



WOODCOTE (EPSOM) RESIDENTS' SOCIETY

Representing Woodcote and Langley Vale

www.woodcoteepsomresidentssociety.org

 @epsomwoodcote

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE FOR 2022/23

Chair	John Mumford	mumford806@btinternet.com
Secretary	Jane Clarke	janeclarke@me.com
Treasurer	Cherrill Auton	cherrill.auton@gmail.com
Committee Members	Fred Mowbray	fredmowbray@icloud.com
	Bernard Woolfe	bernard.woolfe@ntlworld.com

SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Steven McCormick	steven.mccormick@surreycc.gov.uk
-------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

WARD EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Liz Frost	lfrost@epsom-ewell.gov.uk
Bernice Froud	bfroud@epsom-ewell.gov.uk
Steven McCormick	smccormick@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS / ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

If you would like to get involved and would either be interested in joining the Committee or would be willing to help deliver our newsletters, we would love to hear from you. Any of the Committee Members would be happy to talk to you about what it involves.

EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 4 May 2023

For the first time the UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station in these elections.

If you don't already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.

You can apply for these until 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023.

Don't miss out on your opportunity to influence these important local elections.

More details can be found at

electoralcommision.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id



EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 4 May 2023

If you are one of our members who have not yet renewed your membership and paid your 2023 subscriptions, we have attached a membership form for you to complete. If you prefer to pay online go to our website www.woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org, and select the PayPal option. When you select the yellow "Pay Now" button, you will be taken to the PayPal website. If you have a PayPal account, you can sign in; if not, you can make the payment by credit or debit card without signing in.

Alternatively, you can make a transfer direct into the Society's bank account:

Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society

Sort Code 23-05-80

Account No: 18192567

and include your postcode and house number as the reference.

Email: info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org if you have any questions.

Home Instead
It's us, it's personal

**Live well,
your way**

Your home is where you feel the most *comfortable* and the happiest.

It is the place you know the best. If you want to stay living comfortably at home, Home Instead® can help make that possible.

We can offer you the option to continue living a happy and fulfilled life in your own home. We do this with tailored, personal and adaptable home support based on what you need.

Contact us for more information
Home Instead Epsom and Mole Valley
01372 741544

Home Instead Epsom and Mole Valley is a registered charity. All services are provided by trained and experienced staff.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Society is to safeguard and promote the local interests of residents, businesses and property owners within Woodcote Ward and to safeguard and improve the amenities of the Borough as a whole insofar as they are for the benefit of the residents of Woodcote Ward. We are also here to help any member of the Society regarding Borough Council, County Council or other local affairs which may affect their interests. The Society has the important function of recommending the RA candidates to represent the Ward in elections to the Borough Council.

2023 Annual General Meeting

This year we held our Annual General Meeting on 22 February to elect our committee for 2023 and our three candidates to stand in the 2023 Borough Council elections. Our three current Councillors have all agreed to re-stand and gave reports on their work on behalf of the Ward. This is summarised below:

Liz Frost, one of our three Councillors reflected back on the past four years. She talked about how Covid was continuing to impact on Council business and ways of working and about the effect of the pandemic and current inflation levels on the Borough's finances. Fortunately, the Council had gone into the pandemic with strong reserves and they had been able to continue to deliver all their services but there were a lot of challenges ahead.

She drew attention to covid memorial benches in each ward to remember those we lost in the pandemic and the new permanent beacon on the Downs which had been constructed to mark the Jubilee. It was noted that the death of Her Majesty the Queen shortly after the Jubilee had resulted in delays to Council Business and that it had taken quite a long time to get back up to speed because of the number of meetings that had to be cancelled.

The beginning of this year had seen the appointment of a new Chief Executive. Liz also talked about the role of the Epsom & Walton Downs Consultative Committee. It was created to ensure the rights of access set down in the Epsom & Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984 were complied with.

