# **Annual Epsom and Ewell Times neutrality audit**

Here we reprint the contributions of the four members of the Epsom and Ewell Times Neutrality Council in full.

**EPSOM & EWELL TIMES Neutrality Council** 

Epsom and Ewell Times admin@epsomandewelltimes.com 12 October 2024 at 01:22

To: Robert Leach (Residents Association), Emma Ware (Conservative), Mark Todd (Labour), Alison Kelly (Liberal Democrat)

Dear Member of the Epsom and Ewell Times "Neutrality Council",

By way of reminder, here is the link to our public announcement on the creation of the Council.

Below is a set of questions that may assist in guiding your appraisal. It is not mandatory, but if followed, there will be a consistency of approach that may make easier reading for the public.

We ask you to bear in mind during your appraisal that we are all unpaid volunteers, save for the contributions from the BBC's Local Democracy Reporting Service (Emily Dalton, Emily Coady-Stemp, and Chris Caulfield). Also, we ask you to bear in mind that persons and parties in power can expect greater scrutiny than those who are not.

We ask you to complete your appraisals by the end of this month of October with a view to publication in November.

Thank you very much indeed.

Epsom and Ewell Times

#### **Robert Leach - Residents Association**

14 October 2024 at 16:03

- 1. Overall neutrality rating: 10/10.
- 2. Fair representation of political viewpoints: Yes.
- 3. Instances of bias: No.
- 4. Fair representation of Residents' Associations: Yes.
- 5. Handling of controversial issues: Well.
- 6. Reporting quality: Moderate. Many council items are not covered, and there is little human interest or coverage of other EE events.
- 7. Separation of opinion and news: Yes.
- 8. Coverage of local community issues: Fair. See comments for 6.
- 9. Suggestions: The paper is very good and fair. I believe there is much more that could be reported. Perhaps other organisations and businesses could be encouraged to provide info.
- 10. Additional comments: Although not asked, I believe I have been fairly reported as a councillor.

Kind regards, Robert Leach

Alison Kelly - Liberal Democrat

16 October 2024 at 14:41

1. Overall neutrality rating: 9/10.

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- 2. Fair representation of political viewpoints: Clearly attributes quotes in reports on council meetings and tries to include a view from each party. Most instances where there is no opposition opinion, it was because they made no comment.
- 3. Instances of bias: None stood out. Some felt less mention of Lib Dem comments in areas like Mole Valley could improve balance.
- 4. Fair representation of Residents' Associations: As the ruling group, they seem to get a good hearing.
- 5. Handling of controversial issues: You reach out for opinions and tend to remain factual rather than showing political bias.
- 6. Reporting quality: Editorial content is limited but strong. Liked "Opinion Polls" and "The Strange Maths."
- 7. Separation of opinion and news: None that caused concerns.
- 8. Coverage of community issues: Effective and relevant, though less coverage seen in the North Borough.
- 9. Suggestions: Consider including more on faith groups and their activities. The Hook Road Islamic Centre revamp could be an interesting feature.
- 10. Additional comments: Generally find the paper useful, interesting, and balanced.

#### Mark Todd - Labour

- 9 November 2024 at 16:27
  - 1. Overall neutrality rating: 9/10.
  - 2. Fair representation of political viewpoints: Yes. I think everyone has been fairly represented.
  - 3. Instances of bias: None observed.
  - 4. Fair representation of Residents' Associations: Yes.
  - 5. Handling of controversial issues: Well done.
  - 6. Reporting quality: Exceptional, particularly on elections and green belt issues. Hustings coverage was a triumph.
  - 7. Separation of opinion and news: Yes.
  - 8. Coverage of community issues: Adequate and diverse.
  - 9. Suggestions: No suggestions. Congratulations on an amazing community newspaper.

