EPSOM & EWELL TIMES
For the community, by the community. A not-for-profit service

19th November 2026

ISSN 2753-2771

5th June 2025

4 June 2025

Council Transport

Surrey examines a plea for a 20mph road



4 June 2025

A campaigner says a Surrey council is “missing the point” about safety as hopes for a 20mph speed limit on a rural road have been scuppered. Surrey County Council (SCC) … Read More

Council Education

Surrey schools shorter Summers?



4 June 2025

Summer holidays could be shortened in Surrey in favour of a longer October half-term break, after a county council decision. The change by Surrey County Council (SCC) means the October … Read More

Arts Culture

Thames Island Festival given go-ahead



3 June 2025

The show will go on for an exclusive summer concert on a private island in the Thames. D’Oyly Carte Island has been given the go-ahead to host three days of … Read More

Council Council constitution News

Interview with the New Mayor of Epsom and Ewell – Cllr Robert Leach



3 June 2025

Cllr Robert Leach (RA Nonsuch) was elected Mayor of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell at the Council meeting on 13th May 2025. The Epsom and Ewell Times put some … Read More

Community News Volunteers

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23 Epsom Dads take on Welsh mountains for charities



3 June 2025

A group of 23 dads in their 40s and 50s from the Epsom area will take on their 2025 hike – the ‘Carneddau to Coast’ challenge across the rugged mountains … Read More

News Science

Surrey Uni on space mission to darken the skies



3 June 2025

More than 8,000 low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites already orbit Earth, and projections estimate a rise to 60,000 by 2030, partly driven by the development of mega-constellations. The rate of … Read More

Business News Transport

Redesigning the Surrey skyways?



2 June 2025

Quicker, Quieter Flights on the Horizon for Heathrow and Gatwick Passengers and Neighbours Passengers at Heathrow and Gatwick are set to enjoy quicker flights and fewer delays under new government … Read More

Arts Culture

St Martin’s journey from darkness to light



2 June 2025

Ashtead Choral Society and Kent Sinfonia – Dvořák Triumph. St Martin’s Church Epsom 24th May. Let me get straight to the point. This was a special evening and, at least … Read More

Council Health

Today is World No Smoking Day – Surrey steps up

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ISSN 2753-2771



31 May 2025

Surrey unveils inspiring stop smoking stories: boosts free support and offers exclusive app access This Saturday 31st May is World No Smoking Day and Surrey County Council is stepping up … Read More

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Interview with the New Mayor of Epsom and Ewell – Cllr Robert Leach

4 June 2025



Cllr **Robert Leach** (RA Nonsuch) was elected Mayor of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell at the Council meeting on 13th May 2025. The *Epsom and Ewell Times* put some questions to the new Mayor about his plans, priorities, and personal reflections as he embarks on his year of office.

EET: You are championing three charities during your Mayoral year. Could you tell us why you chose these particular charities?

Mayor Robert Leach: As my role relates solely to the borough of Epsom and Ewell, I focused on charities that primarily operate here. I was looking for organisations with the capacity to actively participate in fundraising, and which support those less fortunate in our community.

I've chosen:

- **Good Company**, which runs the foodbank, Epsom Pantry and other services that provide basic food provisions.
- **Citizens Advice Bureau**, which offers vital help with financial, legal, family and administrative issues—often stepping in when people have no one else to turn to.
- **PHAB**, which promotes physical and mental activity for all ages and abilities.

I believe three is the maximum I can support properly, though I recognise that there are many other excellent charities locally. I hope to support them in other ways, such as by attending their fundraising events.

EET: What are your priorities for the year ahead?

Mayor Robert Leach: My main priority is to build a stronger sense of cohesion across the borough and foster a feeling of self-worth among its residents. I'm the Mayor for all—regardless of politics, religion or beliefs.

I'm also launching a "*Friend of the Mayor*" scheme, aimed primarily at children (though adults are welcome too). The idea is simple: a Friend of the Mayor promises not to hate anyone—or at least to try not to. Disagreement is fine, disapproval too, but hatred fuels everything from petty disputes to international conflict. This is just a small, local step to push back against that.

EET: What do you think could be improved about the Borough?

Mayor Robert Leach: Overall, I believe the borough is well run and well-resourced. There are, of course, a few minor housekeeping matters that could be improved. And I do miss the old Rolls-Royce mayoral car with the crest!

EET: What are you most looking forward to in your new role?

Mayor Robert Leach: Meeting people. I hope I can encourage and thank the vast army of volunteers who work so hard for their neighbours. I'm especially keen to spend time with children and young people. Encouraging and engaging with the next generation will be a special part of this year.

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EET: What hobbies might have to take a back seat during your Mayoral year?

Mayor Robert Leach: Music is my main hobby. I play in a 15-piece dance band and often deputise in another. I've already had to excuse myself from at least one gig, but I've promised the bandleaders it's only for a year!