Bernice Froud highlighted her work on the Community and Wellbeing Committee, highlighting the number of homeless families there were in the Borough and how many of them were in temporary accommodation outside Epsom & Ewell. This is because of the severe shortage of available housing here and how difficult day-to-day life was for these families as a result.

One of the many initiatives Steven McCormick has championed is the "This is Your Tree initiative". Surrey County Council is aiming to plant 1.2m new trees by 2030 to green the count. Urban greening initiatives like this bring a huge range of health benefits including helping to reduce high summer temperatures in built-up areas. As part of the scheme the Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board has planned nearly 50 street trees around the borough this winter.

If you would like to apply to have a tree planted on an external verge or grassed area outside your house, you can get details by emailing epsomandewelltab@gmail.com. It will cost you £25.

If you would like to read more about the work of the Councillors you can do so here:

<https://www.woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org/index.php/category/councillor-updates/>

WHAT DO YOUR RA COUNCILLORS DO FOR YOU

They **campaign on your behalf** on planning matters you felt strongly about (The Hays tele-coms mast)

They **listen to concerns** of individual residents – signposting them to the correct agency and supporting them

They **speak at Planning Committee meetings** on behalf of residents (Green Gables)

At **Planning Appeals** before the National Planning Inspector they speak out and **represent your views** (Langley Vale Farm; Epsom Hospital multi-storey car park)

They sit on Borough's Licensing Hearings panels to **safeguard the interests of residents** in the borough

They keep you informed through **Councillor updates**; being available for **Councillor Surgeries**; responding to calls and messages.

They work with the police to look at strategies for **reducing anti-social behaviour**

They request **street cleaning, leaf clearing, removal of fly tipping and report pot-holes**

They **sponsored** a bid for funding to replace worn out **equipment in Rosebery Park children's playground**

They take a full and **active part in Council Committees** and keep abreast of developments and issues by attending briefing meetings and providing feedback

They take up **issues raised as possible planning infringements**

They take part in **picking litter, planting bulbs, tending young trees**



**Liz
Frost**



**Bernice
Froud**



**Steven
McCormick**

You can find out more from the website
(epsomwoodcoteresidentsociety.org)

or contact them at

lfrost@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

bfroud@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

smccormick@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Air Pollution in Epsom & Ewell and how it impacts on our health and wellbeing, and in particular that of our children.

We also welcomed a speaker from Mums for Lungs who presented their work to campaign for clean air for everyone and to encourage individuals to change their behaviour to reduce emissions from transport, their home and their work. The two pollutants of most concern are nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. No2 levels regularly exceed legal limits set by the European Union in the South-East. Road transport is estimated to be responsible for about 50% of emissions. Wood-burning is the other leading cause of air pollution. The presentation focused on the impact of cars and their pioneering school streets initiative and the harm being caused by woodburning stoves in areas like ours. Some of you may also be concerned about the expansion of the ULEZ zone but we heard about the big difference the scheme had already made to air quality in London and the relatively small number of cars and vans that would be effected by the expansion of the scheme.

You can learn more here: <https://www.mumsforlungs.org>

What is Air Pollution?

Air pollution is the release of particles and noxious gases into the atmosphere. These emissions have a huge impact on human health. Road transport is estimated to be responsible for about 50% of emissions .

Climate Tips

Top ten things you can do to help tackle climate change

- Walk, cycle or take public transport
- Insulate your home and install solar panels
- Switch to an electric car if you can
- Reduce, reuse and recycle
- Choose energy efficient appliances
- Switch to a low-carbon energy provider
- Plan ahead to reduce food waste
- Plant a tree
- Shop, eat and enjoy leisure locally
- Talk about the changes you make



PEACOCK & CO
Solicitors

Solicitors for your life and your business

Residential Property	Dispute Resolution
Wills & Estate Planning	Employment Law
Trusts & Probate	Commercial Property
Powers of Attorney	Company, Commercial
Divorce & Family Law	& Business Law

Park Place House, 24 Church Street, Epsom, KT17 4QB
020 8035 0388 | peacock-law.co.uk

 @PeacockandCoSolicitors  @PeacockandCo



Introduction

Over the past few years, national planning policy and guidance has changed significantly. As a result, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's existing Local Plan is now out of date, which can mean that the Council is unable to adequately defend planning applications that they refuse if they are taken to appeal. The Council is in the process of producing a new plan one which aims to help meet the borough's future needs, making sure development is planned in a coordinated way while respecting our area's character, environment and heritage.

