



WOODCOTE (EPSOM) RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER - AGM EDITION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's AGM will be held on Monday 11 March 2024 at 7.30pm at the Haywain, Dorking Road, Epsom KT18 7LB. After the formal business there will be a talk by Alex Coley who is a member of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel and the Epsom & Ewell Community Safety Partnership and is running as an independent for the role of Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner.

The AGM is an opportunity for you to hear what is going on in our area, what is planned and what needs to be considered. It is also a chance for us to hear from you about the things you would like to see change in the Ward. Please come along if you can and inform our thinking.

Agenda

1. Welcome, opening remarks and apologies for absence
2. Consideration and approval of the minutes of the 2023 AGM
3. Annual review for the year 2023 - below
4. Approval of the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023
5. Membership Subscriptions
 - To approve the recommendation of the Committee to increase the annual subscription to £5 per household.
 - To approve the recommendation of the Committee to discontinue life membership.
6. Society Rules
 - To approve a number of minor changes to the Rules of the Society.
7. Election of the Officers and the Committee and Honorary Auditor for 2024
8. Reports from your Residents' Society Borough Councillors
 - Liz Frost, Bernice Froud and Steven McCormick (Borough and County update)
9. Residents' Questions and Any Other Business

All the documents above can be found on our website at
<https://www.woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org/index.php/annual-general-meeting/>

New Committee Members

We are looking for residents in the ward who are interested in joining our Committee. The effort involved is not huge but the benefit to yourself and to other residents can be. If you would like to find out more about how you can play a part please contact our Chair John Mumford (mumford806@btinternet.com) or email us on info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org.

Annual Membership and Subscriptions 2024

Our Annual Review sets out how the Society has made a difference over the past 12 months. You can also find out more about what we do at www.woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org

Without your subscriptions we would not be able to continue with the work we do: hold in-person residents' meetings, canvas your views on significant issues, produce these newsletters, maintain our website, support local residents with local issues, and support your Resident's Association candidates at borough and county council elections.

Please support the Society in safeguarding and promoting your interests and improving the amenities for the benefit of the residents of the Ward by renewing your membership for 2024 now.

It is easy to pay– no forms to fill in.

Annual membership costs just £5 per household on 1 January each year. A larger donation would of course be very welcome and would go towards improving our communications with residents.

Paying your subscription is very simple to arrange.

You can pay:

-by bank transfer

Account Name: Woodcote (Epsom) Residents Society
Account Details: Sort Code 23-05-80 Account Number 18192567
Reference – Your postcode and house number

-by setting up a standing order or direct debit

-by cash or cheque

We can arrange to collect your subscription at a pre-arranged time if you email us on info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org. or you can give it to the Chair or a Committee Member. Addresses can be found on the website.

-with PayPal by debit or credit card – no account is needed via every page on our website



Langley Bottom Farm



“Guild Living Site” Epsom Hospital



Woodcote Grove

Annual Review of 2023

We had a busy start to 2023 with our focus on supporting our three Ward Councillors to get re-elected which thanks to many of you we were successful in doing. We are very lucky to have three Councillors incredibly committed to the Ward and to delivering for local people.

Over the year high inflation has affected all of us and since the pandemic fundamentally altered the way we live and work. We now pay for most things on-line and look to social media for news and to communicate with each other. As an organisation we have also felt these effects and had to think hard about how we adapt or risk decline. For example, we have put in place new ways to collect our annual membership subscriptions; shifted communications to our website; and developed email circulation and social media channels.

Nevertheless, meeting and talking with you is key to being able to represent you and voice your concerns and priorities. We were delighted to be able to hold our first face-to-face meeting with residents since the pandemic in July in Langley Vale and it was great to have so many local residents give up their evening to attend. We will prioritise another meeting in 2024, this time in the Woodcote side of the ward.

Planning matters remained a key focus for the Committee locally and on appeal. It continued to track what is happening with some of the long-running cases including: the 'Guild Living' site at Epsom Hospital. As usual, the Society has been busy responding to planning applications and meeting residents who contacted us with planning concerns. The year's planning decisions brought mixed results but there were real successes for residents in: stopping the telecoms mast in Langley Vale; the residential re-development between Whitehorse Drive and Bucknills Close; and the proposed housing scheme to replace Ashted Park Nursery; the refusal of the application to develop Green Gables for student accommodation; and preventing the unnecessary felling of an old established yew tree in the Chalk Lane Conservation Area. Our objections and Cllr Frost's presentation at a recent Planning Committee meeting also successfully secured a rejection of a proposed downgrading of the design of the previously permitted housing units at Langley Bottom Farm. We have also raised construction problems and planning enforcement issues relating to the Woodcote Grove residential development; closely monitored the temporary closure of the Castle Road footbridge and communicated developments with the engineering works to residents.

The Society submitted representations to the Consultation Draft Local Plan on behalf of ward residents highlighting threats to the Green Belt around Langley Vale and the need to safeguard residential character and amenity with any new development. The Society also submitted proposals for extending the Surrey Hills Area of Natural Beauty northwards to Langley Vale Road but this was not taken forward by the Surrey Hills Boundary Review.

This year the Society has welcomed three new committee members: Kristine Gronemann Damberg, John Steward and Bob Tranter. Kristine will be leading for us on sustainability issues whilst John and Bob will lend support on our communication and planning work. Many thanks as always to Cherrill Auton, our Treasurer and to Beavis and Co who have generously acted as our Honorary Auditors for many years now. Thanks also to our road representatives and all our volunteers who lend a hand throughout the year for being our eyes and ears on the ground and for playing a vital role in identifying alongside our Councillors what problems or issues are concerning or affecting residents in the ward.

ADVERTISING YOUR BUSINESS

Advertising in our newsletter is an important way you can support us and make it possible for us to continue publishing a hard-copy newsletter and we would like to thank the local businesses which are currently advertising in our newsletters Peacock & Co and Home Instead.

Going forward our newsletter we intend our newsletter will be delivered quarterly to 2,500 member households in Woodcote and Langley Vale so is a great cost-effective way of advertising your business to local residents.

Our rates and how to book space are on our website

www.woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org

or you can email us on

info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org

GETTING IN TOUCH

We would like to hear from you on any subject which you think involves us or we can help with. You can email us on info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org or use the contact form on the website and one of your Councillors or a Committee Member will get back to you within a few days.

E-MAIL UPDATES

We also have an email list for sending regular email updates and if you are not already on the list and would like to receive updates on local issues please email us on info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org

CURRENT LOCAL ISSUES

The latest position on local planning applications and other current issues can be found on our website www.woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org



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



 **Home Instead**
It's all 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

Each Home Instead Franchise is independently owned and operated.
Copyright © Home Instead® 2013