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19th November 2026

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Inclusive sportsmanship in Worcester Park

10 May 2024



The annual Linden Bridge Football Festival kicked off with a vibrant display of teamwork, camaraderie, and sheer determination. Organized by **Linden Bridge School**, Worcester Park, and led by enthusiastic pupils, this event brought together 15 special educational needs (SEN) schools and over 100 pupils for a day of spirited competition.

The festival, held at **Wandgas Sports Ground**, exemplified the inclusive spirit that Linden Bridge School stands for. Students of all abilities participated in various football matches, showcasing their skills and passion for the beautiful game. From footgolf to mini-tournaments, the atmosphere was electric as players cheered each other on.

One of the festival's highlights was the unwavering support from local businesses. **MetroRod**, a leading drainage and plumbing company, stepped up as the main sponsor. Their generous contribution ensured that every participant received a commemorative medal, a symbol of their hard work and dedication. In addition, MetroRod provided trophies for all participating schools, recognizing outstanding performances and sportsmanship.

Coach Dom, from **KEY Sports Academy**, played a pivotal role in making the festival a success. His expertise in organizing sports events and passion for nurturing young talent shone through. Coach Dom lent equipment and offered valuable coaching tips. His commitment to empowering young athletes was evident as he encouraged fair play and teamwork.

"The Linden Bridge Football Festival is more than just a tournament," Coach Dom shared. "It's about fostering a love for sports, building confidence, and creating lasting memories. These students inspire us all with their determination and resilience."

The **Surrey Special Schools Sports Association** (SSSSA) includes the Linden Bridge Football Festival as a key event in its annual calendar. Linden Bridge School takes immense pride in being an active member of the association. This year alone, Linden Bridge pupils have participated in 25 SSSSA-organized events across various sports disciplines.

"Our students thrive when given the opportunity to compete," said Mr. **Borja Vidal**, PE Lead at Linden Bridge School. "The festival allows them to showcase their abilities, make friends, and celebrate their achievements. We're grateful to everyone who made this day possible."

The Linden Bridge Football Festival reminded us that sports transcend barriers, bringing people together in the spirit of unity and joy.

With the success of this year's festival, Linden Bridge School is already planning for next year. The goal remains the same: to create an inclusive platform where every student can shine, regardless of their abilities. As the festival becomes a cherished tradition, it reinforces the belief that sports have the power to transform lives.

9th May 2024

10 May 2024

RUGBY SPORTS

Old Glynonians silver chance in a decade



9 May 2024

Epsom & Ewell-based Old Glynonians RFC will take a team bus to Bristol this Sunday 12th May to contest the Papa Johns Community Cup Counties 3 South Shield Final. The side, … READ MORE

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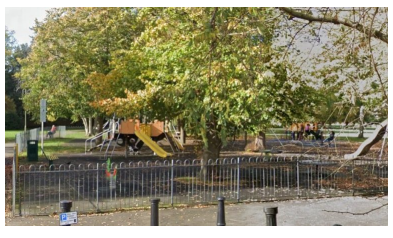


9 May 2024

Comedian Jimmy Tarbuck popped into Epsom General Hospital recently – and made a serious bit of business great fun. He was in the Urology Department to present a “new toy”, a … READ MORE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FINANCES

Community fund open for bids



9 May 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is inviting community groups and organisations to bid for neighbourhood funds raised by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), to deliver projects that will support new … READ MORE

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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4 May 2024

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NEWS POLICING

Surrey’s Police and Crime Commissioner re-elected



4 May 2024

The result of the 2nd May 2024 election for Surrey’s Police and Crime Commissioner was announced Friday and the

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Conservative Candidate, Lisa Townsend, was re-elected despite a substantial drop in … READ MORE

EDUCATION NEWS

From blow your hair to blow your mind?



2 May 2024

Nescot college in Ewell, Surrey is investing £650,000 to transform a hair studio on campus into a virtual reality (VR), immersive space for its students. The state-of-the-art technology, currently being installed, … READ MORE

EDUCATION HEALTH NEWS

Meat-free Mondays coming to all Surrey schools?



2 May 2024

Meat-free and plant-based options could be mandated across Surrey schools every Monday according to new council guidance. Only some Surrey schools currently participate in a form of ‘meat-free Monday’ so … READ MORE

Old Glynonians silver chance in a decade

10 May 2024



Epsom & Ewell-based Old Glynonians RFC will take a team bus to Bristol this Sunday 12th May to contest the Papa Johns Community Cup Counties 3 South Shield Final.

The side, formed in 2007 by former Glyn School students and still made-up of a number of alumni, will face fellow Surrey side Cranleigh, having dismissed Streatham-Croydon RFC and King’s College Hospital in the quarter-final and semi-final respectively.

This will be the ‘Ogs’ first final since 2012, where they saw off Merton to win the Surrey Bowl, a competition they also won in 2008 and 2009.

James McFarlane, Chairman of Old Glynonians RFC**,** said: “Less than two years ago we were finding our feet again after a COVID-interrupted year or two of on-and-off rugby, so to be heading to a cup final with arguably our strongest ever squad is testament to all the hard work put by so many people at the club.

