

Guidance to consumers impacted by Heathrow Airport incident

21 March 2025



Selina Chadha, Group Director for Consumers at the UK Civil Aviation Authority, said: “Passengers are advised not to travel to Heathrow at this time and should contact their airlines for the latest flight updates. We appreciate the difficulties that travel disruption causes, and we expect airlines to take all necessary steps to support and assist their passengers during this period of disruption. The Civil Aviation Authority remains in close contact with Heathrow Airport, airlines, and the Government during this time.”

Heathrow Airport is closed today due to a fire at a nearby electrical substation, affecting the supply of power to its terminals. Unfortunately, this means that today’s flights to and from the airport have been cancelled. The knock-on effect may also lead to delays and further cancellations over the weekend.

Flights that had already departed that were due to land at the airport had to be diverted to other airports.

Air passenger rights

When flights are delayed and cancelled, we expect airlines to minimise the overall impact on you by keeping you informed and looking after you.

In many cases you will be protected by rights which are set out in UK legislation. The table below provides guidance on whether your flight is covered by UK legislation:

Flight Itinerary	UK or EU Air Carrier	Non-UK / Non-EU Air Carrier
Departing from Heathrow	<input type="checkbox"/> Covered	<input type="checkbox"/> Covered
Arriving to Heathrow	<input type="checkbox"/> Covered	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Covered

Whether these rights apply or not, we encourage airlines to do all they can to minimise the overall impact to their passengers.

Flight Cancellations

If your flight from Heathrow Airport has been cancelled

Please do not go to the airport and contact your airline for further advice.

Your airline is required to offer you the choice of a refund or find you an alternative flight (referred to as “re-routing”). Re-routing should be at the earliest opportunity or at a later date at your convenience, subject to availability.

Unfortunately, it may be challenging for airlines to offer re-routing during periods of major disruption, especially when an airport is closed at short notice. This may mean that your airline may not be able to get you to your destination as quickly as any of us would like. Nevertheless, if you still wish to get to your destination, we expect your airline to do all it can to offer you an alternative flight and keep you updated.

If your airline is unable to proactively offer you care, or offer suitable replacement flights, we expect it to promptly reimburse you for the costs you incur making your own arrangements. Make sure you keep receipts and avoid incurring excessive costs.

If your flight to Heathrow has been cancelled

We realise that being unable to travel home as planned will be concerning for you. We expect your airline to update you and advise you of your rights.

If your flight is covered by UK passenger rights legislation, your airline will be required by law to get you home and look after you while you wait by providing meals, refreshments and hotel accommodation proportionate to the length of time you are delayed.

To get you home, your airline is required to find you an alternative flight (referred to as “re-routing”). Re-routing should

be at the earliest opportunity or at a later date at your convenience, subject to availability.

Unfortunately, it may be challenging for airlines to offer re-routing during periods of major disruption, especially when an airport is closed at short notice. This may mean that your airline may not be able to get you home as quickly as any of us would like. Nevertheless, we expect your airline to do all it can to offer you an alternative flight and keep you updated.

If your airline is unable to proactively offer you care, or offer suitable replacement flights, we expect it to promptly reimburse you for the costs you incur making your own arrangements. Make sure you keep receipts and avoid incurring excessive costs.

Different rights apply if your airline is not a UK or EU carrier. Please speak to your airline or check its website for more information about your rights.

Diverted flights

If your flight was diverted because it could not land at Heathrow and your flight is covered by UK passenger rights legislation, your airline should provide onward transportation (this may be by other means) to get you to Heathrow. It should also look after you and provide you with meals, refreshments and hotel accommodation while you wait, proportionate to the length of your delay.

If your airline is unable to proactively offer you care, or offer onward transportation, we expect it to promptly reimburse you for the costs you incur making your own arrangements. Make sure you keep receipts and avoid incurring excessive costs.

Different rights apply if your airline is not a UK or EU carrier. Please speak to your airline or check its website for more information about your rights.

If you are travelling on a package holiday

If you booked a package holiday, you may also benefit from additional rights, particularly if this means that your original package cannot be provided.

If flight delays or cancellations lead to your holiday being cancelled, or new arrangements are made that result in a significant change to your holiday, then your travel company must offer an alternative holiday if they can, or a refund for the full price of your package holiday.

Flight Delays

If your flight from Heathrow Airport is delayed

Your airline should look after you and provide you with meals, refreshments and hotel accommodation proportionate to the length of your delay.

If your flight to Heathrow Airport is delayed

If your flight is covered by UK passenger rights legislation, your airline should look after you and provide you with meals, refreshments and hotel accommodation proportionate to the length of your delay.

Different rights apply if your airline is not a UK or EU carrier. Please speak to your airline or check its website for more information about your rights.

Fixed sum compensation

In addition to their obligations to look after passengers, as set out above, airlines are sometimes required to provide fixed sum compensation to passengers in certain circumstances.

Although we recognise the adverse impacts these delays and cancellations will have on passengers, the disruptions directly caused by the closure of Heathrow Airport are likely to be viewed as “extraordinary circumstances”. As a result, you are unlikely to be entitled to fixed sum compensation.

Extraordinary circumstances do not affect your other entitlements to replacement flights and care set out above — these are due regardless of the cause of your delay or cancellation.

Notes

The Civil Aviation Authority’s interpretation of extraordinary circumstances is illustrative and for guidance only, rather

than determinative of our view in any specific case that may arise. Each case will be context and fact specific. This does not mean that a passenger or group of passengers cannot try and claim compensation, including through the courts, if they disagree with our interpretation.

The protections set out above are based on Assimilated Regulation 261/2004 which collectively apply to all flights departing from the UK, and flights arriving into the UK on UK and EU carriers. Different rights may apply to passengers arriving on flights to the UK operated by non-EU carriers such as flights from the USA on US carriers.

Civil Aviation Authority News

Heathrow Airport. Mike McBey **CC BY 2.0**

20th March 2025

21 March 2025

Arts Culture

Epsom Choral Society Delivers a Classical Delight at St Martin's Church



17 March 2025

Epsom Choral Society Delivers a Classical Delight at St Martin's Church March is concert season at St Martin's Church, Epsom. Between Ashtead Choral Society on the 8th and Epsom Chamber ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

Who will be saddled with Spelthorne's and Woking's £3 billion debts?