As a pensioner with diabetes, I've also been working to get match fit for the job. I've lost over three stone and am trying to reduce my intake of cake and wine!

EET: Any final message for our readers?

Mayor Robert Leach: I want to be a residents' Mayor. I encourage all local organisations to consider inviting me to their events—there is no charge. You might even like to host a "*Meet the Mayor*" evening.

Becoming Mayor is a great honour, and I look forward to carrying out my duties with enthusiasm and commitment.

Image credit: Epsom and Ewell Borough Council.

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23 Epsom Dads take on Welsh mountains for charities

4 June 2025



A group of 23 dads in their 40s and 50s from the Epsom area will take on their 2025 hike – the 'Carneddau to Coast' challenge across the rugged mountains of North Wales.

The Epsom Trailblazers are back for their fifth charity hike. On 14th June, the group will tackle 11 peaks, 30km and 1,700m of ascent in one day, all in aid of two amazing charities.

Established in 2016, the Trailblazers' charity hikes have raised over £55,000 in recent years, and this year's target is a massive £10,000 for their chosen charities – one local (Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People) and one national (The Brain Tumour Charity).

The bi-annual walking challenges plus many months of training routines have helped the Trailblazers become great friends as well as shaking off some excess kilos in the process.

According to four-times Trailblazer John Croome: "The Trailblazers have all been training really hard this year, hiking endless repeats of the Box Hill ascent every weekend in preparation for the Carneddau challenge and getting in shape any way we can.

"We think we are ready, and are really looking forward to the hike to raise much-needed funds for these great charities."

The Brain Tumour Charity is the largest dedicated funder of research into brain tumours globally, and has a special connection to the group, with a best friend of a Trailblazer currently undergoing treatment for a brain tumour. Supporting their work will help to save and improve the lives of everyone affected by a brain tumour.

The Trailblazers have also chosen to support the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People as their local charity this year – the Surrey-based charity supports disabled people of all ages to maximise their independence and achieve their potential. Again, the group has a personal link with the charity with one of the Trailblazers working hard at the charity every day.

Firzana Khan, Community Fundraiser for The Brain Tumour Charity, said: "We're incredibly grateful to the Epsom Trailblazers for choosing to support The Brain Tumour Charity on their epic Carneddau to Coast challenge.

"Their determination, camaraderie and generosity are truly inspiring, especially as they walk in support of a close friend affected by a brain tumour. Every step they take helps us move closer to our goal of doubling survival and halving the harm that brain tumours cause. We're cheering them on every inch of the way!"

The Trailblazers 2025 challenge: https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/8095/trailblazers-2025-carneddau-to-coast/

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St Martin’s journey from darkness to light

4 June 2025



Ashtead Choral Society and Kent Sinfonia – Dvořák Triumph. St Martin’s Church Epsom 24th May.

Let me get straight to the point. This was a special evening and, at least for me, unexpectedly so. Dvořák’s *Romance for Violin* and his *Stabat Mater* are very much ‘B-list’ on the concert repertoire and don’t feature on the Classic FM ‘Hall of Fame’. You must wonder why when the performance by Ashtead Choral Society, Kent Sinfonia, and Christian Halstead on solo violin was so enthralling from start to finish.

Halstead set the tone for the evening with Dvořák’s restless *Romance for Violin*. You might expect a straight love song from the title ‘Romance’, but Halstead made the most of this restive paean to foreshadow what was to come.

Now, the *Stabat Mater*. It is one of those pieces that is, to my mind, not very interesting when listened to as a recording. But, wow! It comes to life in a performance setting, as Music Director Dr Andrew Storey demonstrated, navigating the orchestra, soloists, and choir through Dvořák’s journey from darkness to light.

Each movement is compelling, and on Saturday night in Epsom it felt like reading a great book. As each chapter ended, I wanted to get on to the next one and find out what happens next. There is too much to write about in this review, but to give you a flavour: we were treated to solo quartets that felt appropriately ‘cathedral’ rather than ‘opera house’; soprano and alto choruses that sparkled; tenor and bass choruses plucked from the depths of Bohemia; and, oh, the magical end where Storey closes with 140 performers quietly triumphing over tragedy.

This concert was a very good end to the Ashtead Choral Society season. But there is good news: if you missed this concert and want to experience Dvořák’s *Stabat Mater* for yourself, Epsom Choral Society will be performing it next season. Even better news: Ashtead Choral Society’s next season will include a mouth-watering line-up: Elgar’s *Dream of Gerontius*, Bach’s *St John Passion*, and Handel’s (rarely performed oratorio) *Theodora*.

www.ashtead.choralsociety.org.uk

Jane Pickles, 26 May 2025

29th May 2025

4 June 2025

Community Council

Epsom and Ewell Summer Festival at Bourne Hall



28 May 2025

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is pleased to announce that Bourne Hall will host a Summer Festival on Saturday, 14 June 2025 from 11am until 6pm. The free event promises … Read More

Community Council Council constitution

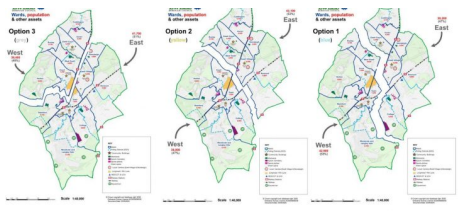
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council out – Community Council’s in?