We’d like to thank The Rising Sun in Epsom, our home pub and clubhouse, for their hospitality this season, our brilliant sponsors, Radford & Sons Butchers in Stoneleigh, without them we wouldn’t have any new kit or quality food for out BBQ social events, as well as the brilliant City Skills. Thanks also to Glyn School for continuing to let us use the facilities. Fingers crossed the boys can get the job done on Sunday”

Tim Laughton-Scott, Captain of Old Glynonians RFC, said**:** “Things have really started to click this year. We had a mixed bag of results earlier in the winter, but as the players have gelled, confidence levels have grown and I’ve got a lot of faith in the team going down to Bristol on Sunday. Funnily enough, we’ve only recently come off our end-of-season tour to Amsterdam, but we all came home in one piece and everyone should be in good shape for the game.”

James Kennedy-Myers, Head Coach of Old Glynonians RFC, said: “The boys have already achieved great things this

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season, including a club-record 10 league wins, and things really have gone from strength-to-strength over the last few months.

“If we turn up with the same energy and commitment we’ve shown in the previous two rounds of this competition, then there’s every chance we can lift the cup.”

The match will take place at Shaftesbury Park, the home of Bristol Bears Women and will kick off at 11am.

Tarbuck’s luck comes to Epsom

10 May 2024



Comedian **Jimmy Tarbuck** popped into Epsom General Hospital recently – and made a serious bit of business great fun.

He was in the Urology Department to present a “new toy”, a £10,975 TULA Laser Machine on behalf of Epsom Medical Equipment Fund (EMEF).

Surgeons love new toys and this one saves lives. The comic heard from Consultant, **Deji Akiboye** how this new treatment for bladder cancer helps treat cancers without the need for sedation or anaesthetic. Patients come in and have their condition treated, pain free and walk out of hospital in less than one hour. The tiny laser goes through a flexible telescope inserted into the bladder.

The consultant added: “We use this laser to fry abnormal areas in the bladder which are cancerous. Traditionally this involved a full anaesthetic and a stay in hospital, sometimes with a catheter.

“With this treatment, it means we can do away with all those things and treat people far more quickly, painlessly and let them get back to normal living faster. It is fast, efficient and effective – plus it’s also great fun to use for us surgeons who love new toys.”

Charlotte Druce, General Manager, Surgery & Endoscopy Surgery Directorate, Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust thanked EMEF organiser, **Bess Harding** for helping to make this particular dream come true.

Bess added: “With the support of the local community, we raised the money for the TULA which is an important part of the treatment”.

Find our more and donate to EMEF.

Image: Easter Espinosa, Charlotte Druce, Bess Harding, Jimmy Tarbuck, Deji Akiboye

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2nd May 2024

10 May 2024

COUNCIL FINANCES POLICING

Clash Over Funding and Priorities in Surrey PCC Race



1 May 2024

On the eve of the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner election, candidates are locked in a battle of ideas over funding allocations and the strategic direction of law enforcement in the … READ MORE

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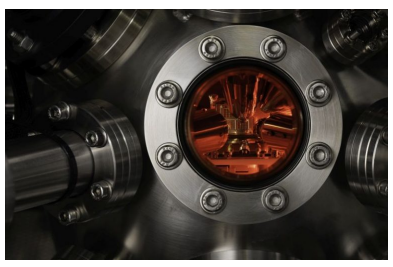
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Surrey Uni joins top beam team



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STEPHEN MCKENNA WESTMINSTER

Green signals from prospective parliamentary candidate



30 April 2024

The most important General Election for 40 years is rapidly approaching and as your prospective Member of Parliament for the Green Party I would like to introduce myself. I joined … READ MORE

CRICKET PLANNING SPORTS

Umpire pulls up stumps on cricket plan



30 April 2024

A long-standing Surrey cricket club's ambitious plans to construct modern facilities has sparked controversy in the local community, leading to a tense planning decision. Banstead Cricket Club's plans to modernise … READ MORE

COUNCIL NATURE

Should Nonsuch Park go to the dogs?



29 April 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council will launch a six-week consultation on commercial dog walking in Nonsuch Park from Monday 29 April. The consultation was commissioned by Nonsuch Park Joint Management … READ MORE

FOOTBALL SPORTS

One flat season in Epsom ends as another begins

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Our season concluded in appropriate fashion on Saturday as we laboured to a 1-1 draw against Guildford City at the Spectrum. Five days prior to this match, Tadley Calleva's win … READ MORE

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ARTS EDUCATION

Epsom UCA alum praised by Taiwan President



26 April 2024

Leo Tsao graduated from UCA in 2017 with a BA (Hons) in Fashion Atelier. He has just won season 16 of RuPaul's Drag Race as his banana-themed glamazon Nymphia Wind. Chip … READ MORE

COUNCIL FINANCES

Surrey County Council's new CEO defends "unlawful" email



26 April 2024

Surrey County Council's soon to be in post Chief Executive and current Wiltshire Council's CEO has insisted that an email he sent to staff in November 2022, which was recently judged … READ MORE

ARTS LOCAL HISTORY

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25 April 2024

In my article of 30 July 2023, I reported on the sale of a 4-inch high Japanese cloisonne vase at auction after it had been purchased for only a couple … READ MORE

