

## **Statement**

### **Redhill & Reigate Golf Club closure**

Redhill & Reigate Golf Club is set to close its doors for the final time at the end of March (2019).

The club's trustees have been working with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council for several years to help the club continue to operate but unfortunately the club is no longer financially sustainable.

In recent months the Council has been in discussions with other potential operators to run a 'pay and play' type course on the site under an interim arrangement until a more permanent solution could be found. Unfortunately however, it has not been possible to secure a workable short-term solution.

Tony Hallett, Club Chairman, said: "I and the trustees appreciate all the help and support the Council has given over several years whilst we have kept the club open in adverse trading conditions. Sadly, the Club is no longer financially viable and the time has come to accept our combined efforts have been in vain and the Club must close. Relations between the club and the council remain very positive and it is to be hoped they ultimately succeed in finding a long term solution that will enable golf to return to the site. I'd also like to express my thanks to staff and members of the club for their support and understanding."

Cllr Alex Horwood, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services at Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, said:

"I will be sad to see the club close. It has a long history in the area. The Council has tried hard to enable the club to continue but unfortunately it's just not been possible to secure an alternative operator within the timescale.

"Our intention is to keep the site as a golf course for community use in future and we're investigating options and potential operators to allow this to happen, but this will take time.

"In the meantime, the Council will take on the day to day upkeep of the site as common land, as it will be too costly for us to run and maintain the site as a golf course without the support and expertise of an experienced commercial operator."

ENDS

### **Notes to Editors**

The golf course is on common land that is owned by the council and the club has a licence to use it for golf purposes but the rights of other people to use the common are unaffected. This would continue with any new operator. The golf clubhouse is not owned by the council.