

Councillor report for WERS

Liz Frost – January 2026

Cllr update since October meeting.

Council

Council met on 9th December. Items discussed included –

An update on devolution and local government reorganisation (LGR) in Surrey. The report outlined the latest developments and updates on following the decision from the MHCLG to implement the 2 unitary proposal for Surrey. The Council agreed to the establishment of the East Surrey Joint Committee.

The next phase of the Community Governance Review. A report of the results of the first consultation into the possible creation of Civil Parishes and associated Parish Councils in the Borough of Epsom and Ewell was received. Based on the results, it was decided to proceed to the next consultation on whether to form two such Parish Councils, one for Epsom and one for Ewell. The consultation is open until 1st February.

A staff pay award of 3% was agreed for 2026/07

Environment Committee

I attended the AGM of the Energy Efficiency Association – useful to be able to pass information about possible opportunity for NESOT to them.

I attended South Western Railway stakeholders' conference – where I met their Senior Public Affairs Manager who appears knowledgeable about the Castle Road footbridge. Just before Christmas he updated me that he hoped that in January he would be able to confirm the programme of works to reinstate the footbridge.

When possible, I attend the TAB meetings to keep up to date with activities there.

The Council has produced a useful 'Greening Your Home' guide for residents. I took part in a Comms video to promote the guide.

The Car Park Working Group met and made recommendations that will be brought to the January Environment Committee.

The next Environment Committee will be held on 20th January.

FSAG

FSAG took place on 21st November.

The group received a report presenting the Council's 2025/26 mid-year treasury management performance.

They also received a report presenting the final proposals for the 2026/27 Capital Programme in order to take agreed proposals to relevant policy committees in January 2026 seeking support for inclusion within the 2026/27 Programme. Those agreed were:- An overcoating waterproof membrane to part of the Ashley Centre multi-storey car park; Phase 2 of work on the Uppermill pond band replacement; Replacement of boilers and controls, and auditorium air conditioning and controls for Epsom Playhouse; Replacement lift controls at Bourne Hall. Other works maybe added if finance can be identified.

Remembrance

Attended the Remembrance Civic Service and the Armistice Day parade.

Alternative Transport Champion

I took on this role in May. However the Constitution does not permit a policy chair to also be a champion. Therefore I stepped down from it at the December Council meeting. One of the things I had been doing as part of this work was to regularly check all the newly validated planning applications for apartments. Where there appeared to me to be insufficient cycle storage proposed, I questioned this with the planning officer.

General

A steady stream of varied questions and problems from residents!