appointment was approved by Corporate Management Committee.

Not long after my appointment was confirmed, I made the unfortunate discovery that the Addlestone Chamber of Commerce is 'defunct'. A cross-party appeal to revive the organisation was subsequently launched by myself, Cllr Jonathan Wilson and Cllr Steve Ringham, but this was unsuccessful.

My very brief tenure highlighted a significant malfunction in the Council's process for Outside Body appointments, with Councillors being asked to sit on and produce reports about the activities of nonentities.

In an attempt to remedy this, I requested a report to the Environment and Sustainability Committee under Standing Order 27.5 called *Business Runnymede, and relationships with other organisations relevant to the economic wellbeing of the Borough*. This report was discussed by Councillors on 17th November 2022 and offered some insight into the relationship between our Council and the business community. I am pleased that as a result of this meeting, the Addlestone Chamber of Commerce was removed from the list of Outside Bodies which is maintained by officers.

In conclusion, the Addlestone Chamber of Commerce conducted no activities this year and is unlikely to undertake any activities in the future.