

Tarbuck's luck comes to Epsom

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 £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

2nd May 2024

9 May 2024

COUNCIL FINANCES POLICING

Clash Over Funding and Priorities in Surrey PCC Race

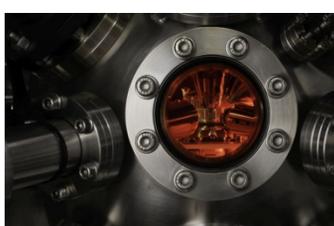


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STEPHEN MCKENNA WESTMINSTER

Green signals from prospective parliamentary candidate



30 April 2024

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Umpire pulls up stumps on cricket plan



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One flat season in Epsom ends as another begins



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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

9 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

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 support 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 fluctuations, 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 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,

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 if any crisis or challenge occurred.

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

9 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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County CEO's pay rise triggering strikes?

Image credit: Wiltshire Council

Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy: Healing Through Connection

9 May 2024



Sponsored article:

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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.

Horses are incredibly intuitive animals that can mirror human emotions and provide valuable feedback to clients in a non-judgmental way. This can lead to profound insights and breakthroughs in therapy sessions.

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.



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Experience the transformative power of Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy and discover new paths to healing and personal growth. We have found in our practice that less EFP sessions are needed than traditional talking therapies because of the profound effect from the horses.

Contact us today to schedule a session and take the first step towards deep healing.

Casey Bradford at: info@deaphealing.org Phone: 07482015154 Instagram: @deaphealing

25th April 2024

9 May 2024

COUNCIL PLANNING

Prairie dogs ‘cock a snoot’ at planning



25 April 2024

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Epsom's Earth health doctor checks GMC



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](#)

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20 April 2024

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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

9 May 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 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-olds 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

Image: David Jones Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license

Surrey's next Police and Crime Commissioner will be?

9 May 2024



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.

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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.

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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					

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Epsom and Ewell candidates dominate Police Commissioner election

Surrey PCC candidate Lisa Townsend - Conservative

Party

9 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

9 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.

Surrey PCC candidate: Alex Coley - Independent

9 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

9 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

9 May 2024

COUNCIL HOUSING

Climate motion sparks energetic debate in Council



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



17 April 2024

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](#)

COUNCIL PLANNING

Council getting belted by Green Group?



17 April 2024

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](#)

COMMUNITY SPORTS

Something special going on at Epsom baths



17 April 2024

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](#)

NEWS SPORTS

Epsom Karate Kids go global



17 April 2024

The Mo-Ichido England Karate club, nestled in the heart of Horton Country Park, made waves on the international stage as they ventured to Albena on the Black Sea coast of ... [READ MORE](#)

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](#)

COUNCIL

Not in Epsom and Ewell but other Surrey elections test the water...



16 April 2024

The fate of 116 council seats in Surrey are up for grabs as voters head to the polls on Thursday, May 2. There are 11 boroughs and districts in the ... [READ MORE](#)

NEWS POLICING

Epsom and Ewell candidates dominate Police Commissioner election



16 April 2024

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](#)

COUNCIL CRIME

Avoid ticket scams this summer



15 April 2024

Residents are being warned to be aware of online ticket scams that are catching out eager concert-goers ahead of the summer. Surrey Trading Standards is pleased to announce the launch ... [READ MORE](#)

ARTS EDUCATION

1st generation UCA graduates celebrated



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](#)

FOOTBALL SPORTS

This defeat will not count

Premier Division South						
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD
5	Spelthorne Sports	36	10	8	18	-25
7	Guildford City	36	8	4	24	-51
3	Sheerwater	36	7	4	25	-56
9	Epsom & Ewell	35	7	3	25	-40
10	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



12 April 2024

An elderly woman who tragically died after waiting five days for hip surgery prompted a coroner to raise concerns that a hospital is putting patients at risk of an early ... [READ MORE](#)

NEWS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

Surrey Uni works on self-drive safety



12 April 2024

As the UK prepares to introduce legislation that paves the way for self-driving vehicles later this year, scientists and experts led by the University of Surrey have launched a new network to ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL CRICKET PLANNING SPORTS

Just not cricket to replace Banstead pavilion?



12 April 2024

A long-standing cricket club's ambitious plans to construct a modern pavilion and expand its facilities have sparked a

debate from people that live in the area, saying it would “ruin ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL EDUCATION PLANNING

New SEND school blocked by Nimby?