17 March 2025

The Surrey Borough of Spelthorne's financial crisis is "even more critical", with millions in cuts needed to avoid catastrophic bankruptcy, says new report. Best value inspectors were called in to ... [Read More](#)

Community Local History

Geography Squadron celebrates 70 years in Ewell



17 March 2025

In a ceremony held on Saturday 15th March in Ewell the 135 Geographic Squadron Royal Engineers commemorated their 70th anniversary at Mercator House (off Welbeck Close) by unveiling the first ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

Epsom & Ewell ranks in the middle of Surrey Councils' tax charges



17 March 2025

Residents will face another jump in council tax bills from April 1 as local authorities have announced their budgets for the coming year. Surrey County Council, the Police and Crime ... [Read More](#)

Council Housing Planning

Where the thousands of new homes will be built in Surrey's smallest borough - Epsom and Ewell



14 March 2025

"Critical" details on nearly 5,000 homes across 35 sites in Epsom and Ewell have been laid out after the borough council submitted its planning masterplan. The local plan will shape ... [Read More](#)

Council Council constitution

Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey: Key Proposals



14 March 2025

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Council Planning

Epsom and Ewell Local Plan Submitted for Examination



14 March 2025

Residents Encouraged to Stay Engaged and Make Representations Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has officially submitted the Epsom and Ewell Local Plan (2022-2040) to the Secretary of State for Housing, ... [Read More](#)

Community Volunteers

Epsom and Ewell's Record-Breaking Poppy Appeal



13 March 2025

The Royal British Legion's Epsom and Ewell branch has once again demonstrated the remarkable generosity of the local community, raising a record-breaking total of £79,366.99 during the 2024 Poppy Appeal. ... [Read More](#)

Council Housing Planning

Golf course housing tees off Green Belt preservers



13 March 2025

Over 200 homes will be built on a golf course in an "epoch making moment" for Surrey's green belt. Elmbridge Borough Council's planning committee approved developer Claudel Venture Holdings Ltd's ... [Read More](#)

Business Planning

Leatherhead to get new cinema and bowling alley?



13 March 2025

A new cinema or bowling alley could "breathe new life" into Leatherhead as part of major regeneration plans aimed at "reversing the trend of brands leaving the town". Plans for ... [Read More](#)

News

Jane Wilson-Howarth visits her Epsom alma mater



13 March 2025

North East Surrey College of Technology (Nescot) welcomed Jane Wilson-Howarth, world renowned physician, author, zoologist and an authority on travel health to the college yesterday. Jane inspired and motivated our ... [Read More](#)

Community Volunteers

Epsom Runner's Tribute to Sister Raises Over £22,000 for Epilepsy Charity



13 March 2025

An Epsom man has completed an extraordinary fundraising challenge in memory of his sister, raising more than £22,000 for national charity Epilepsy Action. Barry Ahearn, from Epsom, ran 27 half-marathons ... [Read More](#)

Council Housing Planning

Dorking's Green Gap narrowing



13 March 2025

Homes will be built on the former green belt gateway into Dorking - forever changing the character of the picturesque town. Plans to turn more than eight hectares on the ... [Read More](#)

Arts

Local Choral group tackles global disruption



13 March 2025

In a world of disruption and disharmony, Ashted Choral Society provided something of an antidote in our concert Harmonies of Humanity on 8 March at St Martin's Church in Epsom. ... [Read More](#)

Local History Planning

Surrey's fire ruined mansion restoration plan



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Plans to restore an 18th century house have been waved through. The National Trust has now revealed its designs to restore and refurbish Clandon Park House to celebrate the rich ... [Read More](#)

Business Planning

Box Hill keeps its pie and mash



13 March 2025

The iconic Surrey Hills will keep its classic English pie and mash shop after plans were approved for the takeaway in Box Hill. Posha's Pie and Mash Shop, in the ... [Read More](#)

Business Council

Surrey services get fire e-bike removed from Amazon



13 March 2025

A dangerous e-bike battery that caused a house fire in Surrey has been successfully removed from sale on Amazon, thanks to the proactive efforts of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service ... [Read More](#)

Epsom Choral Society Delivers a Classical Delight at St Martin's Church

21 March 2025



March is concert season at St Martin's Church, Epsom. Between Ashted Choral Society on the 8th and Epsom Chamber Choir on the 29th, Epsom Choral Society took their turn on March 15th, with a programme of two favourite pieces from the classical period, performed just the way everybody likes them.

Haydn's *Mass in Time of Troubles*, nicknamed in honour of Lord Nelson, has its moments of subtlety and reflection, but when the string orchestra and solo quartet get augmented with trumpets and timpani, it needs a full choral society sound to rise above it and deliver the dramatic moments too.

Conductor Julian Collings likes tempi fast, making the most of the English Sinfonietta, whose string players' fingers moved so perfectly together they could have been attached to a giant pantograph. That meant the singers, too, had to know their parts thoroughly beforehand—well enough to keep up with the speed of both cascades of notes and a whole booklet of Latin words.

Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* covers five whole psalms before the more familiar text of *Magnificat*, and the words span many human experiences—from justice, compassion, and almsgiving to footstools and skulls. Their weekly practices for the two preceding months had been well spent.

The piece they knew best was the bijou motet *Ave Verum Corpus*, which they all sang from memory. That meant they could rise and fall musically as one instrument and stay together during the conductor's extensive *rallentando* between the two stanzas. The odd forgotten note length matters not at all when the ensemble improves by a leap.

Hearing pieces as familiar as *Ave Verum Corpus* or *Laudate Dominum*, the fifth of those *Vespers* psalms, I am reminded of other times I've heard or sung them myself. Next time I hear *Laudate Dominum*, I shall enjoy being reminded of this performance. Eleanor Pennell-Briggs' soprano voice has a liquid agility that nourishes every note. Meanwhile, the accompanying choral forces took care to supply the harmony without ever being overpowering.

However easy they were for the listener, these classical-period works pose challenges for the singer. At some distance from the conductor, the basses and tenors did well to keep up with his faster tempi. Everyone had to contend with tricks

like tuning odd intervals in the many fugal passages, singing on the beat while the orchestra played off it, or vice versa, and at times, half the choir having to sing a whole movement a few beats behind the other half.

The opening Haydn motet *Insanae et Vanae Curae* was the only appearance of the main church organ, played by Peter Jaekel. He found some rich and sonorous colours during the outer sections. I always enjoy his playing, but the choir couldn't quite match his volume. They wisely had to keep enough in reserve for the longer pieces to follow.

Near the end of the *Nelson Mass* is a minor-key *Benedictus* movement, with martial trumpets and drums. I was glad to hear the sopranos still had the power to confidently scale past the top of the clef, wholly in the spirit of a 'time of troubles.' Likewise, the altos were prepared for some telling moments in the concluding movement of the Creed.

The other three soloists had less chance for display than the soprano. Gavin Horsley sang a prayerful *Qui tollis*, asking gently for Jesus' mercy. Beth Moxon demonstrated that she could keep projecting even at the lower realms of a mezzo's range. In brief solo moments, Paul Hopwood showed signs that he would be comfortable in an even larger venue than St Martin's Church. All showed delightful awareness of the others during ensemble moments.

The concert ended with Helen Phillips, the choir's chairman, thanking the audience for providing the motivation that prompted the musicians to put the effort in, taking great pains to make it sound easy. It was a duty I, and all in the building, were very happy to perform.