Consultation

The Council has recently consulted on their first draft of the Local Plan – providing everyone with an opportunity to give feedback. The consultation closed on 19th March. Any response you may have made to the Local Plan questionnaire together with any comments will help the Council refine the strategy, site allocations and policies.

It is intended that all consultation feedback will be reviewed and considered in the next version of the draft local plan which is scheduled for further public consultation around March 2024 for a further six-week public consultation phase. This version of the plan will be more detailed and include additional information on items such as infrastructure.

The Local Plan is a long-term plan covering the next 15 years up to 2040 and is intended to guide and shape what can be built and where, to make sure we have the right new homes, workplaces, green spaces, transport and facilities for current and future generations. The plan can also help us address important issues, like climate change and improving biodiversity, by encouraging sustainable development.

The strategy, policies and land allocations contained within the new Local Plan will be important for determining future planning applications and for guiding investment.

A Quick guide to the main proposals:

- A minimum of 5400 new homes by 2040, i.e. 300 dwellings per annum (which represents 52% of the housing need according to the Government's 'standard methodology' calculations)
- Development will first be directed to the most sustainable locations, making the best use of previously developed land in the urban area.
In sequential order these locations are:
1) Epsom Town Centre; 2) Other centres and train stations within the urban area;
3) Principal Movement corridors within the urban area; 4) The wider urban area.
- Providing a significant number of affordable homes, both helping our young people to afford homes and supporting those at risk of homelessness.
- 3.6% of the borough's total Green Belt released to help meet the housing needs of local people.
- Safeguarding strategic employment sites including Kiln Lane and Longmead industrial estates and encouraging new employment floorspace within Epsom town centre.
- Town centre focussed retail and leisure.
- Protection of a Racehorse Training Zone.
- Ensuring development is supported by the necessary physical, social and green infrastructure to meet people's current and future needs.
- Supporting measures that prioritise active and sustainable travel modes.

W(E)RS response to the Consultation Draft

W(E)RS responded to the Questionnaire and also submitted a covering statement. Both of these documents are available on the W(E)RS website.

W(E)RS considered that there was much in the Draft Local Plan to support. The aim of to provide sufficient new homes (including affordable housing) to meet our future local needs whilst respecting the environmental and policy constraints in our Borough is laudable but as so often is the case with these things – the devil is in the detail, especially when it comes to suggested Green Belt release and more intensive urban redevelopment. Other proposals in the Draft relating to supporting businesses, creating jobs, infrastructure improvements, protecting the historic environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation were less controversial and could be broadly supported. Similarly, the proposed designation of a Racehorse Training Zone covering much of the unbuilt parts of Woodcote and Langley Vale ward together with an associated Equestrian and Horse Racing facilities policy was very much welcomed.

Housing Numbers

W(E)RS expressed reservations about the scale of residential development being sought. We fully acknowledge that there is a serious housing shortage in the Borough, as elsewhere, and indeed a particular problem with affordability given the disconnect between house prices and household incomes and the woeful delivery in recent years of 'affordable' housing largely due to unhelpful Government policy and guidance on this matter. However, the housing need figure generated by the Government's standard method calculation of 576 dwellings per annum (or 10,368 dwellings over the Local Plan period) is questioned as it is based on out-of-date 2014 base Household Projections. More recent household projections indicate that in all reality the borough's population will be lower than claimed which translates through into around 7,000 fewer households requiring dwellings than the 2014 base projections would suggest. A consequence of this is that there should be less pressure to build on areas of Green Belt and to such high densities within the existing urban area.

