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

19th November 2026

ISSN 2753-2771

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

13 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**

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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

13 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

13 March 2025

Education News

Surrey schools not swamped by private VAT escapees

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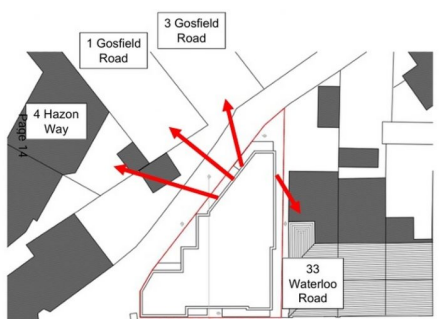


10 March 2025

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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Local LibDem view on Epsom and Ewell Council’s future



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An independent view on Epsom and Ewell Council’s future

13 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

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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

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13 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 refusal 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.

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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

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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

Toyota Epsom donates electric carriers to local hospital



4 March 2025

Epsom HQ based Toyota UK has strengthened its support for the local community by providing two Proace battery-electric people carriers to the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People (QEF). The … Read More

Local History News

Jekyll's Ashtead garden plan can no longer hide



4 March 2025

Recently unearthed plans of an Ashtead 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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Education News

Epsom Schools Lead the Way in Pioneering Mobile Phone Pilot



4 March 2025

Glyn School and Rosebery School in Epsom are at the forefront of a groundbreaking initiative aimed at tackling smartphone distractions in the classroom. The schools, both part of the GLF … Read More

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Sutton & Epsom rugby’s thorough victory

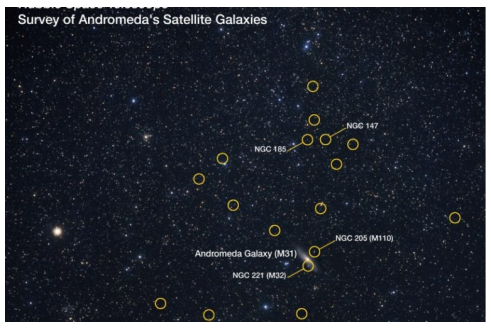


4 March 2025

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

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Surrey University boldy go to the next galaxy



2 March 2025

A collaboration of more than 30 international institutions, including the University of Surrey, has observed vast differences in the dynamic ecosystem of smaller satellite galaxies orbiting our neighbour galaxy, Andromeda. … Read More

Football Sports

Epsom & Ewell FC caught knapping at the end

2 March 2025

Knaphill 2-1 Epsom and Ewell FC. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Saturday 1st March. At half time at Knaphill’s Redding Way ground, we led 1-0 after one of … Read More

Business News

THE STATION, IN STONELEIGH, REOPENS FOLLOWING

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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

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28 February 2025

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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,

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according to new data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) … Read More

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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

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

13 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.

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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

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Local Labour view on Epsom and Ewell Council’s future

13 March 2025

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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

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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

13 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-

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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

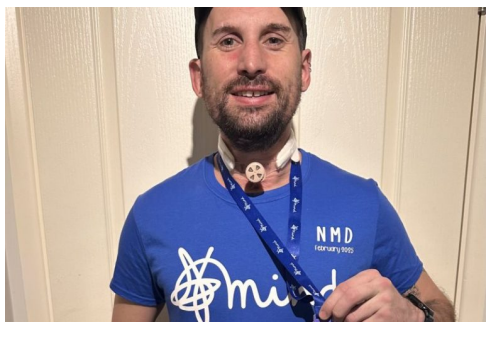
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Epsom Man’s 56-Mile Walk to Raise Mental Health Awareness



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

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Epsom’s Horton Cemetery gets attention of two kinds

13 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.”