Nigel Williams

Photo: Epsom Choral Society at St Martin's Church. Credit Clive Richardson

Salts beaten by ten men

21 March 2025



Guildford City 1-0 Epsom and Ewell FC. Combined Counties League - Premier Division South. Wednesday 12th March.

We made the short journey to the Spectrum Football Ground on Wednesday to play out a 1-0 loss against Guildford who, despite having a player sent off just before half time, proved to be the better team over the 90 minutes.

The game started slowly with neither side really taking control in the opening 20 minutes, although Guildford registered their first shots which both went wide. The first shot on target for either team came in the 33rd minute when we lost the ball on the right flank in our own half, and after a poor clearance the ball came back in and was headed weakly to Sami Nabbad in goal for a simple catch.

This brought a small patch of intensity to the game for the next five minutes as Guildford had a shot from the edge of the box which ricocheted off the outside of our near post. It was now our turn to attack, which we did with good passing on the left wing between Luke Miller and Kionte Gillfillian-Waul who crossed for Jason Bloor to miss narrowly to the Guildford keeper Jacob Terry's right.

Almost on the stroke of half-time, a ball forward was claimed outside of the box by Terry under pressure from Bloor. This was deemed to be worthy of a red card by the ref after a brief discussion with his assistant which meant that Guildford would have to play the second half with ten men and that Alex Stingelin would replace Terry in goal as well.

Although Guildford had shaded the first half, having more possession and shots, I felt that we had the better chance in the second half with the man advantage. Our first impact in the second half was through a free kick that we were awarded after Bloor was fouled about 25 yards out. Miller took the free kick and it was saved low to Stingelin's right.

Their goal came in the 62nd minute when Darrell Jon-Peter spotted Nabbad off his line and lobbed the ball over him from 40 yards. This was one of their first decent chances of the half and also one of their last as we created more chances with the extra player. We made our first substitution at that time with Sean-Michael Anderson coming on for Niall Stillwell who had been given 60 minutes as a right winger.

We had another good chance on the 70-minute mark when Adam Green played a deep ball into the box which led to a shot that was deflected onto the bar and over. In the next 10 minutes we had good chances that weren't taken as we had two shots and two corners that didn't test Stingelin in goal

We made two more subs with Anthony Nazareth and Conrad Essilfie-Conduah replacing Stefan Aiwone and Craig Dundas respectively. We then needed to make a fourth substitution as a result of a high tackle on Nicholas Bostan who made way for Toby Young to make his first appearance in months after injury. The challenge earned itself a yellow card for Jon-Peter although a fan who was much closer than me said that he should have seen red for it.

From this point on we recorded several chances throughout the resultant ten additional minutes, with some shots on target and a couple that missed by a fair distance. We finished the stronger side but it wasn't enough to score against a defensively strong Guildford side who definitely earned their clean sheet from this game.

So where does this leave us? We are still in 18th place after our loss, four points clear of Balham with four games in hand. As we have played the joint lowest number of games in the league this season, we could still mathematically finish anywhere between 6th and 20th but with our last six games all being lost we are in bad form which must change.

Epsom & Ewell: Sami Nabbad, Ethan Brazier, Kionte Gillfillian-Waul, Adam Green (c), Stefan Aiwone, Nicolas Bostan, Niall Stillwell, Craig Dundas, Carl Oblitey, Jason Bloor, Luke Miller

Subs: Sean-Michael Anderson for Stillwell (63), Anthony Nazareth for Aiwone (78), Conrad Essilfie-Conduah for Dundas (81), Toby Young for Bostan (89)

Report Source: www.eefconline.co.uk

Reporter: Nathan Lambert

Epsom's World Mission Society Church of God response to social justice day

21 March 2025



February 20th, 2025, was a Thursday, but it was not just any Thursday—it was the **UN's World Day of Social Justice**. Many people are unaware of this important day, observed annually on February 20th, which aims to promote **equality, solidarity, and human rights**, while addressing **poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion**.

How is World Day of Social Justice Observed?

There are many ways to take part in this day, including:

- Learning and researching social justice issues
- Supporting organisations through donations, volunteering, or spreading awareness
- Engaging in community activities

For more ideas on how to observe the day, visit the Awareness Days website.

Volunteers in Epsom Take Action

On **Wednesday, 26th February**, a group of volunteers from Epsom put social justice into action at the **Nourish Hub**. The volunteers, from the **World Mission Society Church of God**, commemorated the day by **donating food and volunteering**. This initiative was part of a larger campaign called "**Hold Hope!**", which was carried out across **30 countries** to mark UN Social Justice Day.

The volunteers had been preparing for about a month. Initially unsure of what to donate, they obtained a **wish list** from the Nourish Hub and packed enough food for **15 to 20 families**. The **Nourish Hub staff** were extremely grateful, with the manager stating that the donation would significantly help in providing **nourishing meals**. The **deputy manager** was especially delighted, noting that the donation was almost equal to the food currently in stock.

What is the Nourish Hub?

The **Nourish Hub**, located in **Shepherd's Bush**, is run by **UKHarvest**, an environmental charity dedicated to **reducing food waste and promoting healthy eating**. The hub is also supported by **Hammersmith and Fulham Council** and provides an average of **200 meals per day** to those in need.

Across the UK, including in **Epsom and Surrey**, food banks are working tirelessly to support struggling individuals and families. Often, we don't give much thought to food banks, but **small donations can make a big difference**. As the saying goes, "**Every little helps.**"

Spreading Love and Raising Awareness

The volunteers wanted to **share love and raise awareness** of social justice, especially on this day. They found great fulfillment in helping others and hope their efforts inspire **you** to take action and support your local community.

The **Church of God**, which operates in **175 countries**, continues to engage in **diverse voluntary activities**. The **Epsom branch, located on East Street**, is planning more initiatives, including:

- **Donations to the Epsom & Ewell Foodbank**
- **Street clean-ups**
- **Help for the homeless**
- **Tree planting**
- **And more!**

Get Involved - Volunteering is Good for You!

Did you know that **volunteering is proven to improve well-being**? Helping others **boosts happiness and mental health**. If you have some free time, why not **get involved, make a difference, and brighten someone's day—along with your own?**

Joseph Adams

Local Choral group tackles global disruption

21 March 2025



In a world of disruption and disharmony, Ashtead Choral Society provided something of an antidote in our concert *Harmonies of Humanity* on 8 March at St Martin's Church in Epsom. More than a concert, this was an explosive and educational exploration of rhythms and harmonies from around the world.

Our audience may have felt nothing much had changed as we kicked off in traditional mode with 16th-century harmonies—but from a composer based in Mexico. Five magnificent and rarely heard pieces by the French composer Lili Boulanger combined French expressionism with exoticism and mysticism from the first female winner of the Prix de Rome composition. This begged the questions: *what might have been?*—from a composer who died at 24—and *what would she have made of International Women's Day*, which coincided with this concert?

