



Woodcote (Epsom) Residents Society

[Read on the website](#)

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Email: info@woodcoteepsomresidentsociety.org.

Dear residents

As the summer holidays get underway I want to update you on some recent and current issues and to look forward to activities we have planned in the coming months.

I hope you find it an interesting read.

John Mumford -Chair

Live Issues

Over the past year we have played a significant part in getting the old hospital buildings demolished and have worked hard to make sure that the works to replace the Castle Road footbridge do not have a long-term detrimental impact on the Common. We are pressing National Rail for an update on the latest position.



Demolition of the old hospital buildings

Castle Road footbridge works

2024 Derby Festival – Safety Concerns

On 12 July the Langley Vale Village Hall was full for a meeting with Inspector Clifton-Sinclair Borough Police Commander and Tom Sammes, General Manager at Epsom Racecourse about the serious public order incidents which occurred ahead of the 2024 Derby Festival and the arrangements for the 2025 event.

The meeting had been convened by the Society and the three Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward Councillors who are also members of the Epsom & Walton Downs Conservators – Bernice Froud, Liz Frost and Steven McCormick. The Councillors, Police Commander and Racecourse Manager were joined on the panel at the meeting by Helen Maguire, our new MP and Shanice Gladman, Nonsuch Ward RA Councillor and Chair of the Crime and Disorder Committee. The meeting was chaired by Steven with Sean Porter the chair of the Langley Vale Village Hall.

The Borough Police Commander and Mr Sammes spent an hour and a half answering questions about what the residents' saw as the failings of the police response to the serious incidents that took place and the security arrangements more generally for the 2024 Derby. A question was also asked about what action the Conservators could take under the Act of Parliament to mitigate the risks to the local residents of the travellers encampment. A number of suggestions were made about how the security arrangements could be improved and everyone agreed that communication with the village and its residents needed to improve.

The Police, the Racecourse and the Epsom & Downs Conservators all committed to take account in their review of the 2024 Festival the very real concerns of residents had about their safety and their requests for changes to the arrangements for 2025. **It was agreed to hold further meetings with residents in September/October to consult on the proposed plans for 2025 before the arrangements were finalised and in March/April 2025 ahead of the festival.**

Planning

We have also been able to influence some important planning decisions by communicating your concerns to help ensure the character of Epsom is not lost with the need for more homes. Recently we have submitted objections to the planning appeal for the erection of 6 houses at Bucknills Close and we continue to press for effective enforcement action in respect of breaches of planning conditions on the newly developed Woodcote Grove residential site.



Bucknills Close



Langley Bottom Farm



Green Gables



Woodcote Grove

Langley Vale Bottom Farm

We were relieved to hear this week that a further planning application for a two storey 4 -bed dwelling half-way up the access road has been refused.

We had submitted a robust objection to this application on the grounds that the site was not previously developed land and that it would seriously undermine the openness of this area and the case for retention of the wider Green Belt surroundings. We are very pleased our objection has been accepted by planning officers.

Local Roads

Following residents' concerns expressed at our AGM about the state of our local roads we have also been vocal about getting the worst of these addressed by Surrey County Council and our Surrey County Councillor, Steven McCormick, is working to resolve these.

New Planning Applications in the pipeline

<p>Redevelopment of the Former Gas Works Utilities site on East Street</p> <p>Plans for a new community in the heart of Epsom town centre with in excess of 450 new homes, green open areas and a new HQ for Laine Theatre Arts</p>	<p>You can read the details and submit Any pre-application comments here</p> <p>https://epsomgasworks.whatyouthink.co.uk/</p>
<p>Langley Vale Memorial Woodland Site</p> <p>Visitor hub/shelter, access paths, landscaping and associated infrastructure</p>	<p>24/00437/FUL</p> <p>Likely to be considered at September Planning Committee Meeting</p>

Upcoming Events

Sunday 4th August – Rosebery Park	Music in the Park – A free music event by Epsom & Ewell Silver Band provided and sponsored by Councillor Steven McCormick
Saturday 21 September – Rosebery Park	Party in the Park - To celebrate 100 years of Epsom Rotary Club serving our community. Organised by the Rotary Club of Epsom in partnership with Epsom & Ewell Borough Council
Saturday 5 October at 1900 hours -Epsom & Ewell Resident’s Associations Quiz Night. St Joseph’s Church Hall	Quiz Night - Organised jointly by Woodcote & Langley Vale, Town and Stamford & Horton RAs.
Thursday 17 October 1930 hours - WERS Residents Meeting – Epsom Sports Club	SPEAKER - James Blythe General Manager of the Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals Trust on the future plans for the Epsom Hospital Site.

Please reserve these dates in your diary. We hope that as many of you as possible will join us.

We will include details of these meetings/events on our [website/ "X"](#) as soon as we have them. Please follow us if you are not already doing so as we try to ensure our website is kept up to date with all our news and that we post all relevant updates on "X"

A lot is changing and there are going to be some difficult decisions ahead with a new government, with planning reform and re-instated housing targets; with severe budget constraints, underfunded public services and the ongoing cost of living challenges and at the same time pressures to improve the environment in which we live and work in.

Over the past year we have worked hard to raise our profile and become a credible voice for you on the issues in the Ward that are priorities for you. We are re-instating our residents’ meetings and will have a presence at local events going forward when we hope to meet more of you. However, if there are issues you are worried about let us know by using this email address or through the contact form on the website so we can raise them on your behalf. You can also Direct Message us on "X".

If you haven’t already done so we would appreciate it if you could pay your annual subscription of £5 to enable us to continue to work on your behalf and keep you informed about developments in the Ward.

Paying your subscription is very simple to arrange:

By Bank Transfer

Account Name: Woodcote (Epsom) Residents Society

Account Details: Sort Code 23-05-80 Account Number 18192567

Ref: Your postcode and house number

By setting up a standing order or direct debit OR

By cash or cheque to one of our Councillors or Committee Members. We can collect payments from you if you email us on info@woodcoteepsomresidentssociety.org.