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28 May 2025

Earlier this month, at a meeting of the full Council, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (EEBC) agreed new strategic priorities for 2025-2027, with the number one priority being to explore … Read More

Community Faith

Run for humanity in Epsom and Ewell



27 May 2025

On Sunday, 18th May 2025, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association (AMYA) in the Southwest Region of England hosted a remarkable charity run that brought together people from across the local … Read More

Council Finances

Another Surrey borough heading for bankruptcy?



24 May 2025

Surrey Heath Borough Council’s desperation to fight off bankruptcy crystallised further after it agreed to sell a car park and land in order “to keep the lights on”. The council … Read More

Council Education

Surrey sent on a U-turn on SEND by MPs?



21 May 2025

Surrey County Council has made an apparent U-turn on MPs’ engagement with SEND cases. The leader of Surrey County Council has pleaded with MPs to not “talk down” children services but … Read More



Business News

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Strikes could still impact half-term Gatwick flights

21 May 2025

Gatwick Airport’s largest carrier EasyJet is expecting to run its full schedule during the busy half term period despite industrial action taking place by their oil refuellers. Strike action by … Read More

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Run for humanity in Epsom and Ewell

4 June 2025



On Sunday, 18th May 2025, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association (AMYA) in the Southwest Region of England hosted a remarkable charity run that brought together people from across the local community in a spirited show of unity and compassion.

Held at Auriol Park, a public park in the Borough of Epsom and Ewell, the event ran from 10 AM to 2 PM and served as a vibrant platform for both raising funds and awareness. With over £8,000 collected on the day, the event was a resounding success. All proceeds went to AMYA’s partner charity, *Humanity First*.

Humanity First, established in 1995 and registered with the UK Charities Commission, operates in 66 countries across six continents. It runs eight core programmes that have collectively transformed millions of lives through disaster relief efforts, sustainable development, and community empowerment. The funds raised through this event will directly support the charity’s response to various crises around the world, including the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Participants came from across the region, with residents of Kingston, Worcester Park, Tolworth, Malden Manor, New Malden, Surbiton, Epsom and Ewell all playing their part in contributing to this noble cause.

The day began with a competitive 10K run that set the tone for the rest of the event, as runners, supporters, and volunteers came together with a shared purpose. Alongside the run, attendees enjoyed a variety of activities, including inflatable attractions, food stalls, and exhibitions that added a festive and welcoming atmosphere for families and supporters alike.

Beyond the fundraising, the event provided an invaluable opportunity for the public to learn more about the Islamic principle of serving humanity. In Islam, service to others is not just encouraged — it is considered a vital part of one’s faith and spiritual fulfilment.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association, known for its strong emphasis on community welfare and interfaith cooperation, exemplifies this teaching by actively engaging in charitable activities across the UK and internationally. By organising such events, AMYA not only raises funds for critical humanitarian efforts but also helps foster mutual understanding and a sense of shared responsibility within the wider community.

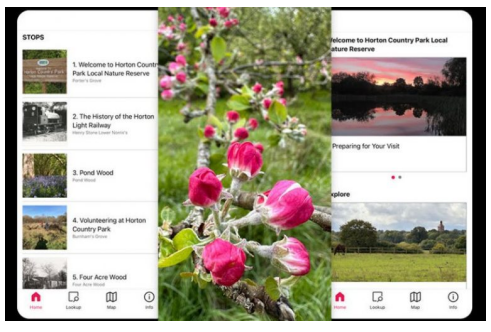
Faran Shaheen
Regional Press Secretary for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association (AMYA) UK

22nd May 2025

4 June 2025

Council Nature

Epsom’s nature reserve goes digital



21 May 2025

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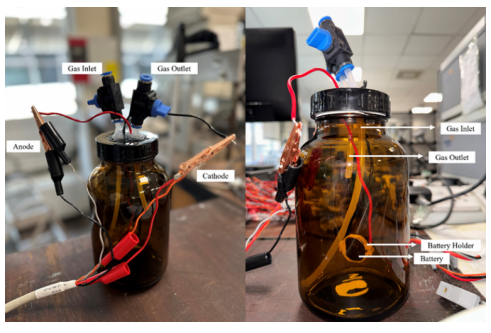
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Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has launched a new digital tour that showcases local beauty spot, Horton Country Park Local Nature Reserve. The tour is available to download now via … Read More

Education Environment News

Surrey battery leads



20 May 2025

Scientists at the University of Surrey have made a breakthrough in eco-friendly batteries that not only store more energy but could also help tackle greenhouse gas emissions. Lithium–CO_2 'breathing' batteries … Read More