We were delighted to be joined by the Percussion Ensemble of London, who treated our audience to an introduction to the 'kitchen department' with demonstrations of tuned and untuned percussion instruments. Who knew that, if hit too many times, the gong-like tam-tam would likely break the church windows?

The second half saw all these forces come together under musical director Dr Andrew Storey with the late David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*. Choir, percussion ensemble, lyric soprano soloist Madeleine Holmes, and pianist Steve Ridge wove in with recordings of music captured by the composer in the 1960s along the Nile River (masterminded from the sound desk by our own Chris Turner). The composer's intent was to celebrate one people under music, and *African Sanctus* was something to behold aurally and optically. I hope we provided some hope for and refuge from the unstable and volatile world that our audience returned to at the end of the evening.

We were delighted to receive a letter from David Fanshawe's wife, noting that he had studied under Boulanger's sister and knew the composer of the *Gospel Gloria*, Dillo Dilworth, which we performed twice—once as an encore. We were also delighted that so many of our audience took time to say how much they enjoyed a different approach to the traditional concert format, which included short talks and percussion demonstrations. And we were thrilled that a few audience members liked the evening so much they enquired about joining the choir.

With that in mind, we are recruiting new singers of all voice parts as we grow from a current 100 members to 120. We welcome those keen to join a choir that performs the big choral works with professional orchestras and top soloists.

If you are interested in joining, do come along to our free event on the morning of 22 March in Ashtead to experience singing with us and discover the work we will be tackling at our concert on 24 May: Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*.

www.ashteadchoralsociety.org

Vincent Desmond, Chair
Ashtead Choral Society

13th March 2025

21 March 2025

Education News

Surrey schools not swamped by private VAT escapees



10 March 2025

Figures released by Surrey County Council suggest that state secondary schools admissions have not been overrun with private school pupils after VAT was added to fees by the Labour government. ... [Read More](#)

Council Housing Planning

The Battle of Waterloo Road development



10 March 2025

The Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Planning Committee has unanimously rejected a controversial proposal for a 12-unit residential development on Waterloo Road. Councillors cited concerns over poor design, excessive height, ... [Read More](#)

Rugby Sports

Sutton & Epsom Win But Gravesend Earn Vital Points



9 March 2025

Sutton & Epsom RFC 33 Gravesend 28. Saturday 8th March. Gravesend were the final visitors to Rugby Lane for this campaign, though there are a couple of road trips for ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

Could Woking's debt be shared by you after reorganisation?



8 March 2025

Chris Caulfield of the BBC's Local Democracy Service brings us the latest twist in the awful Woking Borough Council debt

crisis. Its £2.1 billion debt accumulated under a Conservative administration ... [Read More](#)

Council Council constitution

An independent view on Epsom and Ewell Council's future



7 March 2025

Epsom and Ewell Times has invited representatives of The Residents Association, Liberal Democrats, Labour and Conservative Party to share their policies on local government reorganisation. But today we publish newly ... [Read More](#)

News Transport

Epsom Ranks Among Surrey's Best for Train Punctuality



7 March 2025

Epsom railway station has emerged as one of Surrey's most reliable stations for punctuality and service, faring significantly better than many other locations across the county. Despite serving three major ... [Read More](#)

Council Nature

Woodland Trust in Epsom and Ewell paradox



7 March 2025

The Woodland Trust (WT) has highlighted that Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (EEBC) is among the majority of local councils yet to declare a nature emergency or establish a dedicated ... [Read More](#)

Council Social care

Surrey's Cutting-Edge Respite for Families of complex-needs Adults



6 March 2025

A new £5.7million short breaks service providing much-needed respite for families caring for adults with additional needs is to be opened by Surrey County Council. Emily Lodge, located in Woking, ... [Read More](#)

Council Crime Policing

Epsom and Ewell Council Approves Public Spaces Protection Order for Borough-Wide Expansion



6 March 2025

The Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Crime and Disorder Committee has voted to recommend the adoption of a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) following a public consultation that showed ... [Read More](#)

Education News

Darts mathematics lesson for Epsom college students



6 March 2025

Nescot (North East Surrey College of Technology) College in Epsom, Surrey welcomed a trio of darts legends and MC, Paul Starr to the college Wednesday to inspire students and encourage them ... [Read More](#)

News Policing

Concerns over secretive policing include Surrey



6 March 2025

Surrey Police has been affected by a nationwide push by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) to influence responses to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, raising concerns about transparency in ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

Council Finances Under Strain as National Insurance Rises and Reorganisation Looms



6 March 2025

A new report from the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) has raised serious concerns about the financial sustainability of councils across England, including those in Surrey. The 2025 State of ... [Read More](#)

Community Council

Surrey taking care of your future care



6 March 2025

Residents in Surrey and surrounding areas are being invited to take part in the first ever Planning for Your Future Day aimed at helping people plan for the later life ... [Read More](#)

Council Council constitution

Local LibDem view on Epsom and Ewell Council's future



6 March 2025

Epsom and Ewell Times has invited representatives of The Residents Association, Liberal Democrats, Labour and Conservative Party to share their policies on local government reorganisation. Here is the second from ... [Read More](#)

An independent view on Epsom and Ewell Council's future

21 March 2025



Epsom and Ewell Times has invited representatives of The Residents Association, Liberal Democrats, Labour and Conservative Party to share their policies on local government reorganisation. But today we publish newly independent Councillor Alex Coley's viewpoint.

Devolution to the middle

Just before Christmas the government in Westminster announced it would be reorganising local government by abolishing the lower tier of councils like Epsom & Ewell, in the name of devolution. From Whitehall's perspective, power will be devolved down to new, larger unitary councils across much bigger geographic areas. From the perspective of residents power is going up, up and away. For balance, let's call it devolution to the middle.

Dissolution from the Ministry

There exists a patchwork quilt of small councils dotted across England like needlework, playing a unique role that dilutes and moderates the big, concentrated politics of national government. They represent the interests of local residents while collecting the bins, planning for housing and keeping the streets clean and tidy.

These councils and their councillors represent a range of political control that serves as the final layer of pluralist democracy with the greatest proximity to reality. The English don't like being 'done to' and the lower tier of councils which are closest to residents operate like a kind of natural filter against the sometimes harmful UV rays of Whitehall bright ideas. It's a kind of self-regulating eco-system that looks messy and manic under the microscope but serves an

important purpose in the good governance and democratic health of the nation.

Duopoly

The higher up you go with government the more it becomes a two party system. At the lower level, where residents experience local government most acutely, there's a huge range of political views openly held and discussed. Councillors are local people who live in the neighbourhood and know it really well and they know the local people really well too. Those local relationships are more important than the party flag.