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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

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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,

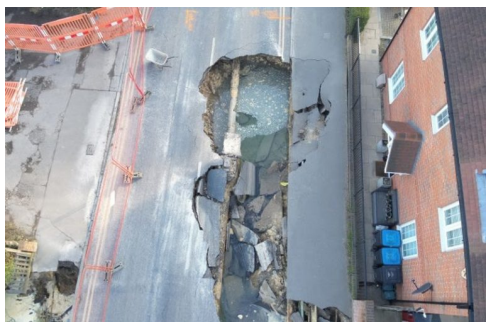
Matthew Walters

20th February 2025

13 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

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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

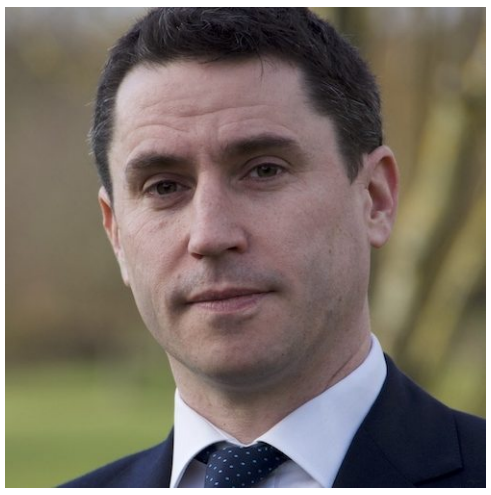
Prominent Residents Association Councillor leaves the fold

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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

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13th February 2025

13 March 2025

Council Finances

Epsom & Ewell Full Council Meeting: Budget Approved Amid Debate



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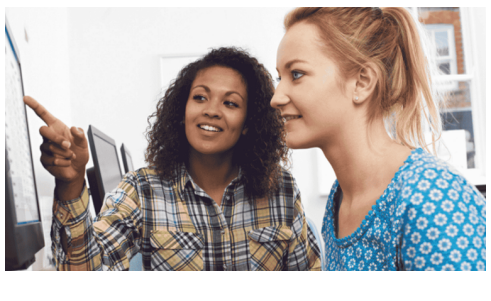
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12 February 2025

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

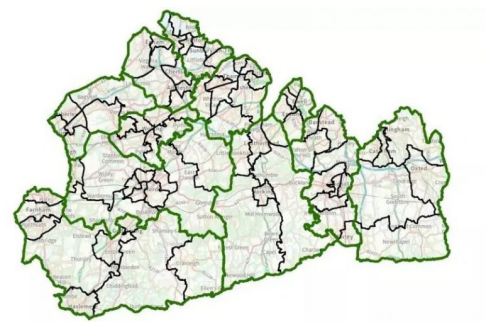


11 February 2025

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

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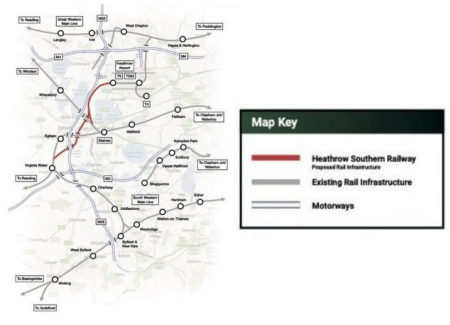
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Governance Failing Exposed by External Audit Findings The Audit and Scrutiny Committee of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council convened on 6th February 2025, where the External Audit Report by Grant … Read More

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

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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

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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

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6th February 2024

13 March 2025

Council Elections News

Surrey County Council election delay stirring up a storm



5 February 2025

Surrey County Council Elections Postponed Until 2026 Amid Local Government Reforms In a significant move reflecting the evolving landscape of local governance in England, the British government has decided to … Read More

News Policing

Surrey Police hikes its Council tax share



5 February 2025

Surrey Police's share of council tax bills will leap over £335 a year for the average Band D households. Lisa Townsend, Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) said the 4.3 … Read More

Arts Education Transport

Young Artists Brighten Up Tattenham Corner Station



4 February 2025

Passengers at Tattenham Corner station will soon be welcomed by a brand-new display of artwork, thanks to a creative collaboration between local students and The Arts Society Epsom. Led by … Read More

Crime News

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Criminal car park QR codes wrong on many levels



4 February 2025

Fake QR codes, used to scam motorists into giving away their bank and card details, have been found in Guildford car parks. The scam codes have been placed on payment … Read More

Council Finances Planning

Planning a house extension in Epsom and Ewell? A hard lesson from Waverley



4 February 2025

A man who was charged £70,000 by a Surrey council said it was a “watershed moment” to be given recognition of his struggle and the right to appeal. A couple … Read More

Rugby Sports

Epic comeback against Sutton & Epsom RFC a fitting end

3 February 2025

Medway 32 Sutton & Epsom RFC 31. Saturday 1st February. It was an emotional Saturday at Priestfields as the hosts had suffered the tragic passing of their cherished groundsman Mel … Read More

Crime Policing

Online Fraud in Epsom & Ewell: Call for an Online Crime Agency



2 February 2025

Online fraud, particularly through fake retail websites, has become a significant issue both nationally and within our local community of Epsom & Ewell. Recent data underscores the pressing need for … Read More

Business News

Epsom & Ewell households drowning as water bills rise?