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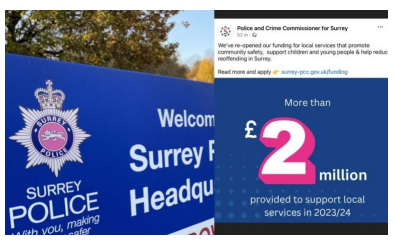


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Police post taken down before election



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The Surrey Police and Crime Commission social media team were made to remove a graphic from Twitter, now X and Facebook after a complaint it could influence the May 2 elections. The … READ MORE

ARTS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Excellence in aging for LGBTQ+



25 April 2024

More can be done to make sure LGBTQ+ adults age with dignity and their needs are met in the UK, say researchers from the University of Surrey. Together with Tonic … READ MORE

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Leatherhead residents call for more policing



25 April 2024

A serious assault that left a man fighting for his life has left a community in shock – with some saying there aren't enough police officers and others calling for … READ MORE

Full eve of poll statements of PCC candidates

10 May 2024

Alex Coley – Independent

Over the past six weeks Surrey has been my treadmill, six weeks of walking and talking to residents all over this county. The number one question from residents has been: "how are you going to pay for more police?"

One resident, a retired police officer, was about to put my leaflet in the recycling bin when he asked me that very question. I told him that the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner is loaning £43m to Surrey County Council. I told him the PCC underspent by £8.7m last year and is on course to underspend £3m this year, because of vacancies and projects falling behind. The leaflet did not go in the bin. That retired officer was horrified to hear how much money is available but not being used. I want to put that money to work, it's the reason I am standing for Police & Crime Commissioner.

I don't think residents want a PCC acting like an investment bank that dabbles in the gilt markets, backed by your council tax. Do you really want casino politics in policing? Surrey County Council has £0.6bn of debt which it expects to increase by a further £1.2bn. Let's just hope they don't go bust like so many councils have and take tens of millions of pounds of police funding down with them. It's public money, your money, that you pay for your police service, which is desperately stretched. I want to use that money for policing, but I need to get elected first.

Is it any wonder a third of police officers have left since April 2020 and a fifth say they want to leave. Surrey Police has an establishment figure of 2,263 police officers, with 1,000 of them new recruits. This means almost half of our police officers are probationers looking for leadership. Let's not gamble with their future.

The PCC boasts of bringing in £10m of funding to Surrey Police. Last year the Audit & Governance Committee at Surrey County Council showed a movement of £10m from Surrey Police into SCC's treasury management.

In response to a written question from me the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner advised: At the Surrey Police triennial review for civil staff pensions, as at 31st March 2022 the actuary determined historic deficits to be:
2023/24 – £1.612m
2024/25 – £1.671m
2025/26 – £1.733m
The actuary also determined that paying off this historic pension deficit would benefit from a discount amounting to £224k, equivalent to 7 new police officers.

Kate Chinn – Labour

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Of course the budget needs scrutiny and increasing but as Alex Coley identifies it is ensuring enough officers are recruited and retained that is the real priority. Only then can the money be spent so projects and initiatives are delivered. If Surrey Police can't do that it doesn't matter how much money there is in the pot.

I would increase police recruitment by: simplifying the recruitment process, providing more resources for vetting and putting support in place so keen candidates who fail can reapply and succeed.

I would ensure retention by, providing adequate supervision and mentoring for officers. Ensure resources were in place to protect their mental well-being and mental health professionals are available to suppors officers to process any traumatic events they encounter in the challenging role of policing. All staff must be supported in their career development and enabled to develop pathways into specialist areas with the training needed to succeed. Senior staff must have incentives to encourage retention,

For a government to retain dedicated hard working officers, motivate new recruits and slow the increasing falls in officer it must value policing with actions not words.

A Labour government would ensure police pay recognises the value of the work our officers do and commit to long term investment. They would value the police for the work they do everyday to protect our communities'.

If elected I would be a Labour PCC in a Labour government giving Surrey police the respect they deserve.

Paul Kennedy Liberal Democrat

The challenge of funding more community policing requires professional discipline, not simplistic solutions. As a former barrister, I'm best placed to address the criminal and public law challenges of the PCC role. And to boost Surrey Police's performance and morale, after 10 years overseeing public interest bodies.

I'm also a former accountant and actuary. I've chaired my local council's audit committee; and for 3 years I've served on Surrey police and crime panel's finance committee which scrutinises the PCC's budget.

Surrey Police's budget is £310m a year, mostly salaries and services but also capital projects. Funding is primarily Government grants and charging Surrey residents the highest Council Tax in the country, plus income from lending officers to the Met and renting out police cells to the prison service.

As a small organisation facing cashflow fluctations, it makes sense for Surrey Police to share Surrey County Council's larger banking and treasury management arrangements. Temporary surpluses can't just be run down as some have suggested. Prudent treasury management principles require every organisation to hold a buffer to meet monthly expenditure requirements plus a contingency, and Surrey Police is no exception.

Lisa Townsend – Conservative and current Surrey PCC

Since I was elected as Police and Crime Commissioner in 2021, Surrey now has more police officers than ever before, and it has been great to hear from residents across the county that this is making a difference in our communities.

