

Rusthall Commemorative Plaque Scheme

“Commemorative plaques, which can be found on buildings of all styles and dates, are one of the most effective – and visible – means of celebrating our history and the historic environment. Plaques connect past and present in an immediate, tangible way, and have numerous benefits; for instance, they can increase a sense of pride among local communities and can educate about history and architecture, making both more accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. They can also play an important conservation role, helping to highlight buildings with historic associations and to preserve them for the future.”

- English Heritage

(Celebrating People and Places – Guidance on Commemorative Plaques and Plaque Schemes)

Rusthall Parish Council (the Council) operates the Rusthall Commemorative Plaque Scheme (the Scheme) to recognise and celebrate noteworthy people from Rusthall.

The Council may erect plaques on buildings associated with noteworthy people.

Criteria

Any resident of Rusthall may submit a nomination for the Scheme and the Council will consider all nominations on their merits in accordance with the following criteria:

- The person must have been born, educated or lived for a significant portion of their lives in Rusthall.
- There shall be reasonable grounds for believing that the person is regarded as eminent by many of their peers.
- They shall have notable achievements in their field which set them above their peers.
- They will be recognisable to the well-informed passer-by or their achievements are easily explained.
- Additionally, nominees must be deceased by no less than 5 years.

For the purposes of this policy, Rusthall means the area of the civil Parish of Rusthall at the time that the nomination is received, howsoever the area may have been described at the time the nominee was alive.

Nominations

Nominations must be submitted to the Council as follows:

- in writing to the Clerk
- give the full name and address of the nominee
- give the full name and contact details of the nominator
- describe in full the nature of the nominee’s noteworthiness
- include a citation or quote of not more than 20 words which summarises the nominee’s noteworthiness
- suggest an appropriate location for the plaque

Conditions

The decision to grant a plaque under this Scheme is at the sole discretion of the Council. The Council will have regard to the English Heritage Guidance on Commemorative Plaques and Plaque Schemes.

The Council will only approve one nomination in any 12-month period, save in exceptional circumstances. If a nomination is received before the end of the 12-month period since the last grant it will be held over until that period elapses.

The Council reserves the right to decline any nominations that, in its opinion, does not meet the criteria of the Scheme. Any rejected nomination may not be reconsidered within 5 years, save in exceptional circumstances.

The Council will consider any reasonable special design requests for the plaque, but the final design of the plaque is at the discretion of the Council and will be consistent in style with existing plaques.

The location of any plaque will be subject to the written agreement of the freeholder and erected in accordance with all local planning and regulatory requirements. A plaque must be visible from the public highway without the need to enter private property.

Plaques remain the property of the Council and may be moved or removed, temporarily or permanently, at the discretion of the Council.

The Council will keep a register of all granted plaques and the reason for their granting. The register may be made available of the Council's website.

The Council reserves the right to withdraw or amend the Scheme at any time.