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08 March 2017

Cllr Mike Goodman
Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning
Room 121
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston-Upon-Thames
Surrey
KT1 2DN



Dear Cllr Goodman

Re: Basingstoke Canal Contributions

I have been forwarded your recent letter to Paul Turrell at Runnymede Borough Council regarding the Councils financial contribution to the Basingstoke Canal.

The contribution of £8,000 per year was agreed by Runnymede Councilors some ten years ago due to financial pressures at the time. As you are aware local authority finances have not improved so we will be unable to make up the shortfall in the contribution in this or future financial years as requested.

The original Memorandum of Agreement was introduced in 2009 and local members were supportive of the document but made it clear in the consultation that the financial contribution would not be increased in line with the funding formula.

We are investigating other ways to support the Basingstoke Canal with some initial discussions with both Fiona Shipp and James Taylor about introducing parking charges at the car park at the start of the canal in Hew Haw which our parking team would help to monitor. This would introduce a new income stream to the canal as the car park is being extensively used by commuters due to its proximity to the Byfleet train station.

I trust that this has clarified Runnymede's position regarding the financial contribution and how we may be able to help the canal in the longer term.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hunt
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