Green Belt

This was a matter of great concern to W(E)RS. The covering report to the Council's Licencing and Planning Policy Committee on the Draft Local Plan stated that 'During the Local Plan consultation, we will be undertaking a call for sites exercise to identify whether there are any additional potential development sites within the borough that could be suitable and available for development. Therefore, future iterations of the Local Plan may contain sites that do not currently feature in the Local Plan.' Most of these potentially developable other sites have already been identified in the EEBC Land Availability Assessment (LAA) 2022 largely based on sites promoted by landowners and developers through the earlier call for sites process. This includes the 5.24 hectare field between Langley Bottom Farm and Langley Vale village which is being promoted by the owners Quinton Estates and which is identified in the LAA as potentially delivering 100 dwellings.

The Council's Sustainability Appraisal into the Local Plan examines the sites included in the LAA Assessment and places the Langley Bottom Farm field site as fourth in a provisional list of further sites (over and above those already proposed for Green Belt release in the Draft Local Plan).

W(E)RS objected to any potential change to the Green Belt around Langley Vale on the basis that it plays a vital part in ensuring the Green Belt continues to fulfil its role, especially in one of its stated key purposes, namely to 'Assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.' Consequently, the Langley Bottom Farm field site should not be included in any sequential list of potential Green Belt site releases.

Residential Amenity and Character Concerns

W(E)RS objected to the proposed dramatic decrease in the minimum requirements for private garden space from the existing 70 sq m for 3-bedroom dwellings to 20 sq m under proposed Policy DM1. With increased emphasis on homeworking and the probability of future Covid style epidemics we believe there needs to be sufficient outdoor space to meet the needs of its occupiers designed into new residential environments. Such low minimum amenity standards will merely serve to encourage back-land development and sub-division of plots in a way which would be often harmful to the character and appearance of established residential areas. For the same reason W(E)RS also objected to the revised density guidance in the Draft Local Plan which proposes that the existing maximum density policy of 40 dwellings per hectare (dph) designed to maintain and enhance the visual character of the Borough be replaced by minimum densities in the urban areas of 40 dph or 60 dph near to movement corridors such as Dorking Road.

Local Open Space

There will inevitably be more development pressures, especially for housing within the existing urban areas. W(E)RS considers it important that this Draft Local Plan safeguards those green areas of particular importance to local communities which may otherwise be under pressure for housing. Government guidance advocates the designation of Local Green Spaces through the local plan process in circumstances where such areas 'hold a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife.' W(E)RS accordingly proposed in its response that a Local Green Space policy is introduced and designation of appropriate sites on the Proposals Map following local consultation.

Built Environment and Design

W(E)RS made representations about the inadequacy of the draft Plan's policy guidance on what high quality design will comprise. Whilst it was acknowledged that detailed design guidance can often be provided in design briefs and design codes for particular redevelopment W(E)RS requested that there should at the very least be a height guidance policy within the Local Plan. This aspect of development is often the most controversial as we have recently experienced with the Guild Living and Multi-storey Car Park schemes at Epsom Hospital in addition to high rise schemes being advocated in Epsom town centre and Stoneleigh. The effective setting aside of the previous DM13 Building Heights policy was, in the view of the Society a key factor in unacceptably high-rise developments being proposed over recent years. This must be discouraged in the new Local Plan through a replacement buildings height policy.

Other Planning News

Green Gables, Ashley Road

Refusal at committee of the application for the redevelopment of the site for a large-linked block comprising 22 student flats was very much down to the support and advice we gave to local residents who would have been adversely affected by the development. Liz Frost was able to speak at both of the planning committee meetings when the application was discussed and to express the concerns raised by many of you. It may of course still go to appeal. We know that more student accommodation is needed but this proposal was not associated with, and would not have been managed by, any local education establishment. The height and design of the building also meant that the surrounding houses and gardens would all have been overlooked.