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2 February 2025

Epsom & Ewell Residents Face Sharp Water Bill Hike as Regional Disparities Emerge From April 2025, households in Epsom & Ewell will see a substantial increase in water bills, with … Read More

Football Sports

Epsom and Ewell FC strike back for draw

2 February 2025

Sheerwater 2-2 Epsom and Ewell. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Saturday 1st February. Two second half goals enabled us to earn a 2-2 draw and break a five … Read More

Council Council constitution Editorial

What might local government reorganisation mean for Epsom and Ewell?

31 January 2025

As Surrey faces a significant overhaul of its local government structure, residents of Epsom and Ewell are rightfully concerned about the potential financial repercussions. The proposed reorganisation may lead to … Read More

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Will Epsom and Ewell be bailing out Woking?



31 January 2025

Debt-ridden Woking Borough Council has approved the sale of two more assets as it continues slashing its way to a balanced budget. The bankrupt authority, with debts of more than … Read More

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Will Epsom and Ewell be bailing out Guildford?

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31 January 2025

A Surrey council faces tough decisions in the future after receiving a “very difficult financial settlement from the government”. Guildford Borough Council has no extra funding to meet inflation and … Read More

Council Finances

Will Epsom and Ewell be bailing out Spelthorne?



31 January 2025

“Significant weaknesses” in a council’s financial records have been laid bare in a new report. External auditors for Spelthorne Borough Council said they could not fully assess or complete the … Read More

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What might local government reorganisation mean for Epsom and Ewell?

13 March 2025

As Surrey faces a significant overhaul of its local government structure, residents of Epsom and Ewell are rightfully concerned about the potential financial repercussions. The proposed reorganisation may lead to two unitary authorities that merge the county’s 11 borough and district councils, a move intended to streamline services and reduce administrative costs. However, this consolidation raises pressing questions about fiscal responsibility and the equitable distribution of debt, particularly for boroughs like Epsom and Ewell that have historically maintained prudent financial practices.

The Financial Landscape of Surrey’s Boroughs

The Epsom and Ewell Times has just published three reports detailing the financial woes of three councils within Surrey that are grappling with substantial debts resulting from ambitious investment strategies.

- **Woking Borough Council** declared effective bankruptcy in 2023, burdened by debts exceeding £2 billion due to failed investments in large-scale projects. The council has since been compelled to implement severe austerity measures, including significant tax increases, service closures, and asset sales.
- **Spelthorne Borough Council** faces over £1 billion in debt from investments in commercial properties. A recent audit revealed “significant weaknesses” in financial record-keeping, inadequate plans to address looming budget gaps, and concerns over governance and internal culture.
- **Guildford Borough Council** is confronting a challenging financial future, with projected budget gaps escalating to £5.9 million by 2028/29. The council has acknowledged the need for cost reductions and increased income to manage these pressures.

Epsom and Ewell’s Prudent Financial Management

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In contrast, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has consistently balanced its budgets or been able to use reserves to meet its obligations, demonstrating fiscal discipline and effective financial stewardship. This prudent management has enabled the council to maintain most services and infrastructure without accruing unsustainable debt levels.

The Justice of Debt Redistribution

The proposed reorganisation raises a critical question: Is it just for residents of financially prudent boroughs like Epsom and Ewell to assume responsibility for the substantial debts incurred by other councils? Merging councils into larger unitary authorities could lead to a pooling of assets *and liabilities*, potentially obliging Epsom and Ewell's residents to contribute to servicing debts they had no part in accumulating.

This scenario not only challenges principles of fiscal fairness but also risks penalising councils that have exercised sound financial management. It is imperative to consider whether it is equitable for residents to bear the financial burdens resulting from the mismanagement of neighbouring authorities.