That will be lost as the whole sector gets shrunk to a handful of people operating across much larger areas at a much higher level; as the obedient servants of one of two political parties. Soon, whole swathes of the country will be concentrated for or against the government of the day. There will be very visible winners and losers at each general election and no patchwork quilt to dilute and moderate the bright ideas which make for good headlines but poor outcomes.

Bigger is not always better

Are we heading for an American style two-party state with no spectrum of voices or views? Or will it be more like King John and the barons across 12 mayoralty strategic authorities; a conspiracy against the public?

I believe that three unitaries in Surrey could work. A lot will depend on retaining some plurality of political groups and an affinity between voters and their elected representatives that goes beyond a party flag. I welcome reformation, and change is a constant, but we must keep democracy close to the people at a local level. Bigger is not always better.

I've done considerable research on the options in THIS REPORT, which I hope your readers will take the opportunity to read.

Cllr Alex Coley

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Ruxley Ward Councillor

Related reports:

[Local Labour view on Epsom and Ewell Council's future](#)

[Local LibDem view on Epsom and Ewell Council's future](#)

Local LibDem view on Epsom and Ewell Council's future

21 March 2025



Epsom and Ewell Times has invited representatives of The Residents Association, Liberal Democrats, Labour and Conservative Party to share their policies on local government reorganisation. Here is the second from Cllr Julie Morris (College Ward) of the Liberal Democrat Party.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is a recurring theme in British politics. Government which is fit-for-purpose contributes to overall efficiency. Proportional Representation would be by far the best change central government could make toward this. However, the removal of two tier authorities is what we have to deal with and there are undoubtedly economies of scale to be had from the edict that Surrey should become two or possibly three unitary bodies, instead of one county council and eleven districts/boroughs.

It is really important to create new unitaries using current boundaries as far as possible. The logistics and costs of any other scenario are complex and could lengthen the process by years. Debt needs to be spread so that no new authority is immediately bankrupt (as some existing councils are heavily in debt) and, ideally, areas of wealth and deprivation should also be fairly distributed so that each new unitary begins life as both fair and financially viable. Amalgamating services such as refuse collection, recycling and disposal makes sense as for small boroughs the costs of energy-efficient collection vehicles are prohibitive and it's worth remembering that some councils already share staff such as legal, chief

executive, IT, etc. Working in partnership is not an entirely new thing, so amalgamation might be relatively straightforward in some areas. Redistributing services covered entirely by the existing county council could be the key to success in the eyes of local residents, and there are some sensitive areas here e.g. social services and education, to say nothing of potholes.

We do not as yet know the preference of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, and the Liberal Democrats in Surrey as far as I am aware have not yet come out in favour of any particular scenario. I personally favour three new unitaries over two, but I'm sure there is room for manoeuvre once the fuller picture is known. For Epsom, a new Town Council would probably find favour with local people. Even though it has limited power particularly when it comes to planning applications, it can do a good job of keeping residents informed and, most importantly, involved. This does nicely lead onto the tricky bit which is how to make sure residents themselves are not further disengaged from local politics (and politicians) and feel they have no say or contribution to make. Decisions taken many miles away and a local councillor who represents a much wider area could impact voter turnout (and apathy) even more. Only around 40% of the electorate currently vote in local elections anyway.

Cllr Julie Morris

Leader of the Liberal Democrat group

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Related reports:

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6th March 2025

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Council Housing

Epsom and Ewell appeal to owners of empty homes



4 March 2025

To mark National Empty Property Week, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (EEBC) is getting in touch with owners of properties that have been empty for more than two years, to try ... [Read More](#)

Business Community

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4 March 2025

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Local History News

Jekyll's Ashted garden plan can no longer hide



4 March 2025

Recently unearthed plans of an Ashted garden, designed by the renowned Gertrude Jekyll, have been donated to the Surrey History Centre. Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) of Munstead Wood, Godalming, is celebrated ... [Read More](#)

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Rugby Sports

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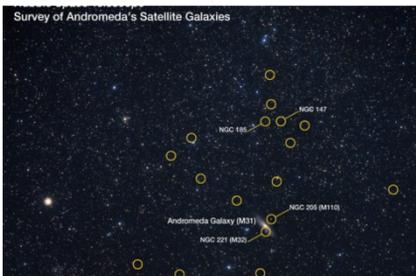


4 March 2025

Thurrock 28 Sutton & Epsom RFC 53. Saturday 1st March. Back in November, Thurrock were very unlucky to lose 33-29 at Rugby Lane as the mighty McTaggart crashed over for ... [Read More](#)

Education News

Surrey University boldy go to the next galaxy



2 March 2025

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Football Sports

Epsom & Ewell FC caught knapping at the end



2 March 2025

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Business News

THE STATION, IN STONELEIGH, REOPENS FOLLOWING MAJOR SIX-FIGURE INVESTMENT



1 March 2025

SPONSORED ARTICLE: Popular Stoneleigh pub, The Station, on The Broadway, has reopened to the public following an exciting six-figure renovation designed to revitalise the existing site and give it a ... [Read More](#)

Community Education

Nescot Students Celebrate Success at Epsom Downs Ceremony



28 February 2025

Ewell based Nescot College students marked the culmination of their hard work earlier this month at the institution's annual Higher Education (HE) Awards ceremony, held at Epsom Downs Racecourse on ... [Read More](#)

Council Council constitution

Local Labour view on Epsom and Ewell Council's future



28 February 2025

Epsom and Ewell Times has invited representatives of The Residents Association, Liberal Democrats, Labour and Conservative Party to share their policies on local government reorganisation. Here is the first from ... [Read More](#)

Business News

Epsom and Ewell Leads South East in Small Business Growth

Region	% Growth in Small Businesses (2023 to 2024) in the Region	Top Authority	Small business number 2023	Small business number 2024	% Growth in Small Businesses (2023 to 2024)
East Midlands	-1	Oadby and Wigston	2060	2155	4.61
East of England	0.4	Harlow	3215	3360	4.51
West Midlands	-1.35	Solihull	7815	8145	4.22
London	0.55	Camden	33930	35290	4.01
South East	-0.09	Epsom and Ewell	3470	3570	2.88
North West	-0.53	Fylde	3250	3330	2.46
South West	-0.24	Tewkesbury	4180	4280	2.39
Scotland	0.39	Na h-Eileanan Siar	1170	1195	2.14
Northern Ireland	0.85	Mid and East Antrim	4990	5085	1.9
Wales	-1.72	Isle of Anglesey	2610	2650	1.53
North East	-0.77	Stockton-on-Tees	5285	5350	1.23
Yorkshire and the Humber	-1.51	Kirklees	15070	15070	0

28 February 2025

Epsom and Ewell has emerged as the fastest-growing local authority in the South East of England for small businesses, according to new data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

Another Surrey Borough under financial strain



26 February 2025

"Hard" times are coming to Surrey Heath Borough Council residents as millions of pounds are being cut from services, with many reduced to minimum standards, as its bleak financial situation ... [Read More](#)

Council Environment

Surrey to get new recycling centre?