Rugby Sports

Feast of Finals see Sutton & Epsom RFC runner-up



20 May 2025

On Saturday, Dings Crusaders RFC hosted a veritable feast of four finals. A large and enthusiastic crowd was bathed in unbroken sunshine. The day began with the amuse-bouche of Ashley … Read More

Council Education

Surrey MPs unite against County on SEND silence



20 May 2025

Surrey MPs have slammed the council for apparently closing down discussions on constituent SEND cases. In a rare case of unity between parties, both the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives … Read More

Council Crime News

Illegal dumps dump a dumps in Surrey



19 May 2025

Persistent and ongoing fly-tippling problems have forced the permanent closure of a Surrey recycling centre, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council has said. The Lower Kingswood site in Stubbs Lane has … Read More

Community Faith

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Cleanliness is next to Godliness in Epsom



18 May 2025

On Sunday, 4th May, the sun was shining — and so were the smiles of Councillors Steven McCormick (RA Woodcote and Langley) and James Lawrence (LibDem College). While Steven knew … Read More

Community Health

Epsom man awarded for psychosis interventions



16 May 2025

A Peer Support Volunteer based in Epsom has won a Gold Award at the annual Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Staff Awards for his extraordinary contribution to the … Read More

Council Finances News

Strip Woking’s debt-man of his OBE MP says



16 May 2025

The “chief architect” behind the financial collapse of Woking Borough Council should be stripped of his OBE to local government, the town’s MP has said. In 2023 the council declared … Read More

Education Health News

Yes to chocolate, tea, apples and grapes



16 May 2025

We might have another reason to enjoy our daily cup of tea or small piece of dark chocolate, as a new study from the University of Surrey has found that … Read More

Council Council constitution

No release from LGR releases

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16 May 2025

Surrey district and borough councils submit proposal to government outlining vision for future governance in the county
Today, district and borough councils in Surrey have submitted proposals to government outlining … Read More

Council Social care

Surrey’s children services improve

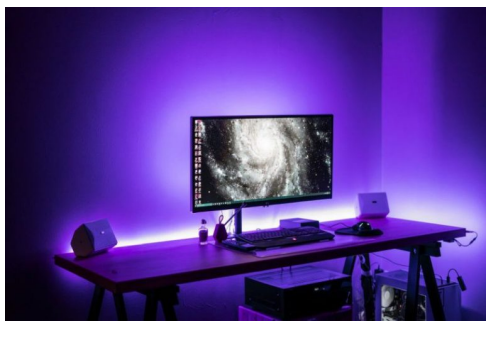


16 May 2025

After a seven-year improvement process, Surrey County Council’s children’s services spun its ‘Inadequate’ Ofsted rating to ‘Good’ on May 9. Inspectors looking at the council’s performance in March found “services … Read More

Business Education News

Surrey Uni knows the display way to San Jose



16 May 2025

A radical new approach to display screen technology could halve production costs, reduce harmful waste, and deliver brighter, more energy-efficient screens for our smartphones, smartwatches, and even certain medical devices, … Read More

Cleanliness is next to Godliness in Epsom

4 June 2025



On Sunday, 4th May, the sun was shining — and so were the smiles of Councillors Steven McCormick (RA Woodcote and Langley) and James Lawrence (LibDem College). While Steven knew what to expect having joined the group several times before, James was astonished to be greeted by a 110-strong team of volunteers, all equipped with litter pickers, high-vis jackets, and green and grey litter bags (more on those later), gathered and ready in Rosebery Park.

The volunteers, from ASEZ WAO and the World Mission Society Church of God, had travelled from Surrey, London, and as far afield as Manchester, Guildford, and Birmingham. Their mission: to clean up the parks and streets of Epsom as part of a “Reduce Plastic” campaign — an initiative backed not just by words, but by real action.

The event began with inspiring words from the councillors. Councillor James expressed his surprise at the turnout,

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admitting he had expected a group of around 11 but was delighted to see 10 times that number. “This is wonderful — amazing,” he said. “It’s so pleasing to see so many young faces in the crowd… so many people think activism is just shouting something online, but it’s fantastic to see people actually doing something.”

Councillor Steven added: “Hopefully people will just put litter in the bin — I know it’s a big ask — but what you’re doing is great and sets a really good example. You don’t just explain it, you actually do it. Really good job.”

Although Councillor Neil Dallen (RA Town) was unable to attend in person, he sent a message of encouragement via email, which was read out by a representative: “Best wishes to you all. This country depends on volunteers in many ways. A clean and tidy town encourages others to keep it clean and discourages littering and graffiti.”

The mostly young adult volunteers were uplifted by the councillors’ support, giving them a resounding cheer and calling out, “We love you!” Following the speeches, a short presentation was given on plastic pollution, highlighting the dangers of microplastics and encouraging people to think about how they can reduce plastic in their daily lives — something we can all take part in.

