



## **Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society Bulletin March 2024**

All the latest updates are on our website [www.woodcoteepsomresidentssociety.org](http://www.woodcoteepsomresidentssociety.org) and on "X" Woodcote (Epsom) Residents Society @EpsomWoodcote

### **WERS AGM - 11 MARCH 2024 AT THE HAYWAIN at 7.30 pm – JUST ONE WEEK TO GO**

Please join us if you can. There is a lot going on in Epsom and the AGM is the opportunity for you to tell us about your concerns and for us to update you on recent developments. The agenda and papers can be found here:

<https://www.woodcoteepsomresidentssociety.org/index.php/annual-general-meeting/>

We are delighted that our speaker is Alex Coley, who will be standing as an independent for the role of Surrey Policy and Crime Commissioner in the May Elections.

### **LOCAL PLAN**

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council have produced a useful FAQ page on their website to make sure everyone can stay informed about the Local Plan. You can find it here: [orlo.uk/i2zGJ](http://orlo.uk/i2zGJ)

### **EPSOM HOSPITAL DEMOLITION WORKS – Update from 26 February Site Meeting**

The Estate Manager has confirmed the internal strip-out of unused hospital buildings is taking longer than anticipated, meaning a delay to the demolition itself. This is now estimated to be October 2024 when it becomes temporary short-term hospital car parking for up to 203 cars.

Demolition of the small building known as Woodcote Lodge is now complete. We understand the chimney will soon be scaffolded and it will be taken down by hand although no start date has been decided. Demolition of the larger Rowan House building on the Woodcote Green Road frontage will also follow on.

Meanwhile the site is being actively marketed for sale by L&G. This follows Guild Living withdrawing from the partnership to create a specialist residential complex for older people.

We will update further as soon as we have more information.

## **EPSOM HOSPITAL MULT-STOREY CAR PARK DEVELOPMENT**

WERS is pleased to have received a helpful car park update from Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust. They have also confirmed that Trust Managing Director, James Blythe, has agreed to speak at our Autumn Open Meeting – details to follow shortly.

We understand that plans for the multi-storey car park are under review

Meanwhile the hospital is looking at potential upgrades and maintenance to the current Epsom Hospital car park while they consider different design options and potential improvements before a formal design phase later in 2024.

They are re-looking in particular at:

- Legal requirements including the need for wider bays to make access easier for blue-badge parkers
- Exploring ways to make car parking as sustainable and future-proof as possible including adding additional electronic vehicle bays and ways to support staff travel schemes
- Further traffic modelling to confirm the projected parking needs once the new Specialist Emergency Care Hospital is opened in Sutton by 2030.

## **FOOTPATH CLOSURE - END OF CASTLE ROAD - Update**

A temporary closure order has now been made by Surrey County Council for a period of 5 months from 19 February. The remedial works to the footbridge will be undertaken between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm. It is aimed to complete the works as soon as possible and the footpath can re-open to avoid this major inconvenience to local residents.

Meanwhile the existing diversion arrangements will remain in place along the Dorking and Wells Roads.

## **WOODCOTE GROVE**

We are continuing to raise construction problems and planning enforcement issues on this important site in the Chalk Land Conservation Area.

## **REVISED APPLICATION FOR RESIDENTIAL RE-DEVELOPMENT OF SITE BETWEEN WHITEHORSE DRIVE AND BUCKNILLS CLOSE**

WERS has submitted an objection to the revised scheme on the grounds that it has not made any change to the site access road and the previous reason for refusal of the

original application should therefore stand with inadequate space available within the access road to safely accommodate both pedestrian and vehicular movements. In addition, there is inadequate space to provide a passing space for vehicles using the access road to allow oncoming vehicles from Whitehorse Drive to pass safely. Many residents next to the site have submitted their own objections to this proposal.

## **LANGLEY BOTTOM FARM RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Demolition of the farm buildings is now underway. The developers are proceeding on the basis of the original permitted appeal scheme. We will be keeping a close eye on developments and we will update further as soon as we have any further details on timeframes etc.

## **2024 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The annual subscription is £5 per household. The simplest way is to pay by bank transfer – Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society, Sort Code 23-05-80 Account Number 18192567. Alternatively, you can set up a standing order or direct debit, with pay pal by debit or credit card on our website. We will also collect cash if you email us on [info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org](mailto:info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org) and let us know your address and when you are at home.

## **PASS THIS E-MAIL ON**

**If you have found this update useful, please pass it on to your neighbours and friends living in the ward. Just forward it via email and ask them to contact us at [info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org](mailto:info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org) if they would like to receive it direct and we will add them to our mailing list.**

We hope to see you on the 11th at the AGM.

**Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society**