I believe the £43million figure comes from Cllr Coley's misunderstanding of how the Police receive council tax each year – the extra £13million represents surplus cash due to the timing of council tax receipts at the time of the Budget meeting in February.

There is no loan to Surrey County Council. The £43m is the amount of cash held at the 31/8/23. This represents reserves of about £30m as well as cash held due to the timing of council tax receipts, grants, payments out, etc. Rather than holding all our cash in a single bank we pool it on an overnight basis with SCC who add it to their spare cash and invest it in overnight money market deposits with many banks. This reduces the risk as this pooled money is spread over a larger number of institutions than if we were to do this alone, and it also reduces the cost of management.

With regard to underspend, Surrey Police is a large organisation with a budget of over £300million and more than four thousand employees. When the Chief Constable and his finance team set the budget, they make every effort to consider as many possible scenarios and circumstances as possible, including how many officers and staff are expected to leave or join. These forecasts are, understandably, not always entirely accurate and for the year 2022/23 a higher than expected staff vacancy rate contributed to a large underspend. For the year 2023/24 the Force underspend is projected to be around £1million. Cllr Coley sat on Surrey's Police and Crime Panel for almost a year and was present at the latest budget meeting so is aware of these figures and the reasons behind them.

When it comes to reserves, it is prudent practice for most organisations to hold some money in reserve to deal with unexpected costs or emergencies. Major incidents and investigations such as the Covid-19 pandemic, a period of prolonged protest, cyber attack or a terrorist attack would require large amounts of money to be spent quickly, without a guarantee that these costs will be paid back by the Government. The latest financial information from Surrey Police shows that the reserves are currently predicted to be £30.3m. Given the annual budget for 2024/25 is nearly £310m – this represents around 10% or the equivalent of about 5 weeks budget.

This is less than the average for police forces nationally, which stands at 13%, and significantly lower than our neighbouring forces and Borough and District Councils in Surrey who typically who hold up to 150% of their annual budget in reserve. I'm not entirely comfortable having a lower reserve than other forces but I have to balance the demand on taxpayers with the money available for use in an emergency and I believe that 10% is fair given the other pressures. As we have seen in Surrey and beyond in recent years, over-spending and imprudent management of finances and reserves is the fastest way to become a failing council and I will do all I can to ensure that Surrey Police are not put in this position.

Whilst it sounds lovely to spend this reserve amount on additional officers, this would only be possible once. Of course,

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once reserves are spent, they are gone forever, meaning not only could these officers not continue to be funded, but Surrey Police would also be in a difficult position is any crisis or challenge occurred.

Surrey County Council's new CEO defends "unlawful" email

10 May 2024



Surrey County Council's soon to be in post Chief Executive and current Wiltshire Council's CEO has insisted that an email he sent to staff in November 2022, which was recently judged unlawful, was to correct a GMB (General, Municipal and Boilermakers) Union lie.

Terrence Herbert, who is preparing to leave his Chief Executive role to transfer to Surrey County Council, has gone on the record to speak about the events surrounding the case.

GMB, the union for Wiltshire Council staff, claims the email intended to deter its traffic wardens from voting for industrial action. The vote was part of a long-running dispute in which Wiltshire Council is seeking to remove contractual out-of-hours pay enhancement.

Written by Mr Herbert, the email claimed that GMB's representation of the proposals as a "10% pay cut" was "really misleading", and urged staff to "consider carefully" whether further strikes would support a resolution.

Bristol Employment Tribunal ruled that the correspondence broke industrial relations law.

The leader of the council, Richard Clewer, has reported that £21,395 was spent on defending the case.

Wiltshire Council is currently seeking legal advice as to whether there are grounds to appeal the decision.

Mr Herbert said: "We entered into all of our negotiations in good faith and professionally, with all three of our recognised unions – UNISON, Unite and the GMB. Unfortunately, from the outset, GMB's behaviour and actions were in sharp contrast to that of UNISON and Unite, and they seemed to have set their course not to agree."

He described the pay policies which Wiltshire Council is seeking to change as "historical" and "no longer fit for purpose." Mr Herbert said it was "very hard to justify" – to residents and staff who do not receive the same entitlement – policies that amounts to "£800,000 per year in extra payments."

He noted: "The only other way that you can make those savings are through redundancies and the position that I took from the outset, and it's one that I stand by now and do not regret, is that I didn't want to make people redundant." He added: "There are considerably more requirements on local government than there were before, but there isn't the money. Therefore, we have to make savings."

Following negotiations, the council offered a four-year pay protection for concerned staff, which was accepted by UNISON and Unite the Union, but rejected by GMB.

Regarding his email, Mr Terence said: "There had been a number of announcements or media statements made by GMB in the run up to another ballot. In those statements, they had said that we had reneged on a promise to offer lifetime pay protection. We were very clear that that was a lie, that we had never offered lifetime pay protection."

Referencing his staff, he also said: "I didn't intend for them to feel threatened, I intended for them to be informed. I genuinely believed that what I was doing was informing my staff.

"Whenever you see an organisation like GMB openly misrepresenting what has happened, you think that there is a duty for you to correct the record, and that's what I was doing."