26 February 2025

Newspapers, cardboard, plastic bottles and tins of tuna could have a new home to go to in Surrey. Plans for a new recycling centre are on the cards on farmland ... [Read More](#)

THE STATION, IN STONELEIGH, REOPENS FOLLOWING MAJOR SIX-FIGURE INVESTMENT

21 March 2025



SPONSORED ARTICLE:

Popular Stoneleigh pub, The Station, on The Broadway, has reopened to the public following an exciting six-figure renovation designed to revitalise the existing site and give it a brand-new look and feel.

The Station closed its doors in January and is now reopening following completion of major works both inside and out, reaffirming the popular pub as a central community space.



The inside of the pub has received a complete makeover to create a modern, welcoming atmosphere with new refreshed décor and an open plan layout divided into zones for various occasions, including a cocktail area, a TV-free restaurant/dining area, and a sports bar, with plentiful TVs including ones situated in the new outdoor pergola.

Customers will find comfort and convenience at the pub with the new layout, including bookable booths and a champagne table, providing a cosy and private space to enjoy time with friends and family. The pub can cater to gatherings of varying sizes in its revamped function room and the refurbished toilets offer improved facilities for all.

Anna Carrier, General Manager of The Station said: “Our brilliant team at The Station, are excited to showcase our new and improved pub to the local community. We’re looking forward to welcoming both new and old customers!

“The renovation has given the pub a new lease of life, and we’re confident that customers will love our improved facilities, whether they’re looking for a drink with friends, a meal with the family, are booking a party, or enjoying a sporting event, there really is something for everyone!”

The stunning gardens have undergone a huge transformation too and now offer a variety of comfortable seating from booths, high seats to normal tables, along with mood lighting and heating. The outdoor areas now offer even more space for relaxation or to dine and drink with friends whilst watching the sport on new outdoor TVs.

The pub offers Sky and TNT Sports, showing all major matches throughout the year, so sports fans need never miss a second of the action. The venue is also registered on the Greene King Sport App for countless deals.

Alongside seasonal events, The Station will host a regular programme of activities, including bingo every Tuesday, Thursday quiz nights, and live entertainment every Friday.

The Station reopens with a delicious menu, with many deals including irresistible small plates, perfect for sharing, priced at three for £15, or five for £22.50. Plus, there is a dedicated kids’ menu, a Lunch Club menu, and a fabulous weekly Steak Thursday ensuring there’s plenty of variety for everyone to enjoy. A Sunday menu is also available serving traditional roasts for all the family.

The investment has provided multiple job opportunities to the local community and the pub team has grown, offering around 10 new jobs for locals.

The Station reopened on the 21 February and is located on The Broadway, Stoneleigh, Epsom, KT17 2JA. For more information visit: <https://www.greeneking.co.uk/pubs/surrey/station>

Local Labour view on Epsom and Ewell Council's future

21 March 2025



Epsom and Ewell Times has invited representatives of The Residents Association, Liberal Democrats, Labour and Conservative Party to share their policies on local government reorganisation. Here is the first from Cllr Kate Chinn (Court Ward) of the Labour Party.

The government has directed a total reorganisation for two-tier local authority areas across the whole country. This was planned by the previous government and outlined in the Labour manifesto. Surrey County Council will cease to exist and will be divided up into, what Surrey Labour Party hopes, will be three unitary authorities.

Labour in Surrey has long argued that twelve councils, twelve civic centres or town halls, with twelve chief executives and a top-heavy administration is not the most economical way to deliver essential services. Small boroughs all with their own legal teams, revenue teams, housing teams, procurement staff—all duplicating roles unnecessarily. On completing the process, unitary authorities will soon start making efficiency savings.

Surrey Labour has been discussing for years how unitary authorities could be most effectively organised to best serve the residents of Surrey. Unlike the Liberal Democrats, who are hardly engaging, or the independents, burying their heads in the sand and calling for elections to be held in 2025, as did some council ruling groups. How they can claim good financial management whilst wanting an unnecessary election to go ahead makes no sense. Wasting taxpayers' money on a soon-to-be irrelevance would be unforgivable.

Surrey Labour has embraced the process, made a case for three unitary authorities, and carefully examined how they could be organised, taking into account the guidance from the white paper:

- **Sensible economic geographies**
- **Travel to work areas**
- **The ability for local residents to engage and hold their devolved institutions to account**

The Case for Three Unitary Authorities

We believe that there is an overwhelming case for three councils based on existing geography, taking into account expected population growth and recognising the political, economic, and social challenges faced by the county.

Surrey is to be divided into unitary authorities (UAs), with the government suggesting a **population of 500,000 or more** as ideal but recognising that there *may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area*. The population of Surrey is **1.25 million**, which implies **two or three authorities**.

Dividing Surrey into two UAs would mean both would be oversized and geographically challenged in an area of anticipated population growth, whereas three would be initially undersized. The likely divisions would be:

- **Two UAs** - (East/West) - as proposed by the Conservatives
- **Three UAs** - (North/South-West/South-East) - as proposed by Labour and supported by all the boroughs and districts

Proposed Unitary Authorities

With service delivery to residents being the most important issue, we suggest the following councils:

Middlesex-Surrey Borders

- Elmbridge, Spelthorne & Runnymede
- **Population:** 334,000

Surrey Hills

- Guildford, Surrey Heath, Woking & Waverley
- **Population:** 478,000

North Downs

- Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, and Tandridge
- **Population:** 416,000

These names and details are **provisional** and will be decided later. However, they best fit geographically and population-wise.

All these areas would have much stronger geographical links and community ties than the larger, two-unitary authority model. While all three are under the government's ideal **500,000 population** threshold, Surrey Hills is closer to that figure, and all are areas of **population growth**.

These three UAs could provide a more **local and focused** delivery of key services, ensuring better support for **adult social care and SEND needs**, both priorities for Surrey. It would give greater clarity for residents, with one authority being responsible for all local services. Service delivery would be **more efficient, more accountable, and free from disputes** over which council has responsibility in an area.

Local Voices Must Be Heard

It is essential to establish a close relationship between Surrey County and district councillors in shaping their new unitary authorities as they are formulated. The reorganisation process must not descend into factional disagreements but remain **focused on communities and democratic engagement** at a local level.

Other unitary councils, such as London boroughs, often have **local committees** to represent community views. Boroughs and districts in Surrey should now begin **engaging residents**, examining the options, and organising forums to ensure local voices are represented in the new UAs.

Conclusion

The devolution offer in the white paper suggests a **Surrey Mayor**, offering **priorities for funding that suit their areas** and providing **strategic leadership**. This could positively impact key Surrey priorities, including:

- **Skills and employment**
- **More housing**
- **Increased local investment**
- **Making Britain a clean energy superpower**

Surrey's approaches to neighbouring areas for a joint strategic mayor have not been successful.