Calls for Government Intervention

Recognising the potential injustice, Surrey County Council's leader, Councillor Tim Oliver, has advocated for central government to write off the significant debts of councils like Woking before proceeding with devolution plans. This approach aims to mitigate the financial risks associated with high debt levels and prevent the unfair distribution of financial burdens across the county. How likely is it that a Labour Government will write off a debt accumulated by Woking under its previous Conservative led Council?

The Path Forward

As discussions about local government reorganisation progress, it is crucial to ensure that any new structures are underpinned by principles of fiscal responsibility and equity. Potential solutions include:

- **Debt Segregation:** Isolating the debts of heavily indebted councils to prevent them from being transferred to newly formed unitary authorities.
- **Government Debt Relief:** Advocating for central government intervention to alleviate or write off unsustainable debts, ensuring that the financial missteps of certain councils do not adversely impact the entire county.
- **Transparent Financial Assessments:** Conducting comprehensive financial evaluations of all councils involved in the reorganisation to inform fair and equitable decision-making.

The proposed reorganisation of Surrey's local government presents an opportunity to enhance efficiency and service delivery at the cost of Borough based democracy. However, it also necessitates careful consideration of the financial implications for all residents. Epsom and Ewell's community, having benefited from prudent financial management, should not be unduly burdened by the debts of other councils. It is incumbent upon policymakers to design a reorganisation framework that upholds fiscal justice, ensuring that the residents of Epsom and Ewell are not unfairly disadvantaged in the pursuit of broader administrative reforms.

Related reports:

All change! Epsom and Ewell Borough Council approaching its final stop?

Surrey's Conservative leader wants to postpone May's poll reckoning

Tiers to be shed if Epsom and Ewell loses its Borough Council?

30th January 2025

13 March 2025

Council Finances

Surrey County tax increase vote

Valuation band	Core precept	ASC precept	Overall precept
A	£1,039.83	£191.07	£1,230.90
B	£1,213.13	£222.92	£1,436.05
C	£1,386.44	£254.76	£1,641.20
D	£1,559.74	£286.61	£1,846.35
E	£1,906.35	£350.30	£2,256.65
F	£2,252.96	£413.99	£2,666.95
G	£2,599.57	£477.68	£3,077.25
H	£3,119.48	£573.22	£3,692.70

29 January 2025

A council tax hike could be hitting Surrey as members take the first look at the county's budget. Residents could see a maximum increase of 4.99 per cent on council … Read More

News Transport

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Heathrow expansion reaction



29 January 2025

Heathrow has been given the go ahead to press forward with plans for third runway that will bring in hundreds of thousands of extra flights to the West London airport … Read More

News Westminster

Parliament’s sting in the tail for Epsom and Ewell WASPIs lamented by local MP



29 January 2025

Helen Maguire, the Liberal Democrat MP for Epsom & Ewell, has expressed her disappointment after a parliamentary vote on compensating WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) claimants failed to gain … Read More

Council Local History

Heritage at the heart of Epsom and Ewell


EPSOM & EWELL TIMES

Heritage hot seat goes to ex art student with strange hobbies

It’s true!

Alex got there first.

I only put my name on the list because it was the only thing that I had some idea about.

The next day, he called me and said “Please do it Kim.” I said I would, to the best of my ability.

SPICKETT: “I THOUGHT IT LOOKED INTERESTING”

COLEY: “MADAM, THAT HAT IS SACRED!”

28 January 2025

The Licensing and Planning Policy Committee (LPPC) of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council convened on January 23rd, to address several key issues, including the annual Heritage Champion’s statement, fees and … Read More

Rugby Sports

Sutton and Epsom rugby away win



26 January 2025

SIDCUP 24 SUTTON & EPSOM RFC 34. Saturday 25th January. Crescent Farm has produced a bounteous harvest this season with a maximum crop yield of 35 points from a magnificent … Read More

Council Finances

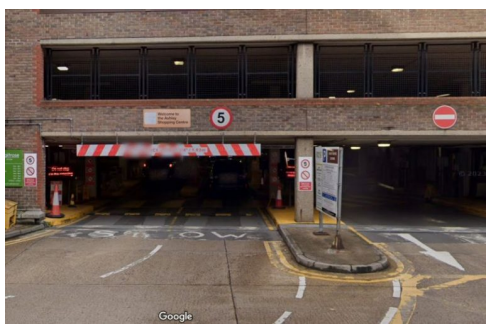
Epsom and Ewell car parking fees on new levels