Guild Living site at the back of the hospital

Planning permission for the demolition of the unused hospital buildings and development of a new care community was granted on appeal in September 2021. The permission also provided for new key worker accommodation. Since then the owner of the site has been actively marketing the site for sale without success. We have been assured that they are now appointing contractors to start the necessary demolition works which will start in late Q2.

Epsom Hospital Multi Storey Car Park

Residents may recall that the Society played an active part in convincing the Council's Planning Committee to refuse a planning application for a huge 6 storey Multi-storey car park comprising 527 car parking spaces plus 104 surface level spaces for Epsom Hospital on the Dorking Road frontage. (Ref 20/00249/FUL). This proposal then went to appeal with both Cllr Liz Frost and Cllr Steven McCormick giving evidence against the proposed development at a full day hearing at Epsom town hall. Most regrettably the Government appointed Planning Inspector over-rode the democratically taken decision of the Borough Council's Planning Committee and allowed the appeal.

We were dismayed not just at the outcome of the appeal but the reasoning by the Inspector as to why he allowed planning permission. We had argued strongly on behalf of the local residents that whilst recognising the need for improved on-site car parking for staff, visitors and patients the proposed scheme was far too massive, ugly and wholly out of keeping with the surrounding area with its proposed concrete facings and metal cladding. In seeking to accommodate the projected maximum levels of future car parking it also flew in the face of sustainable and active travel initiatives to reduce car use and traffic congestion. Astonishingly the Inspector found that 'the appeal site sits firmly within the niche institutional character of the hospital site which is of a recognisably lower townscape value and quality conclude that whilst the proposed multi-storey car park would appear as a bold, functional and contemporary structure of considerable height and massing it would nonetheless appropriately assimilate into the general scale and utilitarian appearance of the host hospital complex such that it would not result in any significant harm to the general character and appearance of the surrounding area.'

So much for the Government's apparent emphasis now on 'Building Better Building Beautiful' initiative aimed at supporting the creation and stewardship of popular, healthy, beautiful and sustainable places. It would seem that Government Inspectors still believe that an ugly industrialised type of building can be foisted on our pleasant neighbourhood just because there are already some utilitarian buildings on the hospital site.

No vision, no aspiration for something better. Similarly, the Inspector was not persuaded about the wisdom of promoting sustainable travel modes, reducing air pollution and the wider need to transition to a low carbon future. He concluded that the site was 'some distance from the town centre and railway station for pedestrians. I also observed that cycling infrastructure in the vicinity is limited, generally to occasional narrow on-road lanes with negligible protection. Consequently, I accept that the transport conditions in this part of the Borough are generally geared towards favouring car use'. No scope then to provide improved bus links between the town centre and the hospital and no scope to incorporate improved cycle lanes and facilities especially aimed at some staff to leave their cars at home? More traffic queues and congestion on Dorking Road sadly may await us.

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has pledged to be Carbon neutral by 2035 through its Climate Change Action Plan and Surrey County Council's Transport Plan 2022-32 seeks to meet its commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 through securing a significant reduction in car use and increasing journeys made via sustainable modes of transport.

Planning appeal decisions like this run counter to achieving these aims. The frustration that Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and we have experienced through this type of decision is belatedly and rather ironically recognised by the current Secretary of State Michael Gove who has recently stated that he 'will instruct the Planning Inspectorate that they should no longer override sensible local decision making, which is sensitive to and reflects local constraints and concerns. Overall this amounts to a rebalancing of the relationship between local councils and the Planning Inspectorate, and will give local communities a greater say in what is built in their neighbourhood.' Too late for Epsom Hospital Multi-Storey Car Park but it underlines the importance going forward for the new Epsom Local Plan and Local Design Codes in taking back control in shaping our own neighbourhoods.



Artist's impression of the four-storey car park

Langley Vale Telecomms Mast

Last summer we ensured that an application for a 15-meter-high telecom mast and associated boxes on a grassed area in The Hayes, Langley Vale was refused.