Reflecting on the impact of the case, Mr Herbert concluded: "It is stressful, it takes a personal toll, but at the end of the day, I go home and try to switch off. But the personal attacks, which then lead to offensive comments, as a direct result of inflammatory, incorrect statements that have been made by supposedly professional organisations, that takes a toll."

When approached for comment, a spokesperson for GMB said: "The findings of the tribunal are clear that his arguments are unconvincing. For him to attack the findings of the tribunal is disingenuous and I'm sure residents of Wiltshire will find it equally concerning."

Jessica Moriarty

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New Chief Executive for County

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County CEO’s pay rise triggering strikes?

Image credit: Wiltshire Council

Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy: Healing Through Connection

10 May 2024



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EFP is a cutting-edge form of therapy that combines traditional psychotherapy techniques with interactions with horses to promote emotional growth and healing.

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At our EFP clinic, our team of licensed psychologists and skilled equine specialists work together to create a safe and supportive environment for our clients. Whether you are struggling with anxiety, depression, trauma, or simply seeking personal growth, EFP can help you connect with your emotions, build self-awareness, and develop valuable life skills.



Through activities such as grooming, leading, and observing horse behaviour, clients can learn valuable lessons about communication, boundaries, trust, and empathy. These lessons can be applied to everyday life and relationships, leading to lasting positive changes.

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10 May 2024

COUNCIL PLANNING

Prairie dogs ‘cock a snoop’ at planning



25 April 2024

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s Planning Committee grappled 18th April with the prairie dogs enclosure at Hobbledown Farm in Epsom. The proprietors of this animal amusement park had established the enclosure … READ MORE

COUNCIL HOUSING PLANNING

The Bucknill plan stops here….



24 April 2024

A plan to cram 5 three-bedroomed houses on a single bungalow plot in Bucknills Close, Epsom did not meet Councillors’ approval. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s Planning Committee met 18th April … READ MORE

HORSE RACING NEWS SPORTS

Epsom’s flat season springs into action



22 April 2024

The Flat racing season gets underway at Epsom on Tuesday with the Spring Meeting – a competitive six-race card to kick off the new campaign at the Surrey track. Racing … READ MORE

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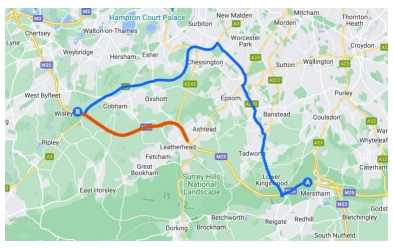
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NEWS TRANSPORT

Epsom and Ewell braces for M25 closure traffic



22 April 2024

Greater chaos has been avoided by the Epsom and Ewell Times correcting the Highway Authority‘s belief you could turn off the northbound A3 to go south at the Hook Junction. … READ MORE

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Epsom and Ewell FC escaping relegation zone?

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Surrey’s next Police and Crime Commissioner will be?



20 April 2024

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20 April 2024

Epsom residents led by Dr. Kristine Damberg converged Thursday 18th April on the General Medical Council (GMC) headquarters in Central London, decrying what they perceive as the regulator’s lackluster response … READ MORE

EDUCATION NEWS

Job insecurity upsetting collegiate life



20 April 2024

Nearly 92 per cent of voters in a Surrey University College Union (UCU) indicative survey supported holding a vote of no

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confidence in the Vice Chancellor, with a further 96 … READ MORE

PLANNING SPORTS

Getting teed off by golf club's landfill designs



20 April 2024

A Surrey golf club has been accused of being a "landfill site in disguise" after anger at the sheer volume of heavy lorries that could be needed to drop waste … READ MORE

ARTS COMMUNITY CULTURE

Walking with dinosaurs … not quite



19 April 2024

Epsom-based Zehra Hicks is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator whose books have been translated in over 20 languages. Through her work, she shows the magic of storytelling to … READ MORE

NEWS POLICING

Low morale hits Surrey Police



18 April 2024

Up to 20 per cent of Surrey Police officers want to leave due to low morale and poor pay, according to a new report. Police Federation of England and Wales … READ MORE

FOOTBALL SPORTS

This time a victory counts!

	Premier Division South						
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
16	Spelthorne Sports	36	10	8	18	-25	30 *
17	Guildford City	36	8	4	24	-51	28
18	Epsom & Ewell	36	8	3	25	-37	27
19	Colliers Wood United	34	6	7	21	-36	25
20	Sheerwater	36	7	4	25	-56	25

18 April 2024

Epsom & Ewell FC 4-1 Fleet Town. Combined Counties League – Premier Division. Tuesday 16th April 2024. After just two wins under his tenure to this point, our Manager Warren … READ MORE

Epsom's flat season springs into action

10 May 2024

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19th November 2026

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The Flat racing season gets underway at Epsom on Tuesday with the Spring Meeting – a competitive six-race card to kick off the new campaign at the Surrey track.

Racing gets underway at 2.10 with a 13-runner handicap before rounding off at 5.05 with another big field handicap, this time with 11 set to head to post.

The opener (2.10) gets the new season underway and it's set to be a fast and furious 5f sprint. Last year's winner of this race, Lihou, is back to defend his crown having returned to the turf after some less than impressive outings on the all-weather over the winter. The chief threat to the reigning champion could come from Glory Hunter, who won in the mud over this distance at Thirsk a fortnight ago.