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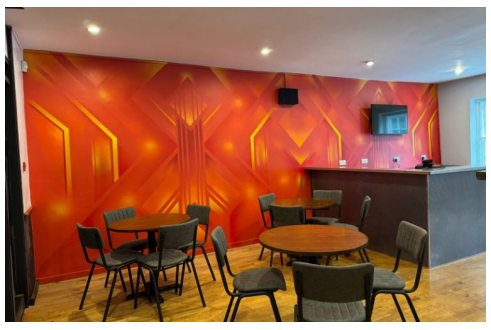


24 January 2025

Epsom and Ewell Council Approves Changes to Car Parking Fees and Policies for 2025/26 In a meeting of the Environment Committee on 21 January 2025, councillors approved a series of … Read More

Arts News

New artwork takes centre stage at Epsom Playhouse



24 January 2025

During January two new murals were completed at Epsom Playhouse. The murals are part of a series of vibrant public art installations across the borough. Championing the 40-year history of … Read More

Environment News Transport

“Blocks away” from airport expansions



24 January 2025

So called “blockers” to major transport projects will be cleared in a move that looks set to curb challenges to Heathrow and Gatwick Airport expansions, the Government has announced. The … Read More

News Science Transport

Surrey Uni making self-driving cars safer



23 January 2025

With self-driving cars expected to hit British roads next year (2026), a new motion forecasting framework developed by the University of Surrey and Fudan University, China, promises to make autonomous … Read More

Arts Council Finances

Epsom Playhouse £1.50 per ticket fee from 1st April

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23 January 2025

The Epsom Playhouse will now charge an additional £1.50 facility fee per ticket as of the 1st April 2025. During its meeting on the 16th January 2025, the Community and … Read More

Football Sports

Epsom and Ewell’s 11 to 9 win 1 to 0

22 January 2025

Epsom and Ewell 1-0 Spelthorne Sports. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Tuesday 21st January 2025. It was hard not to feel sorry for the visiting Spelthorne Sports team … Read More

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23rd January 2025

13 March 2025

Education News

Parents lose trust in Surrey state “school family” admission priority



22 January 2025

A Surrey suburb is up in arms as an ‘oustanding’ secondary school could change its admissions, making it more tricky for local children to get a place. Consultation for the … Read More

Rugby Sports

Sutton & Epsom RFC just fail to mount comeback

21 January 2025

SUTTON & EPSOM RFC 42 OLD TIFFINIANS 46. Saturday 18th January. Sutton and Epsom started this campaign with a rollicking runaway win over Old Colfeians. Since then the Rugby Lane … Read More

Housing News Planning

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New homes planned for Ashtead

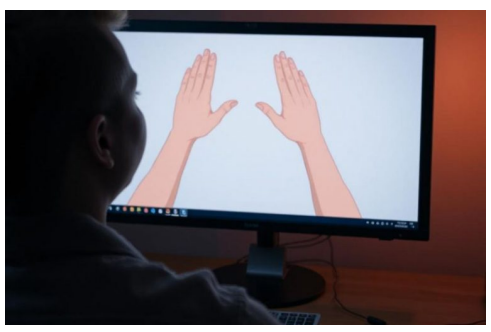


21 January 2025

Hundreds of new homes could be built in Ashtead if newly submitted plans to Mole Valley District Council are approved. Wates Developments and its partners, Vistry Group, have submitted outline … Read More

Community Education

Surrey Uni to lead on speech to sign GBT computer programme



21 January 2025

A large-language model (LLM) built to meet the needs of the Deaf community, translating between signed and spoken language, is the aim of a new project led by the University … Read More

Community Health

Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust Calls Out Delays to New Hospital Programme



21 January 2025

The long-awaited specialist emergency care hospital for southwest London and Surrey has faced yet another setback following the Government’s announcement about delays to the national New Hospital Programme. Epsom and … Read More

Football Sports

Epsom & Ewell FC knocked out by narrow loss

21 January 2025

VCD Athletic 1-0 Epsom and Ewell FC. Isuzu F.A. Vase – Fourth Round. Saturday 18th January. After four home wins in the competition, we departed the F.A. Vase in our … Read More

Arts Culture

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Epsom Jazz Club Brings Top Talent to Town

18 January 2025

Epsom is swinging to the sound of jazz, thanks to the Epsom Jazz Club – a not-for-profit community project dedicated to bringing Nationally and Internationally renowned jazz musicians to the … Read More

Council Housing Planning

Local Plan lessons from a Surrey borough?