To facilitate the roll out of 5G the Government had introduced amended legislation so that most telecom masts, including the one proposed for The Hayes, were classed as 'Permitted Development', meaning that the applicant only needed to provide the Council with information about the proposal and give notice of their intention.

We succeeded in arguing on behalf of more than 100 residents who opposed the proposal that the applicant had failed to minimise the mast's visual impact on the surrounding area, a requirement of the new legislation, it was not therefore Permitted Development and so required Prior Approval. WERS in lodging a formal objection on residents' behalf suggested that an alternative more appropriate location should be sought which does not have such an injurious impact on the street scene and upon the visual amenities of the area.

The application for Prior Approval of the siting and appearance of the development (22/01042/T56) was subsequently refused by the Council on 19 August 2022 on the grounds that 'the proposed telecommunications street pole, by reason of its height, siting and appearance, would be overly prominent and visually intrusive within the street-scene, and would cause unacceptable harm to the visual amenities of the surrounding area'

We will keep residents updated on any alternative siting for the mast in Langley Vale coming forward and seek your views again.

Surrey Hills AONB Update

WERS responded in January 2022 to the Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review suggesting an extension northwards to include land up to Langley Vale Road ie incorporating the Centenary Woodland area and Langley Bottom Farm. In total over 2000 responses were received which have all now been assessed. Unfortunately this has not been included in the proposals.

There is now a statutory consultation period on behalf of Natural England to the proposed boundary extensions. This will be undertaken for a 14 week period 7 March 2023 - 13 June 2023. This will be available on the Government's online consultation platform 'Citizen Space'.

There will be a Consultation Document setting out all the details together with a Response Form. There will also be a separate Map Book and technical Reports.

For anyone interested to see the physical boundary maps and to ask questions there are organised Drop-in sessions. The nearest one to us is at Leatherhead Institute on Thursday 23 March 10.00-15.00. The planned future programme includes for a summary of responses being published on this next statutory consultation phase, followed by amended proposals being presented to the Natural England Board. It is hoped that this will result in a submission to the DEFRA Secretary of State by August 2024. The approval or otherwise of the proposed boundary changes is then entirely in the hands of Government. One such boundary review took 4 years for a decision to be made!



D. Nicholls ARB Ltd.
Professional tree surgeons
covering Epsom and surrounding areas.

Pruning ~ Planting
Felling Hedges ~ Stump Grinding

07788298391
info@dnarb.co.uk
www.dnarb.co.uk

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell Help us provide cost of living support!

Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell is a local charity run by local people for local people. We are here for everyone in the borough – with free, independent, confidential advice for all. We recently helped a client with cost-of-living advice:

Recently, we had a client drop into our office. He is a single man who has been unable to work due to poor health. This has meant that he has been struggling with his rent, energy bills and council costs. On top of assisting him to apply for appropriate welfare benefits, we helped him to look into his energy use and find ways to reduce his energy costs. Through the new Epsom & Ewell Energy Support Scheme, we gave him a financial contribution towards his energy bills. We also helped him source a heated clothes dryer and provided him with an air fryer to make cooking easier, both of which are more energy efficient. He tells us he is now feeling stronger in himself, healthier, more in control and more able to cope with future problems that might arise.

This is just one client story, and we have many more. But the benefits of our work are not limited to individual clients. They also help the wider community. Every week we help people with housing and employment issues, with debt management and budgeting, and now increasingly with energy efficiency advice and cost of living support. Where people are supported to manage their problems and worries, more serious problems such as unemployment and homelessness can often be avoided. This helps save public service resources by reducing demand on doctors, prevention of homelessness, keeping people out of debt, helping with employment issues and more.

Over the next few months, we expect the numbers of people needing our help with cost of living and other advice to rise substantially. We are recruiting and training new volunteers to help more people. But we need help from the local community to do this.

There are several ways to support us – look at our website www.caee.org.uk.