Afterwards, the councillors and volunteers set to work along three key routes in Epsom, including the town centre, the car park near Lidl, Epsom Square, Rosebery Park, and Mount Hill Gardens — all areas where litter had been reported. Recyclable and non-recyclable waste were carefully separated, with recyclable items placed in green bags and non-recyclable in grey ones.

Members of the local community praised the volunteers, and several even signed up for future events. Other environmental groups also offered words of encouragement, recognising the volunteers’ hard work. By the end of the day, about 40 bags of rubbish had been collected and left at an agreed pick-up point, where they were retrieved by a ranger from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (EEBC) and taken to the recycling depot. The EEBC depot had kindly supported the volunteers by providing around 30 litter-picking kits, which proved invaluable.

The day stood as a shining example of successful collaboration between community volunteers, councillors, and council staff. More activities are already being planned by ASEZ WAO, based at the World Mission Society Church of God on East Street, in partnership with Councillors Steven and James. These include further plastic awareness events, potential upcycling initiatives, and of course, more litter picks.

Epsom was recently ranked the second-best place to live in England, and the volunteers are hopeful that, with continued community effort, it will claim the top spot next year. They are committed to working alongside the community and the council to inspire civic pride, keep our streets clean, and make our local area a pleasant place for everyone. As Councillor Neil noted, by setting a good example, we hope others will be inspired to keep Epsom clean and discourage littering and graffiti.

Olivia from ASEZ WAO summed up the spirit of the day, saying, “The event was brilliant — I loved it. I really hope it makes a difference, and if you have the time, I’d definitely recommend getting involved in something like this.”

Joe Adams

15th May 2025

4 June 2025

Sports

Surrey Uni Research Exposes Toll of Controlling Coaching on Athletes’ Health



14 May 2025

Controlling coaching tactics shatter athletes’ wellbeing, says new study Controlling coaching styles disrupt athletes leaving them vulnerable to physical and psychological strain, according to a new study from the University … Read More

Rugby Sports

Sutton & Epsom Secure Spot in the Final with Another 49-Point Display

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12 May 2025

| Sutton & Epsom | 49 | – | Harlow | 19 | A great deal of credit must be given to Papa Johns for their contribution to grassroots sport. … Read More

Council News

Your Councillor Community Fund now open for applications

10 May 2025

Surrey residents can once again apply for cash grants to improve their local area through the Your Councillor Community Fund. Surrey County Council is committed to making a difference in … Read More

Crime News

Epsom and Ewell PSPO



10 May 2025

Anyone arrested for behaving badly on Epsom Derby day could be stuck with a £100 fine, a Surrey council says. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has green-lit a public space … Read More

Council constitution News

Surrey district and borough councils submit proposal to government

10 May 2025

Epsom and Ewell Times is bringing you all positions being taken on local government reorganisation. We believe in providing you as much information as possible, even if statements are repeated … Read More

Council News

Spelthorne Borough Council commissioners



10 May 2025

PLEASE NOTE FRESH QUOTES FROM SBC HAVE BEEN ADDED. IN BOLD BELOW Serious concerns over Spelthorne

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Borough Council's financial failures have led the Government to appoint commissioners, experienced in taking … Read More

Council constitution News

Surrey's partner organisations support county council plans for local government reorganisation

10 May 2025

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Council constitution News

Two unitary proposal confirmed



10 May 2025

Plans for Surrey's various district and borough councils to be devolved have been finalised. Surrey county councillors voted on how all 648 square miles of Surrey should be carved into … Read More

Council News

Measures in place to combat anti-social behaviour in the borough ahead of the Epsom Derby



10 May 2025

Councillors have agreed to adopt a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle anti-social behaviour in the borough ahead of this years' Epsom Derby. This order, which was brought to … Read More

Council constitution News

Residents Association group on two unitaries



10 May 2025

The county council's plan to split Surrey in two is "flawed, inconsistent, incomplete and will doom the west to fail", say opposition members. Surrey as we know it will come … Read More

Council constitution News

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Epsom & Ewell Borough Council agrees to submit proposal recommending three unitary councils for Surrey

10 May 2025

Yesterday, at a meeting of the full Council, Epsom & Ewell Councillors voted to submit a final proposal for three unitary councils to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local … Read More

Environment News

Surrey tree planting initiative surpasses halfway mark with 768,832 trees



10 May 2025

Surrey County Council has planted over 49,000 trees and hedgerows over the past year, bringing the Surrey wide total to 768,832 since 2019. This marks a significant milestone for the … Read More

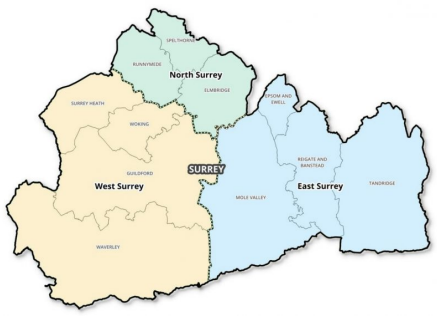
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8th May 2025