#### **Emma Ware - Conservative**

20 November 2024 at 16:11

It is with a heavy heart that I have to admit I have stopped reading the Epsom & Ewell Times, so I don't feel able to answer your detailed questions. I stopped shortly after the election because, in my opinion, it has become a mouthpiece for the Liberal Democrats and to a lesser extent, the anti-green belt campaigners.

Here are seven examples of clear bias in favour of the Lib Dems and unsupported political opinions masquerading as facts:

- 1. "Belted up on Green Belt" (15 January 2024): Felt one-sided with limited counterarguments and no context for affordable housing shortages.
- 2. "Democracy at Work or Strange Mathematics" (July 2024): Contained unsupported assertions and lacked global economic context.



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- 3. "Surrey Lib Dems Majority Tale on Thames Water" (July 2023): Used pejorative language with no explanation of long-term trends.
- 4. "Local MP Comes to Our Defence" (September 2024): Headline and article tone were biased.
- 5. "Epsom Pensioners Gather Less Winter Fuel Pay" (30 September 2024): The image was inappropriate, and the claims were unsubstantiated.
- 6. "Surrey School Kids Country Walk" (November 2024): Descriptions of the Conservative-controlled County Council were overly pejorative. [Ed: This was a BBC report.]
- 7. "Epsom Town as a Safe Place to Live": Over-the-top comparisons and unsupported assertions.

Thanks, Emma Ware

Editor to Emma Ware

Thank you very much.

I appreciate all the comments you make and just want to be certain that you are content for them to be published in full?

It is proving to be challenging to sustain a perfectly balanced micro-sized local news service that seeks to serve the public interest in holding civic powers to account. The previous news services in Epsom and Ewell died over 20 years ago due to the cost of print and journalists. Epsom and Ewell Times joins a growing number of "indies" up and down the country that rely on the volunteer "citizen contributor" model.

"For the community, by the community" effectively means our content reflects the community's input. There maybe the appearance of imbalance arising from the choice or time constraints of other voices. We constantly appeal for more contributors.

The point I am making is that anyone with a criticism or disagreement with any of our published content is always welcome to contribute and within reason will be published. Equally other voices can initiate content.

I am a little surprised you should accuse EET of being a LibDem "mouthpiece" following our very fair and balanced coverage of the General Election candidates.

When Chris was MP we never criticised him and published a number of "Westminster Views" penned by him. Now we have a new and first ever female MP, she was surely entitled to a little honeymoon? And that is over as shown by our publication of a critical letter on her position on the location of a new hospital.

I am not inviting you to re-think but I have to say I think your criticisms are somewhat selective and overall very harsh and they are not shared by the others, including the RA.

Kind regards, Epsom and Ewell Times

Epsom and Ewell Times adds we have published numerous press releases from Conservative run Surrey County Council extolling its achievements with extensive quotes from Conservative Councillors. We have also frequently quoted Epsom and Ewell's two Conservative Borough Councillors, Bernie Muir and Kieran Persand and hinted at no criticism of their efforts and service.

We hope Emma Ware's reaction post 4th July will not deter a new Conservative undertaking the role of membership of our Neutrality Council.

# Music of mass creation in Epsom

Two mass settings in the same concert - too much of the same thing or the starting point for a creative programme of music?

During his time as music director of **Epsom Chamber Choir**, **Jack Apperley** has demonstrated a flair for devising intriguing programmes, whose themes emerge as you listen and learn about the music, revealing fascinating links that stitch the pieces together in interesting and often surprising ways.

In Saturday evening's concert at St Martin's Church in Epsom, we were invited to compare and contrast the mass settings of two composers, **Stravinsky** and **Bruckner** – the same liturgical texts but different musical language; the same instrumental forces but different ways of using timbres of woodwind and brass to accompany the choral textures. More on these pieces later but, linking them to the present, Peter Burton, a member of Epsom Chamber Choir, deliberately used the same forces in his setting of words from Psalm 19, "The heavens declare the glory of God", which opened the concert. Peter captured the essence of the Psalmists' words in music which expressed awe and wonder through a series of luminous chords before growing to a soaring climax.