Race two on the card (2.40) is the Blue Riband Trial Stakes, seen by many as a trial for the Epsom Derby later this year. Chief Little Rock doesn't hold a Derby entry but sets the standard in the Trial on Tuesday, having finished second in both the Beresford Stakes at the Curragh and the Autumn Stakes at Newmarket. Arabic Legend is worth keeping an eye on as well, second in a listed race at Salisbury last season before switching to a new yard having disappointed in the Autumn Stakes.

The third race of the afternoon (3.20) is a class two handicap over the 1m2f trip around Epsom and the preference is for Qitaal, trained by Charlie Johnston, who returned to racing after two years off to score at Doncaster and can defy a 7lb hike in the weights here to make it two wins from his last two runs.

Race four (3.55) sees 13 runners head to the start for the 1m4f handicap in class three and Sussex trainer Gary Moore sends Champagne Piaff to Epsom – and with a very eye catching jockey booking to boot with one of the world's best Flat jockeys, Ryan Moore, set to get the ride. He is very much of interest in this one, but could find stern competition from Splendent, who is back at his optimum trip having previously ran over two miles and not found it to his liking.

The penultimate race on the card (4.30) is a novice stakes over the extended one mile trip and the selection is for the Harry Charlton-trained Midair, second of nine in a Goodwood maiden and subsequently only narrowly beaten at Kempton in the final strides last time out.

Finally, the Epsom card comes to a close (5.05) with the 1m handicap for three-year-old's and the preference here is for Mr Baloo, who secured a third career win at Kempton last time out and a winner of a Nursery contest at Epsom back in October last year so track experience could come to the fore.

Epsom selections – Tuesday (*via* **Punchestown odds**)

2.10 – Lihou

2.40 – Chief Little Rock

3.20 – Qitaal

3.55 – Champagne Piaff

4.30 – Midair

5.05 – Mr Baloo

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Surrey's next Police and Crime Commissioner will be?

10 May 2024

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2nd May 2024 four candidates hope to get your vote for the £73,000 per annum post of Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The core functions of a PCC is to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force within their area, and to hold the chief constable to account for the delivery of the police and crime plan.

Four candidates are vying for the position and here are their responses to Epsom and Ewell Times' request to provide statements for your consideration.



Kate Chinn – Labour

The Conservatives have lost control of crime in Epsom and Ewell', says Kate Chinn, Labour's candidate for Surrey's police and crime commissioner.

'Under the present Conservative commissioner, the record in Surrey is one of utter failure', added Cllr Chinn, Labour leader on Epsom and Ewell Council.

Read more……..

I was born and raised in Surrey and live with my wife and two daughters in Epsom & Ewell. We don't believe that 75% of women and girls feel safe after dark, like the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner says.

Since 2018 I've been a borough councillor. I'm also a member of the Surrey Police & Crime Panel and my local Community Safety Partnership. I've been a senior police manager and I'm currently an independent adviser on policing. I also founded a local charity to help people living in deprivation in our borough. We focus on helping vulnerable children.

Read more ……..

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Alex Coley – Independent



Paul Kennedy – Liberal Democrat

I came a strong 2nd in the last PCC elections with over 112,000 votes across Surrey; and with Epsom & Ewell constituency now a Liberal Democrat target for the general election, I've already spoken to many of you with our inspirational (ex-military police) parliamentary candidate Helen Maguire.

You've told us you want action on antisocial behaviour, drugs, shoplifting, burglaries and vehicle crime. You're fed up with paying the highest council tax in the country for policing yet feeling less safe.

Read More …….

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I want to be re-elected as your Police and Crime Commissioner to continue building on the improvements I have driven within Surrey Police.

Since you elected me 3 years ago, I've worked hard to keep Surrey safe, helping secure more police officers for our county than ever before and investing in projects to support communities. I have spoken with many of you and prioritised championing your voice and concerns.

Read more……



Lisa Townsend – Conservative

The 2021 election produced the following result:

Party	Candidate	1st round		2nd round		
		Total	Of round	Transfers	Total	
Conservative	Lisa Townsend	112,260	32.69%	42,856	155,116	
Liberal Democrats	Paul Kennedy	69,412	20.21%	42,803	112,215	
Zero Tolerance Policing ex Chief	Kevin Hurley	59,554	17.34%			
Independent	David Munro	53,103	15.46%			
Labour	Howard Kaye	40,597	11.82%			
	Turnout	343,375				
	Rejected ballots	8,449	2.46			
	Total votes	334,926				
	Registered electors					
Conservative win						

Related Reports:

Epsom and Ewell candidates dominate Police Commissioner election

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Surrey PCC candidate Lisa Townsend – Conservative

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Party

10 May 2024

I want to be re-elected as your Police and Crime Commissioner to continue building on the improvements I have driven within Surrey Police.

Since you elected me 3 years ago, I've worked hard to keep Surrey safe, helping secure more police officers for our county than ever before and investing in projects to support communities. I have spoken with many of you and prioritised championing your voice and concerns.

Surrey Police is now larger than ever, helped by funding from the Government Uplift programme, and I recruited a new Chief Constable to lead the Force who shares my commitment to a "back to basics" approach to policing.