A **Surrey Mayor** would automatically represent an area that aligns with the **current police and crime commissioner** and the **Surrey Fire and Rescue Service boundaries**, as envisaged by the white paper's goal of "**reforming and joining up public services**".

Overall, we believe that our **three-unitary authority model** will best serve the needs of Surrey residents going forward.

Much of this is based on previous contributions by **Robert Evans & Arran Neathey (2019)**, **Cllr Catherine Powell (2025)**, **Tony Rooth & Michael Moriarty**, with additional input from **Cllr Robert King**, but it does not necessarily represent all of their individual views.

Cllr Kate Chinn

Leader of the Labour Group

February 2025

27th February 2025

21 March 2025

Business Local History Planning

An Epsom 17th century pub to become supermarket?



26 February 2025

A 17th century pub could be transformed into a Sainsbury's Local. Plans have been submitted to refurbish the Grade II-listed drinking establishment, on Dorking Road in Epsom, to a convenience ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

What Epsom could do with Woking's £75 million bail out?



26 February 2025

Critical front-line services will be spared after a huge government 'bail out' was agreed, bankrupt Woking Borough Council has said. Officially referred to as Exceptional Financial Support for local authorities, ... [Read More](#)

Business Council

Poundland saving itself pennies in Elmbridge



26 February 2025

Poundland has been told to "show some local pride" and repair its broken shop front window and remove the graffiti from its East Molesey store. The low-price chain, which serves ... [Read More](#)

Community Letters Local History

Epsom's Horton Cemetery gets attention of two kinds



24 February 2025

Just as The Epsom and Ewell Times was about to publish a letter concerning Council efforts to tidy and make safer the boundaries of Horton Cemetery (Hook Road / Horton ... [Read More](#)

Community News Volunteers

Epsom Stands in Solidarity with Ukraine on War's Third

Anniversary

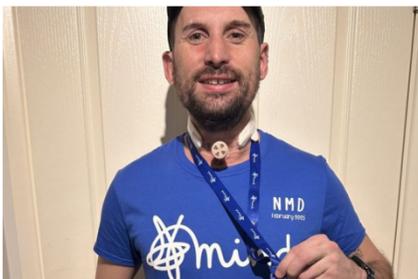


22 February 2025

Epsom's Market Place was a scene of unity and reflection today as residents, dignitaries, and members of the Ukrainian community gathered to mark the third anniversary (24th February) of Russia's ... [Read More](#)

Community Health

Epsom Man's 56-Mile Walk to Raise Mental Health Awareness



21 February 2025

A local Epsom resident, Nicholas Mark Dulake, is set to complete an extraordinary challenge this Sunday, 23rd February 2025, as he concludes a 56-mile walk in aid of the mental ... [Read More](#)

Education Health News

Surrey Uni Zebrafish Study Links Blood Pressure Drug to Potential ADHD Treatment



20 February 2025

A commonly prescribed blood pressure medication could offer a safer alternative for treating ADHD symptoms, according to a new study involving the University of Surrey. The findings suggest that amlodipine, ... [Read More](#)

Epsom's Horton Cemetery gets attention of two kinds

21 March 2025



Just as **The Epsom and Ewell Times** was about to publish a letter concerning Council efforts to tidy and make safer the

boundaries of Horton Cemetery (Hook Road / Horton Lane) a motor car struck railings near the roundabout and knocked over the Memorial to the near 9000 patients buried and neglected in the privately owned 5 acre cemetery.

Surrey Police issued a statement: "We were called to Horton Lane, Ewell at around 7:10pm on Wednesday 19 February after reports of a single vehicle collision at the location. Officers responded and found that the collision had resulted in damage to a fence and cemetery stone. The driver was not arrested and did not require medical treatment."



It is understood that Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is responsible for the Memorial after former Labour Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, **Alan Carlson**, raised the money for its installation through a public appeal in 2004.

The charity The Friends of Horton Cemetery continues its campaign to restore the Cemetery to community ownership following the bizarre NHS transfer of the asset to a property speculator in 1983. **Michael Heighes** of Marque Securities has taken away the tombstones and all the crosses on each grave have gone. The cemetery is barely recognisable as a cemetery and relatives cannot enter without trespassing.

Recently, the Charity has made a submission to the Law Commission, which is considering reforms to cemetery law. It has submitted that the opportunity to update the laws should include a duty to maintain and allow access to cemeteries in private hands.

The charity has also sent a letter to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council in connection with the current Local Plan arguing any development of neighbouring **Horton Farm** for housing should seek developer's funds for the restoration of the Cemetery as an amenity of peace and remembrance open to the public.

Mr **Lionel Blackman**, Secretary of the Charity, said "The existence of the largest asylum cemetery in Europe is not going to disappear. With relatives coming forward every week and our research team publishing the lives of over 600 patients so far, it is only a matter of time and whichever local government takes over, that action will redress this historic outrage."

Sam Jones - Reporter

Letter from Matthew Walters, Epsom.

Dear Sir,

I would like to draw attention to recent developments concerning Horton Cemetery in West Ewell, Epsom.

For many years, concerns have been raised about the lack of respect shown to the 9,000 individuals buried there, whose graves are no longer marked. More recently, attention has also turned to the safety risks for road users on the busy Hook Road.

Until yesterday, the grass verge alongside the cemetery was largely inaccessible due to overgrown brambles and tree branches extending from the cemetery, as well as significant fly-tipping, including building waste.

It is therefore welcome news that Surrey County Council and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council have worked together to clear the area, improving both its appearance and safety, as evidenced in the accompanying photographs.

While the decision to classify Horton Cemetery and its 9,000 graves as an "amenity woodland" remains a point of contention, the recent clearance has ensured that the surroundings are now more in keeping with a cemetery. However, the public should be aware that sections of the perimeter railings remain unsafe, with some sharp railings protruding towards Hook Road at dangerous angles, none of which are currently marked with hazard tape.

Falling branches from trees inside the cemetery continue to pose a risk to road users, and it is hoped that Surrey County Council will monitor this issue and take necessary action, as indicated in previous communications.

In the meantime, cyclists, motorcyclists, and motorists should exercise caution when travelling along Hook Road near the cemetery. Furthermore, steps should be taken to ensure that the cost of maintaining overgrown vegetation from within the cemetery does not fall upon Council Tax payers.

Horton Cemetery remains in private ownership by a property developer, and the recent clearance now allows for greater visibility into the site. This presents an opportunity for the public to assess whether greater care and respect should be afforded to those buried there.

Out of sight should not mean out of mind.