The influence of Mozart then emerged as one of the programme's themes in the next piece, Jonathan Dove's Movements from Figures in the Garden. Commissioned by Glyndebourne for their 1991 Mozart bicentenary celebrations, this wind serenade was designed to be played outdoors before a performance of The Marriage of Figaro. Each movement subtly weaves snippets of arias, recitatives and musical phrases from the opera into more abstract musical textures, causing a ripple of amusement at moments of recognition amongst both the players (Chameleon Arts Wind Ensemble) and audience.

We then learned from Jack's introduction that Stravinsky had spent much time listening to Mozart's Missa Brevis during the period 1944 – 1948, when he was writing his mass setting. It is not easy to tell what effect this may have had on him but we can certainly hear the influence of Stravinsky's Russian Orthodox faith in the syllabic setting of much of the text, especially in the Credo. The choir's excellent clear diction made this particularly effective. The final a cappella 'Amen', sung with great beauty and stillness, brought a peaceful sense of calm to the close of the first half of the concert.

The second half took us from Stravinsky's rather austere neo-classical style to the more lush, romantic sound world of Bruckner and the choir embraced this shift with delight. There was a good sense of ensemble and balance between the players and singers and a palpable sensitivity to the text. Particularly beautiful were the close harmony exchanges between a cappella female then male voices in the Qui tollis and Benedictus passages, where intonation and balance between the voices was flawless. Other highlights were the radiant beauty of the Crucifixus and the perfectly executed suspensions at 'miserere' in the Agnus Dei.

Two mass settings framing a varied musical menu and subtly woven themes: this was a creative programme that both challenged and delighted. I'm looking forward to the next one!

Carolyn Boulding

### 21st November 2024

Council Housing Planning

### Conflict on Epsom's Green Belt plans of another kind?



19 November 2024

On the eve of an important meeting of the Licensing, Planning and Policy Committee on the future of the Borough's Local Plan, housing and Green Belt development, Epsom & Ewell ... Read More

**Business News** 



# **Epsom and Ewell business Oscars night**

19 November 2024

Last night Epsom Social in the Epsom Square hosted the Oscars of local businesses. The annual Epsom and Ewell Business Awards recognised excellence in 9 categories with the cafe in ... Read More

Council Housing Planning



# Epsom Civic Society say Local Plan should be agreed on Wednesday

18 November 2024

The Epsom Civic Society (ECS) (motto being "Shaping the future, safeguarding the past") has urged councillors to support the borough's draft Local Plan, warning of the risks associated with further ... Read More

Nature News Planning

# **Proposed Battery Energy Storage System Near Ashtead Common Faces Objections**



18 November 2024

Plans to install a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near Ashtead Common have sparked significant opposition from local conservation groups and residents. The proposed facility, intended to support renewable energy ... Read More

Community Education News

## **Epsom Schools Unite for Children in Need**



18 November 2024

Schools across Epsom and Ewell, along with Banstead, joined forces to support this year's Children in Need appeal, raising impressive amounts through creative and engaging activities. Danetree Primary School - ... Read More

Football Sports





# League victory takes Epsom & Ewell up 3 places

17 November 2024

 $\label{thm:combined} \mbox{ Counties League - Premier Division South. Saturday 16th November 2024 Momentum is a funny thing! At times this season, we have found ways to ... Read More$ 

Arts Culture News

### **Epsom born baritone to bring requiem to life**



17 November 2024

Epsom-born baritone Mark Nathan will feature as one of the soloists in Verdi's Requiem, performed by the Epsom Choral Society on Saturday, 23rd November at 7:30 pm at St Martin's ... Read More

Community Council Sports



# **Epsom Council Delivers Spinning Back Kick to Nam Yang Martial Arts Centre**

16 November 2024

In a contentious meeting on 12th November, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Strategy and Resources (S&R) Committee rejected a £161,250 funding bid for the Nam Yang Martial Arts Centre, reversing ... Read More