4 June 2025

Council constitution News

Three Unitary Authorities Proposal for Surrey



7 May 2025

Final devolution and merger plans that promise to be one of the biggest political shake ups in Surrey will be formally put forward this week ahead of the Government set May … Read More

Environment News

Supporting Bees and Pollinators in Your Epsom and Ewell Garden



6 May 2025

Expert Advice on Supporting Bees and Pollinators in Your Epsom and Ewell Garden Epsom and Ewell residents are being offered expert advice on how to make their gardens more welcoming … Read More

Housing News

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19th November 2026

ISSN 2753-2771

Epsom Housing Project in Access Gridlock



4 May 2025

Imagine starting a new homes project and not being able to drive onto the site. That could be the reality for one Surrey council which has got into a road … Read More

News

Nork By-election Results



4 May 2025

The only vote held in Surrey saw the Residents Association hold the Nork and Tattenhams by-election, while Reform UK moved up to second place after securing more votes than the Conservatives, Labour and … Read More

News Social care

Coroner rules on child’s death



2 May 2025

Neglect at a Surrey children’s care home contributed to the tragic death of a 12-year-old girl, a coroner has found. Raihana Awolaja sadly died of natural causes contributed by neglect on … Read More

News

EV chargepoints in the South East grow by 29% in a year



2 May 2025

Commenting on the stats, Future of Roads Minister Lilian Greenwood said: “We want to make sure that drivers in the South East are always close to an electric vehicle charging … Read More

Council constitution News

Devolution plans for Surrey

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2 May 2025

Surrey County Council has set out how and why it wants merge with the 11 boroughs and districts to create two mega authorities as the deadline to submit local government … Read More

News Planning

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council invites bids for local infrastructure projects

2 May 2025

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is inviting community groups and organisations to bid for funds raised by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), to deliver projects that will benefit residents and … Read More

Finances News

Government bailout to ease Woking's debt burden



1 May 2025

Taxpayers will cover the cost of Woking Borough Council's financial folly after the government agreed to "aid the reduction" of the bankrupt authority's multi-billion pound debt. The bail out will … Read More

Council constitution News

Will Surrey's Debts Force Us to Have a Unitary Authority?



1 May 2025

Billions of pounds in crushing debt could force Surrey and its boroughs and districts to become a single mega council – potentially merged with a neighbour, following government feedback on … Read More

Council constitution News

Press statement from the Leaders of Surrey's District and Borough Councils

1 May 2025

Today, district and borough councils have published proposals for local government reorganisation on their websites, to be debated at Council meetings across the county in the coming days. Final proposals will be … Read More

Environment News Planning

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Mole Valley Solar farm decision



1 May 2025

The biggest possible solar farm was before Mole Valley District Council last week with councillors voting to reject the eco energy project – despite warnings they could lose taxpayers hundreds … Read More

Council constitution News

County council set to propose two unitary councils for Surrey



1 May 2025

Subject to Cabinet approval, Surrey County Council plans to submit to government a proposal for two unitary councils for local government reorganisation in the county. These two councils, arranged by … Read More

Community News

£500 award for artistic contribution



28 April 2025

The Epsom and Ewell Town-Twinning Association is delighted to invite applications for this year’s Cyril Frazer Award. The Cyril Frazer Award is a legacy set up as a memorial to … Read More

EV chargepoints in the South East grow by 29% in a year

4 June 2025



- Over 2,000 public chargepoints added to the South East charging network since April 2024
- There are now more than 9,200 public chargers in the region, helping EV drivers in the South East get around with the confidence and peace of mind they’re always close to a socket
- Government investing over £2.3bn to back British carmakers, power growth and protect jobs as part of the Plan

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for Change

Commenting on the stats, Future of Roads Minister Lilian Greenwood said:

“We want to make sure that drivers in the South East are always close to an electric vehicle charging device. That’s’ why it’s great to see the number of public charging devices in the region growing by 29% since April last year, taking us to more than 9,200 public charging devices in the South East.

“We’re investing £2.3 billion to help drivers switch to electric vehicles while putting money in the pockets of hardworking people by protecting jobs and backing British carmakers as part of the Plan for Change.”

There’s never been a better time to switch to EVs:

- Drivers can save up to £1,100 a year if they mostly charge at home compared to petrol.
- You can also run an EV for as little as 2p per mile if you charge at home.
- Half of used electric cars under £20,000 and 29 brand new electric cars RRP under £30,000
- The average range of a new EV is 290 miles – that’s about 2 weeks driving for most people, or from London to Newcastle.
- Data suggests you should expect your EV to last as long as an internal combustion engine car.
- Getting EVs repaired is getting easier with the increasing number of skilled technicians available.
- Typically an EV emits just 1/3 of the harmful greenhouse gases of a petrol car during its lifetime.
- 24/7 helplines, contactless payments, up-to-date chargepoint locations make charging easier than ever.
- All data from Office of Zero Emission Vehicles, Charge UK, Autotrader and SMMT.