In 3 years, my team and I have also secured more than £10m of additional funding for Surrey. This has been spent supporting community projects, including Safer Streets projects tackling anti-social behaviour and county-wide teacher training around violence against women and girls. This includes securing £270,000 of Safer Streets funding to improve safety and tackle town centre violence, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage right here in Epsom.

In the last year alone, Surrey Police has made incredible improvements, from fulfilling recruitment targets to achieving record performance for 101 and 999 wait times.

But there is more to be done, and I hope to continue driving improvements, listening to you, and supporting our communities.

If you re-elect me on 2nd May, I will prioritise:

1. Ensuring Surrey Police do what only they can. Investigating and solving crime and pursuing offenders, not sitting in hospitals or examining non-crime hate incidents.
2. Being a voice for victims. Prioritising victims throughout the Criminal Justice System, continuing to commission and support services that support victims.
3. Making policing accessible. Ensuring residents get swift answers from the right organisation, rather than being passed from agency to agency without resolution.

Lisa Townsend

Surrey PCC candidate: Paul Kennedy – Liberal Democrat Party

10 May 2024

I came a strong 2nd in the last PCC elections with over 112,000 votes across Surrey; and with Epsom & Ewell constituency now a Liberal Democrat target for the general election, I've already spoken to many of you with our inspirational (ex-military police) parliamentary candidate Helen Maguire.

You've told us you want action on antisocial behaviour, drugs, shoplifting, burglaries and vehicle crime. You're fed up with paying the highest council tax in the country for policing yet feeling less safe. You're appalled our Conservative PCC has expanded their own budget by 70%, while forcing Surrey Police to cut staff – with 6 of the 7 common performance assessments in the latest PEEL inspection having deteriorated since 2021.

Personally, I'd scrap PCCs tomorrow. But we're stuck with them for now, and whereas the current PCC previously worked for Conservative MPs, I'm professionally qualified for the job. I'm a former barrister, accountant and actuary with experience in private and public sectors; for 10 years I've overseen public interest bodies on a non-political basis; I'm a local councillor and serve on Surrey's police and crime panel.

Here's what I'd do:

– scrap the deputy PCC role, cut the PCC's bloated office budget and bring back community policing instead;

– serve one 4-year term only, to focus on improving police performance, not campaigning for re-election. I'd set Surrey Police challenging targets, and give you fair and balanced reports, not a list of my own "achievements";

– drive accountability down to local level. I'd tell Surrey Police to work with local communities, not just me.

We've a historic opportunity in Surrey to replace the Conservatives' failed top-down model of self-serving PCCs – with a professional, ambitious, community-based approach to policing. But only I can do that. Voting for anyone else just helps the Conservatives.

Paul Kennedy.

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Surrey PCC candidate: Alex Coley – Independent

10 May 2024

I was born and raised in Surrey and live with my wife and two daughters in Epsom & Ewell. We don't believe that 75% of women and girls feel safe after dark, like the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner says.

Since 2018 I've been a borough councillor. I'm also a member of the Surrey Police & Crime Panel and my local Community Safety Partnership. I've been a senior police manager and I'm currently an independent adviser on policing. I also founded a local charity to help people living in deprivation in our borough. We focus on helping vulnerable children.

Residents tell me they want 'bobbies on the beat' and a better response when they need help. They are fed up with the police share of council tax going up again, but not seeing police officers or PCSOs on the street. Surrey is the only police area in the country where local taxpayers contribute more to policing than the government. I'm petitioning Parliament to change this.

Surrey Police underspent by £8.7m last year and it's happening again this year. In December, an inspection of Surrey Police gave a rating of 'Inadequate' at responding to the public. I will use the £43m in the Police & Crime Commissioner's savings account to deliver a better service. I will put the pride and professionalism back into Surrey Police, so you can have confidence in your police force.

Let's take party politics out of policing. I will be an Independent PCC, fighting crime with more police, keeping you safe, where you live.

Alex Coley

Surrey PCC candidates: Kate Chinn – Labour Party

10 May 2024

The Conservatives have lost control of crime in Epsom and Ewell', says Kate Chinn, Labour's candidate for Surrey's police and crime commissioner.

'Under the present Conservative commissioner, the record in Surrey is one of utter failure', added Cllr Chinn, Labour leader on Epsom and Ewell Council.

'Conservative cuts are central to a dismal record brought on by the austerity years of the Liberal Democrat coalition government.'

'Fourteen years of failure, not only reduced the number of police and community support officers on our streets, but saw the closure of Epsom police station and most others across Surrey.'

Surrey Labour has long argued that every town centre has a disused shop that could be re-purposed as a police office, becoming a focal point for reporting crime and as a visible deterrent. Crime can be reported and properly investigated solving more crimes.

'It is not surprising that burglaries and shoplifting have risen to unprecedented levels. The Conservative PCC seems incapable or unwilling to address the real concerns of local people. The LibDems offer more of the same.'

Through different roles as a psychiatric nurse, working in the homelessness sector and social care, and as a councillor, everyday I see the consequences of these cuts to police and local government budgets.

'Working with often vulnerable people I understand the damaging impact that crime has on our communities. Surrey has been my home for over 30 years and my family, friends and most local people say they have never known it this bad'.