Council Finances Housing

## Pods off in bricks grant for Epsom homeless



16 November 2024

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (EEBC) will receive £1,493,250 in one-off funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to help tackle its spending on homeless families. The ... Read More

#### Arts Community Council



# **Bourne Hall's Christmas Supremacy**

15 November 2024

Visit Bourne Hall from 30 November - 21 December for a whole host of festivities this Christmas. The celebrations kick off at 2pm on 30 November at the Christmas Lights ... Read More

#### Council Finances



### Mole Valley Bankruptcy warning

15 November 2024

Mole Valley District Council is facing bankruptcy and must make "very difficult decisions" over the future of its services. The bleak warning came during the Tuesday, November 12 scrutiny committee when the ... Read More

Council Transport

# Surrey showing true grit for winter roads



15 November 2024

Surrey's team of gritter drivers are now available 24/7 to help keep residents moving during the colder months. Our 39 state-of-the art gritting vehicles are ready to grit the county's ... Read More

#### Community Nature Volunteers



### Let's think about Spring!

14 November 2024

Residents of Cuddington ward held a community bulb plant on the 9th of November, thanks to fantastic local volunteers. Help from RA Surrey Councillor Eber Kington via an allocation from ... Read More

# **Epsom and Ewell business Oscars night**

Last night Epsom Social in the Epsom Square hosted the Oscars of local businesses. The annual Epsom and Ewell Business Awards recognised excellence in 9 categories with the cafe in the park "Park View" scooping the Best Overall Winner. The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell **Steve Bridger** bestowing the final prize.



Park View is a family run business operating in Alexandria Park in Epsom. "Our story began in 2020 with a successful pitch to the Epsom Council for a café in Alexandra Park. Since then, we have worked hard to create a special place, which we have opened to our customers in July 2021.



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#### It has become a thriving meeting place for the local community".

Michaela and Erik of the Your Park View Cafe Team - The Pavilion. Alexandra Park, Epsom, KT17 4BU, proudly hold their awards.

Another notable winner (pictured above) was **Emily Fry**. A local artist with an extensive portfolio of styles and genres. "A key mission of my art is to create unique and passionate work that personally touches my clients. My most common enquiry is pet commissions. With a photo of your beloved companion I will transform them into a unique, personal piece of art. Despite this I am able paint anything from people to animals, cars to trains, buildings to landscapes. I really enjoy having the ability to produce any piece of artwork which means so much to my client."

The full line up of winners. First in **bold** the winner and runners up in no order below the winner.

#### The Sponsors:

EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL, EPSOM DOWNS RACECOURSE, EPSOM SQUARE, GO EPSOM, NESCOT, AMBER GROUP. THE FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES and TWM SOLICITORS.

#### Judging Panel:

CLLR NEIL DALLEN, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, JULIE KAPSALIS Chief Executive & Principal at NESCOT, JACKIE KING Chief Executive, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. KAREN PENGELLY Epsom Bid Manager, PAUL TAYLOR What's on in Epsom, LEE WIDDOWS University for the Creative Arts, MARY ZOELLER Deputy Lieutenant

#### **Award Categories & Finalists:**

BEST RETAIL BUSINESS - Sponsored by Epsom Square:

#### **Randy Cow**

Camille

The Secret Garden

BEST INDEPENDENT BUSINESS - Sponsored by Federation of Small Businesses:

#### **Emily Fry Art**

**Grow Cook Enjoy** 

The Secret Garden

BEST ENTREPRENEUR -Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council:

#### **Dave Weller of Randy Cow**

Yolanda Artal

Itay & Zia Zilkha

BEST BUSINESS FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE -Sponsored by Amber Group:

#### **Snipperty Do Dahs**

Cronos Protection Ltd.