Department of Transport

1st May 2025

4 June 2025

Community Council Health

Surrey Housing protocol agreed for people with mental health needs

27 April 2025

An agreement between councils and NHS services in Surrey will help people with mental health needs find housing and avoid delays in leaving hospital. The Surrey Mental Health and Housing … Read More

Council Planning

Waverley not waiving planning fees spark protests



27 April 2025

Angry homeowners hit with hefty planning bills and court threats gathered outside Waverley Borough Council to protest against levies that have left some at risk of losing their homes, or … Read More

Council Housing Planning

A towering decision by Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

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26 April 2025

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has approved plans for hundreds of new homes. The former SGN Gasworks site on East Street in Epsom will see all of its buildings and … Read More

Business Planning

McDonalds run out of Loch Fyne, Cobham



25 April 2025

Plans for a McDonald’s in Cobham have been thrown out. McDonald’s had hoped to find a new home on the former Loch Fyne Restaurant in Portsmouth Road on the outskirts … Read More

Community Health

What is Buddy-Up?



25 April 2025

Buddy Up is an award-winning charity designed to offer mentoring to young people identified by schools as needing one-to-one support from an experienced youth worker and mentor. It was set … Read More

Council Education

Surrey SEND parents owed money



24 April 2025

Parents of children with special educational needs who were left with little choice but to use private educational psychologists may be due money back from Surrey County Council. So far … Read More

Community Council News

Epsom and Ewell Victory in Europe celebrations

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24 April 2025

A number of commemorative events are planned to be held across the borough to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8 May 2025. VE Day marks the official … Read More

Council Council constitution Letters

Look to your own party's dictatorship



24 April 2025

Sir, I reply to Cllr Ames' letter attacking Residents Association councillors in general and me in particular. It is a pity that he chose to quote me selectively. I did … Read More

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£500 award for artistic contribution

4 June 2025



The Epsom and Ewell Town-Twinning Association is delighted to invite applications for this year's **Cyril Frazer Award**.

The Cyril Frazer Award is a legacy set up as a memorial to Cyril Frazer, who died in 2016. He was Mayor of Epsom and Ewell when it was first twinned with Chantilly in 1995 and was a founding member of the association. As well as Twinning, one of his other great passions was singing, and he was a keen member of the Epsom Male Voice Choir.

Both are reflected in the requirements for the award of **£500**, which is available to individuals and groups within the Borough and will be awarded to qualified applicants who meet some or all of the following agreed criteria:

- Applicants live or study in the Borough
- The award meets a special need, such as mental or physical health
- It benefits young people
- It has cultural/educational value
- It is music or performing arts related
- It furthers friendships or links with Chantilly
- It supports a key twinning or community event

The prize will be awarded at the Twinning Association's AGM in June, and the deadline for applications is **May 31st 2025**.

For further information and to apply, please contact: **diana@epsomtwinning.com**.

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What is Buddy-Up?

4 June 2025



Buddy Up is an **award-winning charity** designed to offer **mentoring to young people** identified by schools as needing one-to-one support from an experienced youth worker and mentor.

It was set up in **August 2020**, after a need was identified in the community. Following the return to school after the pandemic, many schools reported:

- Increased **anxiety**
- Reduced **confidence**
- Struggles with **attendance**

While schools recognised the need for additional support, they lacked the time and funding to provide it.

Buddy Up has been delivering mentoring in schools across **Epsom and Ewell** for five years. To date, we have delivered **over 1,500 mentoring sessions** and still have a significant waiting list.

Our goal is to **support young people early**, believing that early intervention makes the biggest impact.

Who do we work with?

The young people we support may be dealing with:

- Anger
- Addiction
- Self-harm and suicidal ideation
- At risk of grooming
- At risk of county lines involvement
- Victims of domestic violence
- ADHD
- ASD
- ODD
- Bullying
- Low self-esteem
- Victims of abuse
- Trauma
- Disordered eating
- Suicidal inpatients
- Poor attendance
- At risk of exclusion
- Anxiety

Funding

Buddy Up is largely funded by **donations and grants**, allowing us to offer our services free to those in need.

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However, in recent months, our **funding has decreased dramatically**. Like many charities, we are feeling the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

We are now in **urgent need of funding** to keep the charity running and continue supporting young people in Epsom and Ewell.

If you're able to donate, we would be incredibly grateful. Please use the link below:

 https://www.justgiving.com/buddyupcharity

Contact Us

If you would like more information or to discuss anything further, please get in touch:

 07551 444 246
 info@buddyupcharity.org
 https://buddyupcharity.org

Registered charity number: 1190942

Look to your own party's dictatorship

4 June 2025



Sir,

I reply to Cllr Ames' letter attacking Residents Association councillors in general and me in particular.

