

Cllr report for WE(R)S AGM 2026 – Liz Frost

Good evening – goodness, another year has flown by, and here we are at another AGM! We have a full agenda tonight, so I'm sure you will be pleased to hear that I'll keep this report brief.

My main Council responsibilities have remained focussed on the Environment Committee. I took on the chairmanship of this committee in 2024. Work under this committee's remit has included several actions to support our Climate Action Plan.

We now have a Green Your Home leaflet which is a practical guide to help residents make climate-conscious choices at home. It helps people take simple, everyday actions to contribute to a healthier environment and help combat climate change. The guide offers practical advice and tips for making small changes that collectively can make a big difference. Not only are they good for the environment, many also save you money.

The Council is reducing its own carbon emissions by –

- Continuing to install solar panels on the roofs of Council-owned buildings, now including at the Leisure Centre.
- Installing Energy efficient / LED lights to replace Epsom Playhouse stage lighting that was at end-of-life,
- Completing the window replacement scheme at Bourne Hall with all now double glazed, including a solar glaze, which will reduce heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer.

On other topics, working with other agencies, the Ewell High Street Air Quality Management Area status in Ewell Village has been able to be revoked following sustained and significant reductions in nitrogen dioxide levels recorded in Ewell High Street.

Following the introduction of the 'pay to play' tennis scheme in our parks, the free weekend and school summer holiday morning sessions have continued. The fees from the scheme have enabled upgrades to some courts, and more will follow when funding allows.

Looking at work enhancing local diversity, you may recall that last year the Chamber Mead wetland area was created along part of the Hogsmill River. Working with partners, water voles (that had been extinct in Surrey) have now been released in this area.

EEBC have been awarded the contract by SCC to cut grass verges – something we used to do, but the service was taken back by SCC, who reduced the annual number of cuts and were not cutting all the verges that had previously been cut. EEBC has re-instated cuts in those roads and increased the frequency of cutting.

The Countryside team has created a virtual tour of the Borough's Hike and Bike Route. It allows people to follow the whole or parts of the route whenever they choose by downloading an app and scanning the QR codes. The codes also provide information about each location.

Away from Environment Committee, I sit on the Financial Services Advisory Group, the CIL working group, Health Liaison Panel and am a Downs Conservator and during the year have 'subbed' on other Committees as required.

Throughout the year I have responded to Residents' enquiries and requests, either signposting to other agencies where EEBC has no authority to act, or providing further information and resolving if possible. These cover a wide range of topics, including, planning and possible planning breaches, parking and housing problems.