Yours faithfully,

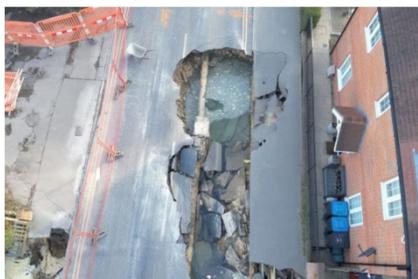
Matthew Walters

20th February 2025

21 March 2025

News Transport

Surrey sink-hole major incident



19 February 2025

A significant sinkhole has emerged on Godstone High Street in Surrey, leading to evacuations and widespread disruptions. The incident began on Monday night when a section of the road collapsed, ... [Read More](#)

Council Housing Planning

Councillor thinks new Ewell homes refusal is batty



18 February 2025

Plans for four new homes in Ewell have been refused over bats potentially living in the two bungalows. Although one survey was done, councillors could not rule out there were ... [Read More](#)

Rugby Sports

Sutton and Epsom Soar in Nine-Try Extravaganza



17 February 2025

Sutton & Epsom RFC 59 Dartfordians 20. Saturday 15th February. 1988, the first league season, was when Dartfordians last visited Rugby Lane on the final day of the season. On ... [Read More](#)

Football Sports

Epsom and Ewell FC win for correspondent's 2000th match



17 February 2025

Epsom and Ewell 2-1 Abbey Rangers. Combined Counties League - Premier Division South. Saturday 15th February. Richard Lambert, both a dedicated fan of Epsom and Ewell FC, a club historian ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council: Financial Crisis or Manageable Deficit?



15 February 2025

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is under increasing scrutiny following the resignation of Councillor Alex Coley (Independent Ruxley Ward) from the ruling Residents' Association (RA) group. His resignation letter cites ... [Read More](#)

Local History

The Plot of Gunpowder in Worcester Park



14 February 2025

Unearthing History: Worcester Park's Gunpowder Mills Rediscovered For centuries, the quiet banks of the Hogsmill River at Old Malden Lane, Worcester Park, concealed a remarkable piece of Surrey's industrial past. ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

Ex-Council Officers under investigation for Woking's £2 billion debt



13 February 2025

Two former officers at Woking Borough Council are being investigated over their roles in Woking Borough Council's bankruptcy. The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has confirmed that it is looking into ... [Read More](#)

Council News

Prominent Residents Association Councillor leaves the fold



13 February 2025

Councillor Alex Coley, who has represented Ruxley Ward in Ewell for seven years, has announced his resignation from the ruling Residents' Association (RA) group, opting to serve as an Independent ... [Read More](#)

News Policing

Epsom complainant changes Surrey police procedure



13 February 2025

Surrey Police Accepts Recommendation to Improve Retention of Body-Worn Video Evidence in Complaints Surrey Police has agreed to implement a key recommendation from the Office of the Police and Crime ... [Read More](#)

Council Environment

Surrey County Council's Climate Change Progress: Successes, Setbacks, and the Road Ahead



13 February 2025

Surrey County Council (SCC) has made notable strides in its efforts to combat climate change, cutting its own carbon emissions by 38% since 2019. However, despite significant progress, challenges remain, ... [Read More](#)

13th February 2025

21 March 2025

Council Finances

Epsom & Ewell Full Council Meeting: Budget Approved Amid Debate



12 February 2025

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council held a full council meeting on 11 February 2025, where key issues, including the approval of the council's budget, the mayor's upcoming engagements, and urgent ... [Read More](#)

Business Council

Funding for new apprenticeships now available to Surrey businesses



11 February 2025

Businesses can grow their workforce and boost productivity in just a few clicks by getting an apprenticeship funded by Surrey County Council. As part of the Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Scheme, ... [Read More](#)

Council Council constitution

Mega Surrey council ruled out as leader says it would 'lack accountability'



11 February 2025

Council leaders across Surrey have ruled out making the county a single mega authority. The agreement was reached during a meeting on February 7, attended by leaders from all eleven ... [Read More](#)

Environment News Transport

Surrey leading the shout: "Keep the noise down will you!"



11 February 2025

An interdisciplinary network of engineers, policymakers, industry stakeholders and social scientists, led by the University of Surrey, will take on one of the UK's most overlooked environmental challenges: noise pollution. ... [Read More](#)

Council Council constitution Finances

Epsom & Ewell Council not much in the red but too much in the pink!

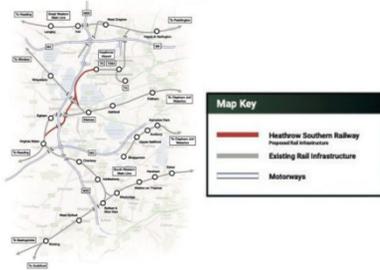


11 February 2025

Governance Failing Exposed by External Audit Findings The Audit and Scrutiny Committee of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council convened on 6th February 2025, where the External Audit Report by Grant ... [Read More](#)

News Transport

Surrey's new rail link to Heathrow?



11 February 2025

Plans for a new railway connecting Surrey to Heathrow and beyond have resurfaced as the track's backers welcomed government support for a third runway at the airport. The line, called ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

Guildford Borough Council keeps its lights on



8 February 2025

A Surrey council may have "kept the lights on" and balanced the budget this year but trouble could be looming. The pessimistic warning came during the budget meeting as councillors ... [Read More](#)

Council Environment

Surrey's flood defences and energy efficiency funding



8 February 2025

Funding for Surrey's climate change programme has been reinstated after the county council received £1.5m more in government grants than it was expecting. Surrey's Greener Future's programme is a climate change ... [Read More](#)

Council Housing Planning

Mole Valley setting a green belt development trend?



8 February 2025

Up to 200 new homes will be built on former green belt land despite fears they could overwhelm the already strained sewage system. Mole Valley District Council's planning committee approved ... [Read More](#)

Business Education Environment

Surrey Uni leads research to replace plastic with paper for liquids



8 February 2025

A multimillion-pound research project, called SustaPack, aims to overcome manufacturing challenges for the next generation of sustainable, paper-based packaging for liquids. Backed by a £1 million grant from the Engineering ... [Read More](#)

Council Elections News

Elections Delayed as Surrey Faces Uncertain Future of Local Government Shake-Up



7 February 2025

Surrey residents will have to wait an extra year to vote in the county elections following the government's decision to postpone the polls from May 2025 to May 2026. The ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

Surrey mansion tax debated at County Council



6 February 2025

Plans for 'those with the broadest shoulders' to voluntarily pay more council tax to help those in need have been labelled 'morally corrupt' in a heated debate. The idea is ... [Read More](#)

Community News

Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell Delivers Crucial Support Amid Rising Cost-of-Living Pressures



6 February 2025

Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell (CAEE) has revealed the scale of its impact over the past year, with thousands of local residents receiving support on a range of pressing financial ... [Read More](#)

Council Elections

Political furies over Surrey election postponement



5 February 2025

Rival political parties are furious over the cancellation of Surrey's 2025 county council elections, with groups claiming the ruling Conservatives are "running scared". The government announced on Wednesday (February 5) ... [Read More](#)