The Personal Agent

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY - Sponsored by TWM Solicitors:

#### The Well Being Therapy Hut

All Things Nice

NEAT

BEST BUSINESS FOR FOOD & HOSPITALITY - Sponsored by Epsom Downs Racecourse:

#### Park View Café

Kornetto

The Secret Garden

BEST BUSINESS FOR HEALTH & BEAUTY - Sponsored by Nescot:

#### Honey & Bamboo

Aphrodite Aesthetics Snipperty Do Dahs

GO EPSOM BEST BUSINESS IN EPSOM TOWN CENTRE - Sponsored by GO Epsom:

#### **Epsom Picturehouse**

Epsom Foot Care
White House Health and Wellness Centre
BEST OVERALL WINNER:

PARK VIEW

# Epsom born baritone to bring requiem to life

Epsom-born baritone Mark Nathan will feature as one of the soloists in Verdi's Requiem, performed by the Epsom Choral Society on Saturday, 23rd November at 7:30 pm at St Martin's Church, Epsom. Known for his commanding stage presence and dynamic voice, Mark is delighted to perform this dramatic piece with his hometown choir.

Mark Nathan has earned acclaim for roles across opera stages in the UK and Europe. A former Emerging Artist with the Scottish Opera, he has captivated audiences as Joseph de Rocher in Dead Man Walking (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), which garnered praise for his intense portrayal and powerful baritone. His notable performances also include Schaunard in La Bohème Maximilian in Candide, with Welsh National Opera, Giuseppi in Scottish Opera's The Gondoliers which was televised for BBCTV, the title role of Don Giovanni with Opera Loki, and roles with Garsingto Opera, Waterperry Opera. Critics have celebrated his performances as "commanding" and "emotionally rich," and he continues to expand his repertoire with roles for Scottish Opera and English Touring Opera this season.

In addition to his operatic work, Mark is an accomplished concert soloist, with oratorio performances that include Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs, Fauré's Requiem, and Saint-Saëns' Requiem. His versatility and vocal warmth make him an ideal choice for Verdi's Requiem, a piece known for its dramatic intensity and sweeping emotional range.

"Performing Verdi's Requiem with the Epsom Choral Society in my hometown is very special," said Mark Nathan. "The power and emotional depth of this music are incomparable, and to share this experience with my community is a privilege."

This special performance by the Epsom Choral Society uses an innovative arrangement by Michael Betzner-Brandt, making Verdi's Requiem more accessible for local ensembles without sacrificing its grandeur. For Mark, who has returned to his roots in Epsom, the opportunity to perform this iconic piece with the Epsom Choral Society is especially meaningful.

For tickets and more details on this powerful evening of music, please visit the Epsom Choral Society website www.epsomchoral.org.uk.

#### **Event Details:**

■ Date: Saturday, 23rd November 2024

■ Time: 7:30 pm

■ Location: St Martin's Church, Church Street, Epsom KT17 4PX

 Tickets: Available online https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/epsom-choral-society/tojydkvp

# Let's think about Spring!

Residents of Cuddington ward held a community bulb plant on the 9th of November, thanks to fantastic local volunteers. Help from RA Surrey Councillor **Eber Kington** via an allocation from Your Fund Surrey, plus a generous crocus donation from Wandgas Sports and Social Club, enabled Councillor **Kim Spickett** (RA Cuddington) to obtain enough spring bulbs for three streets. "We have been planting bulbs in various locations in the ward for the last three years. The aim is to have spring colour

and happy bees in every street, so we tackle a new area each Autumn. It is great exercise and a wonderful way to meet your neighbours".

The streetscape around Wandgas has been planted with Crocus tommasinianus Whitewell Purple, a good match for the club kit colours.

Kim said "All our pollinating insects are fans of Wandgas cricket and football – now they will have somewhere to enjoy half-time refreshments".

