

Report from Cllr Bernice Froud for W(E)RS AGM

10 March 2026

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve the residents of Woodcote & Langley Vale for another year. The year has presented many challenges and uncertainties with Local Government Reorganisation and also the emerging Local Plan. I have worked hard, along with my ward colleagues, to best represent what the majority of residents say they are concerned about. I know we are not always all in agreement about local matters but I have listened to what you have said and tried my best to represent those views.

Community & Wellbeing Committee

As usual, the main risk for this Committee and the council generally is the high cost of temporary accommodation and nightly paid accommodation. I am pleased to report that we have had a bit of a decrease in the numbers needing support, however there is still much work to be done to ease the pressure on resources and to ease the uncertainty for households who find themselves in this position. It is hoped that the new Renters Rights Bill will play its part in reducing the number of people who find themselves homeless at short notice.

I recently attended the Ukrainian Festival of Friendship. This was a week-long event, featuring art, film, poetry, music, food, crafts and singing from the Ukrainian Choir we have here in Epsom. It was very uplifting to see the kindness and care displayed to our Ukrainian community, who are extremely grateful for all they have received; this was their way of giving something back as they continue to face an uncertain future.

The council also held their first Young Legends event. This replaced the Surrey Youth Games and it was wonderful to see so many young people signed up to a maximum of 6 activities and get presented with certificates of achievement at the end of the programme. Feedback from parents and young people was extremely positive and I hope there will be another event held in the coming year.

Health Liaison Panel

I attended the Panel last week along with Liz and we received a presentation about the Primary Care Network and how they are working to improve communication between patients and the services they receive. It was a shame that the speaker from the Domestic Violence organisation the council had booked had to cancel at short notice, but we look forward to working with them in the near future.

Communication with Residents

Thank you to those who have contacted me for help over the past year. I have managed to solve some things and others are taking longer. As always, I appreciate your patience.

Cllr Bernice Froud

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