18 January 2025

Precious green belt sites could be at risk of speculative developments and Waverley Borough Council could be powerless to stop them after its biggest housing project was judged to be … Read More

Arts Council

The Redhill Harlequin Theatre bows out for 5 years.



18 January 2025

It could take another five years before the Redhill's Harlequin Theatre reopens after dangerous crumbly concrete forced its closure. The popular theatre and cinema space in the heart of the … Read More

Community News

New family mediation in Epsom



18 January 2025

Relate Mid and East Surrey Launches New Family Mediation Service Relate Mid and East Surrey is thrilled to announce the launch of its new family mediation service, designed to help … Read More

Business Environment Transport

Surrey village to suffer a lot more Heathrow flights

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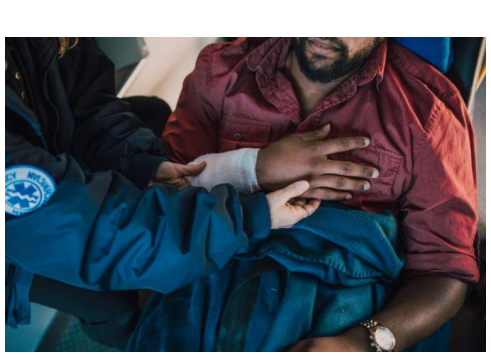


18 January 2025

Residents could suffer “an unacceptable amount of noise” from an airport as flight directions change, meaning the number of landing planes could increase from 36 to over 300 a day … Read More

Council Health

Tackling health inequalities in Surrey



18 January 2025

Surrey County Council has been awarded 5 years of funding by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to create a Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC). The £5m funding will … Read More

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New family mediation in Epsom

13 March 2025



Relate Mid and East Surrey Launches New Family Mediation Service

Relate Mid and East Surrey is thrilled to announce the launch of its new family mediation service, designed to help families resolve conflicts peacefully and constructively. This service reflects our commitment to offering practical, affordable solutions for families in our community.

What Is Mediation?

Mediation is a process where an independent, professional mediator helps families work through disagreements over parenting, property, or finances following separation. Unlike court proceedings, mediation focuses on collaboration, ensuring all parties have a voice and reach mutually beneficial solutions. It’s quicker, less stressful, and often far less expensive than legal action.

How Mediation Helps

Mediation provides a structured and supportive environment where families can address issues such as parenting arrangements, property division, and financial agreements. It is quicker, less stressful, and significantly cheaper than going to court, allowing families to maintain control over their decisions.

Key Benefits:

- Helps you make arrangements about parenting, property, and money.
- Is less stressful than going to court.
- Saves you money as it’s usually much cheaper than being represented in court.
- Puts your child’s interests first.

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- Helps you move on quickly to the next stage of your life.

Debbie Holden, Chief Executive of Relate Mid and East Surrey, explains:
“Family mediation is about empowering people to create solutions that work for everyone involved. Our mediators guide families through difficult conversations, ensuring children’s needs remain at the forefront while reducing the emotional and financial burden of conflict.”

Flexible and Affordable Options

Our new service includes private assessment meetings and joint mediation sessions, tailored to meet each family’s unique needs. We offer a sliding scale of fees to ensure affordability, with additional support through the Family Mediation Voucher Scheme, providing up to £500 for child arrangement cases.

Key Features:

- **Child-inclusive mediation** to give children a voice in the process.
- **Rapid appointments**, often within a week.
- A focus on **long-term solutions** that foster positive co-parenting relationships.

Join Us for Family Mediation Week

Family Mediation Week (27–31 January) highlights the importance of mediation in resolving family disputes. We encourage families to explore how this service can support them during life transitions.

More information can be found at:
https://relatemidandeastsurrey.co.uk/family-mediation/

Contact Us

To book a mediation session or learn more, contact us at:

- **Reigate Office:** 01737 245212 | admin@relatemidandeastsurrey.co.uk
- **Epsom Office:** 01372 722976 | epsomadmin@relatemidandeastsurrey.co.uk

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