In the surrounding streets, Kim, volunteer residents of all ages, RA Surrey and EEBC Councillor **Steven McCormick** plus the Wandgas team planted "Tenby" daffodils and early snowdrops.

The bulbs will ensure a boost for wildlife and some neighbourhood cheer after a long winter.

MAIN PHOTO, LEFT TO RIGHT: Wandgas Club Secretary Gary, President Chris, Managers Alison and David, Paul. INSET PHOTOS: volunteer Nicky's snap of the volunteers in action and examples of the flowers to expect during Spring 2025

Kim is also chair of Surrey's Wildflowering Project. They have groups all over Surrey, bringing native planting and people together.

### 14th November 2024

Council Housing Planning

# **Epsom and Ewell Green Belt battle lines drawing near**



13 November 2024

The latest draft of the Local Plan has just been revealed. The headline news is that the housing target has been significantly reduced by omitting the Ewell East Station Green ... Read More

**Community Letters Transport** 

# Has Epsom's new MP missed the bus to a new hospital?



#### 12 November 2024

Dear Editor, Our new MP Helen Maguire has supported the construction of a new hospital, complete with an accident and emergency (A&E) department, near the Royal Marsden Hospital in the ... Read More

#### **Education News**



# Surrey Uni to research mono-syllabic complexity

12 November 2024

The University of Surrey is part of an international team of researchers that has been awarded £8.3 million to better understand human language by researching one of the world's most ... Read More

**Council Education Transport** 

# Surrey school kids' country walk saving money



12 November 2024

Children have been told they can walk 4.9km through fields and over an unguarded railway line by Surrey County Council bureaucrats who cancelled their free bus passes. The decision has left their ... Read More

Football Sports

## **Epsom and Ewell FC progress in FA Vase**





10 November 2024

Epsom and Ewell 2-0 North Greenford United. Isuzu F.A. Vase – Second Round. Saturday 9th November 2024. It's official! This is now definitely a Vase run! We may have had ... Read More

**Environment News Planning** 

## Surrey University to get a third of its power from the Sun



10 November 2024

Permission has been granted for The University of Surrey to build a solar farm on green belt land. The scheme will provide the university with 34 per cent of its ... Read More

News Planning Policing

# Surrey Police HQ redesign will quieten the dogs



10 November 2024

Plans to redevelop Surrey Police headquarters, at Mount Browne, have been given the go-ahead. The changes also include a new access road which the Force say will speed up response ... Read More

**Business Education News** 



# Epsom and Ewell College wins Surrey's employer of the year

10 November 2024

Nescot college in Reigate Road, Ewell, won "Employer of the Year' at the Surrey Business Awards last night, against some stiff competition. (NESCOT stands for North-East Surrey College of Technology.) ... Read More

Council Housing Planning

# Did a fair view prevail on Epsom's modular homes for the homeless?



9 November 2024

The decision by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council 7th November to approve three modular homes for temporary accommodation on Fairview Road has ignited a fierce debate. The council framed this ... Read More

Community News Volunteers



# Sir Ed supporting Epsom based Ukraine charities

8 November 2024

Today, Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the resurgent Liberal Democrat Party, accompanied by Epsom and Ewell MP Helen Maguire, visited the "Ukraine Hub". Offices generously provided by the owners ... Read More

**News Policing** 

### High price of Surrey police officer's false report



#### 8 November 2024

An ex-police officer has been banned from the profession after she "maliciously" made a "false" complaint about child sexual abuse to the NSPCC, a misconduct hearing has ruled. The former ... Read More

#### Community Council



## Surrey needs more foster carers

7 November 2024

Fostering can mean everything to those involved; that is the message of a powerful new fostering film from over 100 councils. 'Everything', a new fostering recruitment fil

# Has Epsom's new MP missed the bus to a new hospital?

Dear Editor,

Our new MP Helen Maguire has supported the construction of a new hospital, complete with an accident and emergency (A&E) department, near the Royal Marsden Hospital in the southern area of Sutton. [See Epsom and Ewell Times 12th October 2024 "Public meeting about Epsom Hospital future"].