I can make a real difference as a Labour PCC working with the next Labour government.

It is time for a change in Surrey. I represent a fresh start with new and innovative ideas, replacing this failed right-wing Conservative policing agenda in Surrey.

Kate Chinn

18th April 2024

10 May 2024

COUNCIL HOUSING

Climate motion sparks energetic debate in Council

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17 April 2024

In a lively session at Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Tuesday 16th April , councillors engaged in a debate over a motion proposing a significant environmental mandate for future housing developments. … READ MORE

COUNCIL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Seeing through transparency in Council Chamber



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In a fullsome debate during the Full Council meeting of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Tuesday 16th April, members clashed over a motion aimed at enhancing transparency in decision-making processes. The motion, proposed by … READ MORE

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Council getting belted by Green Group?



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The Epsom Green Belt Group has submitted a “complaint” to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, expressing grave concerns over what they perceive as significant failures in the governance, oversight, and … READ MORE

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Something special going on at Epsom baths



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Rainbow Leisure Centre in Epsom has recently started running tailored swimming lessons for children with special needs and disabilities. The sessions – which have proved to be a big hit … READ MORE

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Epsom Karate Kids go global



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COUNCIL HEALTH SPORTS

Boxing champions young people in Epsom & Ewell



17 April 2024

A new local boxing programme, led by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and delivered by Epsom Boxing Academy, saw its first cohort graduate in March. 14 students, referred by local … READ MORE

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Nominations have closed in the race to become the next Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) with four candidates across the parties lined up. Two of the four candidates are … READ MORE

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Avoid ticket scams this summer



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1st generation UCA graduates celebrated

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15 April 2024

Two graduates from the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) in Epsom, Surrey have been named in Universities UK's 100 Faces campaign, celebrating the stories and achievements of first-generation students. … READ MORE

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This defeat will not count

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s	Team	P	W	D	L	GD
6	Spelthorne Sports	36	10	8	18	-25
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3	Sheerwater	36	7	4	25	-56
9	Epsom & Ewell	35	7	3	25	-40
0	Colliers Wood United	33	5	7	21	-38

14 April 2024

Epsom & Ewell FC 1-3 Fleet Town. ABANDONED AFTER 55 MINUTES. Combined Counties League – Premier Division. Saturday 13th April 2024. An attendance of around 80 people gathered at the … READ MORE

HEALTH NEWS

Surgery delay after hip break led to death

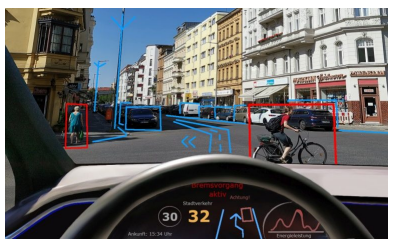


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COUNCIL EDUCATION PLANNING

New SEND school blocked by Nimby?



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A group of Surrey parents say they are “devastated” and fear it is back to the drawing board after plans for a ‘much needed’ special needs school will likely be … READ MORE

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PM confident of success in Woking

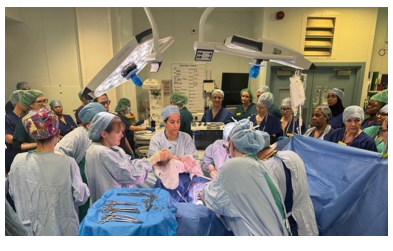


12 April 2024

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said he was “confident” that Conservatives will hold onto Woking in the upcoming local and general elections, when he was grilled about why people should vote for … READ MORE

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A 50 strong team of specialist medics crammed into an operation theatre recently to carry out a globally rare procedure on a newborn baby and save his life. Little Freddie … READ MORE

EDUCATION NEWS

£1.1 m boost for Surrey Uni’s solar thermal research



12 April 2024

Solar-thermal devices that have the potential to transform how we heat our homes and generate power on a larger scale are being developed by a team led by the University … READ MORE

Something special going on at Epsom baths

10 May 2024

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Rainbow Leisure Centre in **Epsom** has recently started running tailored swimming lessons for children with special needs and disabilities.

The sessions – which have proved to be a big hit – take place in small groups in the teaching pool where it is quieter and less stressful for the children. Mums and dads join their young person in the water along with the class teacher, picking up tips on how to help their child feel more confident.

Participants are aged from 4 – 8 years old and have a range of neurological and physical difficulties such as autism, dyspraxia and impaired vision. Children are also welcome to take part in the mainstream classes during the rest of the week if they feel confident enough to do so.

Young swimmer Heidi, seen here with mum Stacey and teacher Ana, loves her classes at Rainbow. Stacey says, “She loves the water and gets to have fun while learning to be safe.”

Mary Mannion, Swimming School Manager at the centre, comments, “The classes are very popular. We’re delighted to be able to offer this service to young people and their families. Keeping fit and safe in the water is so important for children of all ages and abilities.”

Rainbow is run by GLL under the ‘Better’ brand. As a charitable social enterprise, the organisation is committed to supporting the wellbeing of local communities.

SEND swimming takes place on Thursdays at 6.15pm. For more details, look at the app at Better_uk or contact customer services at customer.service@gll.org or call 0330 123 1500.

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