You could become a volunteer. We have many roles available from admin work to website management to advisors. Or you could fundraise for us. It costs on average £60 per year for every client that we help. Or you could join our regular donors. Just £5 per month could help us support another client this year.

Snowdrops

How lovely it is to see the spring flowers – we have some great examples in the borough. Do you ever wonder how they came to be where they are?

If you take walk up Chalk Lane, on the left hand side just opposite the Durdans Stables, you can see a mass of snowdrops every spring. They are thanks to Lady Sybil Grant. She was the daughter of Lord Rosebery, owner of the Durdans House, stables and grounds. Lady Sybil planted the snowdrops in the woods close to the stables, and used to sell the flowers in the town. The money she raised went to help disabled servicemen.

Get help with the cost of living

If you don't have enough to live on, you might be able to get help from the government or your local council to afford essentials like bills and food. This includes the Household Support Fund and Cost of Living Payments.

Speak to one of our friendly advisers for **FREE** advice

0808 278 7963

Our advice line is open 10am - 4pm Monday to Friday

You can visit us in branch on **Tuesdays (10am - 5pm) and Thursdays (10am - 3pm)**

Citizens Advice Epsom and Ewell
The Old Town Hall
The Parade
Epsom, KT18 5AG

SCAN OUR QR CODE FOR MORE INFO

© 2023 Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission.





Epsom Farmers' Market

Held on the 1st Sunday of each month in Epsom Market Place.
Fresh local meat and produce.

The market - which has been running for over 10 years, opens between 9:30am and 1:30pm - but the word has it that locals get there early to get their favourites before they sell out.

The Epsom REPAIR CAFÉ

Scout HQ, Epsom Methodist Church Ashley Road, Epsom - Welcome to the café!

Our monthly Saturday sessions have so far been extremely busy!

What can we repair?

Our café operates as a non-profit charity.

Volunteers have expertise in making repairs to: Small electrical household items, consumer electronics, bicycles and pushchairs, furniture and timber items, clothing, upholstery and soft furnishing, toys, small petrol driven garden tools

To book your repair appointment please use our [BOOKING FORM](#).

See our [COSTS](#) page for charges.



SURREY POLICE

Crime in our Area

Surrey Police have confirmed an increase in acquisitive crime across several parts of the borough, which is replicated across many neighbouring areas. This includes reports of theft related offences, including burglaries, attempted burglaries, vehicle theft and theft from cars. A significant amount of work is underway to identify those responsible for more recent offences. Surrey Police encourages all residents to continue to report suspicious activity, including any vehicles that are seen. Some offenders visit areas in advance to identify houses or locations to target. They may also conduct occupancy tests to establish whether the owner is at home. The majority of crimes where items have been stolen from unattended cars are committed by opportunist criminals. They will often attempt to enter numerous cars in the hope of finding one unlocked. Surrey Police will be issuing crime prevention advice around this in the near future. There are targeted police patrols of areas where recent offences have taken place. This includes the use of unmarked police cars, which won't often be easily identifiable as such. As the majority of recent offences have taken place overnight, this will be the time that officers will be directed to be in the area where possible. 16 Inspector Jon Vale, Epsom Borough Commander for Surrey Police, has stated that burglary and vehicle crime remain a priority and that Surrey Police will attend and investigate all house related burglaries, maximizing opportunities to identify and arrest offenders. This includes the attendance of forensic officers to examine the scene and enquiries made with neighbours looking for witnesses and CCTV. In addition, Surrey Police has a Designing Out Crime Officer who is able to attend locations and offer specific advice regarding crime prevention. This is normally offered to victims of burglary, but if there is anyone who is specifically concerned, an appointment to conduct a review can be made. Furthermore, Surrey Police have recently acquired a number of SelectaDNA kits, which are used for forensic property marking. This can be a method to reduce the attractiveness of an area, or specific property, to a criminal. Surrey Police have been working closely with the chair of the Surrey Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) to establish schemes in affected areas.