While well-intentioned, her recommendation seems to miss a significant concern shared by residents in Epsom, Ewell, and much of Sutton: accessibility.

The current sites—Epsom Hospital and St Helier Hospital—are better served by public transport than the proposed location near the Royal Marsden, which lacks convenient train and bus links. Moving our local A&E services to this "public transport desert" would place a greater burden on people relying on public transport, particularly those without access to a car.

Epsom Hospital, for example, is within walking distance of Epsom Station (though it's still a 20-minute walk). It is served by

#### several bus routes, including:

- **E5** (Langley Vale Epsom Watersedge): every 30 minutes from Epsom Clock Tower, though it only passes the hospital every two hours.
- **166** (Epsom Hospital Epsom Banstead West Croydon): an hourly service from Monday to Saturday, no service on Sunday.
- 293 (Epsom Hospital Epsom North Cheam Morden): every 20 minutes during peak times.
- 408 (Epsom Ashtead Leatherhead Cobham): runs approximately every hour on weekdays.
- 479 (Epsom Ashtead Leatherhead Guildford): every 30 minutes at peak times.

St Helier Hospital, also in Sutton, has additional connections:

- **151** (Wallington Sutton Worcester Park): every 10 minutes peak.
- 157 (Morden Croydon Crystal Palace): every 12 minutes peak.
- S1 (Mitcham Sutton Banstead via Wrythe Lane): every 20 minutes peak.
- **S4** (Roundshaw Wallington Sutton St Helier): every 30 minutes peak.
- Other services such as the **154**, **164**, and **280** serve nearby areas, with buses stopping outside or near the hospital.

In contrast, public transportation from Epsom Clock Tower to the Royal Marsden site involves multiple transfers. A trip requires at least two or three buses, such as the S2, S4, 293, SL7, and S4, taking anywhere from 45 minutes to 1 hour and 15 minutes depending on timings. For many, this could be inconvenient, time-consuming, and impractical—especially in emergencies.

For residents reliant on public transportation, moving A&E services to a poorly connected area would be disruptive. We should seek solutions that keep healthcare accessible and ensure that those who need urgent care can get there quickly. I urge our MP and local authorities to consider this reality as they deliberate on the future of our local healthcare services.

Yours faithfully,

Stuart Gosling

Epsom Resident

# Sir Ed supporting Epsom based Ukraine charities

Today, Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the resurgent Liberal Democrat Party, accompanied by Epsom and Ewell MP Helen Maguire, visited the "Ukraine Hub". Offices generously provided by the owners of the Ashley Centre and where Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has waived all business rates.

The premises are home to the Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network and Surrey Stands With Ukraine.

Sir Ed was introduced to the leaders of the refugee network, Nina Kaye and Jo Sherring, who told him of the hardships faced by refugees fleeing persecution and conflict. He saw English classes in session and shook hands with many refugee students.

The Party leader and new MP were given a tour of the Hub and took part in packing winter survival packs for Ukraine. Costing £50 the smart packs contain a gas cooker, a power bank and a flexible re-chargeable torch. Essential items fo civilians effected by the inevitable power outages that will occur this winter throughout Ukraine.

If you wish to donate please visit Surrey Stands With Ukraine and businesses that sponsor full packs will benefit from the charity's extensive social media coverage.

Sir Ed then helped pack some survival kits and proceeded to help clean walking aids the charity is sending to Ukraine.

The Hub was full of volunteers for both charities who work closely together and a press posse was all around.

Sir Ed undertook a series of interviews with media representatives and fielded questions ranging from the election of Donald



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Trump to the future for Ukraine.

Image: Sir Ed Davey MP and Helen Maguire MP and Roy Deadman of SSWU in Epsom's Ukraine HUB

# **Job Listings**

Employers and agencies - submit your job listing on this form