12 April 2024

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](#)

COUNCIL WESTMINSTER

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](#)

HEALTH NEWS

New born enters world by rare EXIT



12 April 2024

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

9 May 2024



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.

1st generation UCA graduates celebrated

9 May 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.

McKenna Marsden and **Troy Hunter** feature in the campaign's arts and sports talents category alongside Happy Valley star, Amit Shah, the crime writer Sir Ian James Rankin OBE, and BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2022, Beth Mead. All 100 graduates listed by Universities UK were the first in their families to attend university.

"Going to university gave me a lot more independence and taught me new skills, developing my abilities in a subject which was once just a passion," said McKenna, who is a BA (Hons) Fashion graduate. He was chosen by British Vogue as one of its top 50 emerging designers, showcased his graduate collection at London Fashion Week, and interned at Christopher Kane.

He said: "University gave me stability while allowing me to break into the fashion industry, leading to many big achievements. I don't think I would have had the success I did without studying at university."

Originally from Newcastle, McKenna's working-class background was the main inspiration for his final graduate fashion collection and continues to influence his designs.

"Anything is possible if you believe it and work hard for it no matter how many setbacks you may have, if you believe you can achieve your goals you can," McKenna added.

Troy, who graduated from UCA in 2013 with a degree in BA (Hons) Film Production, has gone on to write episodes for the hit Netflix show Sex Education and an episode of Eastenders. He was also nominated for Outstanding Breakthrough Creative (Television) at the NAACP Awards.

Troy said: "Studying film production at UCA made a huge difference in my life, it gave me the confidence and determination to continue pursuing a career in the TV and Film industry when people around me were telling me

otherwise.”

His success continues in the form of a short film called Mya and his debut play Black Pride, as well as a television adaptation of the same name, with Maia Pictures.

New research commissioned by Universities UK revealed the transformative impact of going to university, with almost three-quarters of first-in-the-family students agreeing their degree gave them the confidence to apply for jobs without feeling like an imposter.

Vivienne Stern MBE, Chief Executive of Universities UK, said: “There are those who say that too many people go to university. I disagree. These stories tell you why. In this country, you are still twice as likely to go to university if you are from the wealthiest background, compared to the least wealthy. That’s not right.

New born enters world by rare EXIT

9 May 2024



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 Verschueren was delivered at St George’s hospital in South West London using the Ex-utero Intrapartum Treatment (EXIT) procedure which delivers babies who could potentially have serious challenges at birth.

This procedure is used when an unborn child has an obstruction in their airway which means they would be unable to breathe independently once they are removed from the placenta.

Professor Asma Khalil, consultant obstetrician at St George’s, led the entire operation, which involved about 50 medics and other staff in the operating theatre.

She said: “An EXIT procedure involves a large number of healthcare professionals from various backgrounds including an obstetrician, fetal medicine specialist, an anaesthetist, a paediatric anaesthetist, a paediatric ENT surgeon, midwives and the neonatal team, as well as other theatre staff.”

In little Freddie’s case there was a cyst on his tongue that could potentially block his airways it was detected in a scan during his mum’s second trimester. The team made an incision in mum Anna’s tummy and delivered Freddie’s head and shoulders first, leaving him attached to the placenta and able to breathe.

They established an airway so he could breathe independently before delivering the rest of him. Freddie weighed 6lbs 8oz (3.1kg) at birth and was able to go home with his parents Anna and Peter Verschueren a healthy baby.

Anna said: “We’ve been incredibly impressed with the service we have had at St George’s, at every step it has been outstanding care. When we found out we needed to have the procedure we felt in such safe hands with the experts at St George’s. We never doubted their skill and advice.”

Professor Khalil added: “I am very grateful to the efforts by every member of our large team who ensured that we delivered the best care to Anna and Freddie. Saving babies’ lives and caring for the parents during challenging times is the most rewarding aspect of my job.”

An EXIT procedure is extremely rare. However, despite its global rarity this is the second time it has been carried out in St George’s this year.

Dr Richard Jennings, Group Chief Medical Officer for St George’s, Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals and Health Group, said: “St George’s is one of the few hospitals in the country that carries out this rare procedure and saves the lives of many babies. I am pleased to hear that Freddie is doing well thanks to our dedicated and skilled teams and everyone at St George’s wishes him and his family all the best for the future.”