It is a pity that he chose to quote me selectively. I did say that the RA Group could put through anything it wished – that is a simple fact as we hold 25 of the 35 seats. However I went on to say that we value the contributions of members from other parties. .

A council may use either the cabinet or committee system of government. We use the committee system under which all councillors may partake in all decision making, as Cllr Ames has done. Unlike many other councils, all councillors are involved.

It is also a pity that Cllr Ames did not mention the subsequent meeting of the Standards and Constitution Committee on 16 April of which he is a member. This was a long but amicable meeting where much of the two and half hours was spent dealing with suggestions from Liberal Democrat leader Cllr James Lawrence. Some of his proposals were accepted. On all the motions, James was congratulated on the effort he had put in to serve the council and the constructive way he worked with RA members. This is hardly the attitude of a dictatorial ruling group.

In contrast, let us look at the Labour government of his party. Last year in the general election it got about a third of votes on a 60% turnout. This means that only one in five electors voted Labour. Another two voted for other parties, and the remaining two did not vote at all. Subsequent opinion polls suggest that Labour has lost support since the election.

On the basis of getting just 20% support from the electorate, the Labour government has dictatorially decreed that the borough should provide more than 800 new homes each year building on Green Belt, and that the borough council should be abolished in 2027. On neither of these issues has the government consulted anyone to ask if they want all this extra housing or if they want the council abolished. I have yet to meet any resident who supports either policy. The Labour government does not listen to any voices other than its own, and sometimes does not even listen to its own voices.

I like Cllr Ames as a person, and I respect his right to criticise me and RA councillors. However I believe that this should be done fairly, and not by selective quotation wrapped up in bluster. If Cllr Ames does not like dictatorial government, he would be better advised to direct such views to his own party.

Cllr Robert Leach
RA councillor

Nonsuch Ward

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24th April 2025

4 June 2025

News Policing

Surrey Police know where they’re going with more of them



23 April 2025

Surrey Police will have ‘the highest number of officers in a generation” after locking up money for 40 more patrol cops. The estimated £2.5million in central government money is part … Read More

Council Council constitution Letters

Labour decries Residents’ Associations’ unfettered power on Epsom & Ewell Council



23 April 2025

Dear Editor, Thank you for your excellent reporting of last week’s meeting of Epsom and Ewell Council’s Standards and Constitution Committee, which highlighted some important and contentious issues about how … Read More

Council Council constitution

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Faces Scrutiny Over Constitutional Reforms



19 April 2025

The Standards and Constitution Committee meeting of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council on 16th April was marked by heated exchanges and concerns over transparency, democratic participation, and officer-councillor relations. The … Read More

Council Planning

How did Aldi arrive at this Epsom junction?



19 April 2025

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Plans for an Aldi store near an Epsom junction described as being “fraught with danger” have been green-lit after an appeal—but with conditions attached. For years, the budget superstore has … Read More

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Labour decries Residents’ Associations’ unfettered power on Epsom & Ewell Council

4 June 2025



Dear Editor,

Thank you for your excellent reporting of last week’s meeting of Epsom and Ewell Council’s Standards and Constitution Committee, which highlighted some important and contentious issues about how councillors represent our residents.

Your analysis that public trust and democratic scrutiny hang in the balance is spot-on. In my two years so far as a councillor, I have frequently sought to highlight these issues, often in conjunction with other opposition councillors and sometimes with the support of more independent-minded Residents Association (RA) councillors.

In this light, I would like to highlight Cllr Robert Leach’s comment concerning the committees that decide the bulk of what the council does, that “The RA group can put through anything it likes”.

This shocking comment goes to the heart of issues of democratic scrutiny and appears to reflect the approach of the ruling party and many RA councillors to a situation where it has two-thirds of councillors. Despite its councillors purporting to represent residents at a very local level, the RA can often operate as a monolithic block.

One major change that the RA administration has attempted to implement is to neuter the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, of which I am also a member, which should play a key role in scrutinising what the council does in the name of residents.

Despite, or perhaps because of this, the administration has proposed to remove the committee’s scrutiny function, on the grounds that scrutiny should take place on the committees that make policy and spending decisions.

Cllr Leach’s blunt assessment that “The RA group can put through anything it likes” on such committees should represent the death knell for this proposal, which the administration has already had to “pause” in the face of fierce opposition.

While Cllr Leach’s words represent the numerical reality, they neglect the role that opposition councillors can play in raising questions and challenges and, on occasion, influencing how other committee members vote.

Last month, for the second year running, the Audit and Scrutiny Committee amended its own annual report, as drafted by the administration, to record that it had carried out “limited scrutiny” over the past year.

While this is an unfortunate situation, to say the least, it does show that some RA councillors have an appetite for a stronger scrutiny role and, despite what Cllr Leach says, can vote according to their own individual judgement.

Democratic scrutiny of what the council does in the name of residents is essential to maintain the public’s trust in it. We need more of it – and less of a ruling party that thinks it can put through anything it likes.

Councillor Chris Ames – Labour – Court Ward

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