



More cash for Ukraine refugee hosts

31 October 2022



Epsom Refugee Network welcomes the promised increase in cash to those local residents who take into their homes individuals and families who have had to flee Ukraine. It is hoped the extra money will attract more hosts in an increasingly difficult situation. **Jo Sherring**, leader of the Epsom Refugee Network, told Epsom and Ewell Times: "As we launch an appeal for new sponsors in the area, we welcome the news of the increased thank you payments which we hope may encourage more families to consider offering a place of safety to a family fleeing Ukraine. We are also desperate to find sponsors for families who are already in the UK and are having to move on from their first sponsor and find a new host family. If you are thinking of hosting and have questions please, please get in touch". www.epsomrefugeenetwork.org

Surrey County Council and local district and borough councils who are managing the "**Homes for Ukraine**" scheme locally have agreed an additional thank you payment, to be paid monthly to host families from end of November 2022 to March 2023. This is acknowledging that the financial circumstances faced by host families in Surrey, who welcomed Ukrainians into their homes, will have changed from the time they agreed to host Ukrainian families to our current economic situation in the UK.

Currently, host families are paid £350 a month for being sponsors, this payment will be increased by £250 to £600 a month from end of November 2022. This is to compensate for the rise in energy, food and fuel bills in this cost-of-living crisis. This applies to existing hosts who are already in receipt of thank you payments, and new hosts who complete all the checks satisfactorily going forward. This funding comes from DLUHC (**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities**) via the County Council to the district and borough councils to pay the sponsors directly once they have passed all the relevant housing, DBS (**Disclosure and Barring Service**) and safeguarding checks.

Surrey County Council leader **Cllr Tim Oliver** said "We are forever grateful for the unerring warm welcome and support that communities, charities, and district and boroughs continue to offer our Ukrainian guests here in Surrey. But in particular to those sponsor families who have opened their homes up to welcome Ukrainian families to live alongside them and their families. As if this sacrifice were not enough, we now need to ensure that they are not being penalised financially and can continue to offer support as sponsors in this current economic climate. Unfortunately, the conflict in Ukraine continues and so there is still a need for host families. SCC has taken the decision to increase the thank you payments after fears many people wouldn't be able to afford to extend their current six-month agreements as winter approaches and the cost-of-living bites."

Additional reporting from Surrey County Council news.

Emissions a taxing issue for Council

31 October 2022



Thursday 27th October's meeting of **Epsom and Ewell's Licensing Committee** was taxed by emission standards for the Town's black cabs. Over the summer the Council had circulated a draft hackney carriage and private hire vehicle and driver policy for consultation. One local response was "Black diesel cabs have the highest emissions of any vehicle and they regularly travel up and down my road polluting the air. The most common black cab models in London are polluting the streets with nitrogen oxide (NOX) emissions up to 30 times the level of personal petrol cars of the same age."

In London since 1 January 2018, taxis presented for licensing for the first time have needed to be Zero Emission Capable. This means having CO2 emissions of no more than 50g/km and a minimum 30 mile zero emission range. First-time taxi vehicle licences are no longer granted to diesel taxis. ZEC taxis with petrol engines need to meet the latest emissions standard (currently Euro 6). Transport for London offers £7500 payments to support taxi-drivers making these changes.



Cllr **Julie Morris** (LibDem College Ward) asked why the proposed new taxi policy could not require all new applications for hackney and private hire vehicle licences to be ULEZ compliant (ultra-low emission zone). Despite issues of emissions being raised during the consultation the draft policy had not specifically proposed such a requirement. The Council officer stated that 12 months would be required to undergo a legally necessary consultation. Ms Morris went on to claim that the Council was lacking in leadership over the climate emergency.

The draft policy requires new vehicle licence applications to comply with Euro 5 (the standard from 2011) rather than the London standard of Euro 6 (applicable to new vehicles from 2015). The officer explained that implementing London's higher standards would risk reducing the provision of black cabs in Epsom as the income of local black cab drivers was lower than their London counterparts.

The committee's chair Steven McCormick (RA Woodcote) indicated that he would work with officers and endeavour to achieve the required consultation and bring back a revision on emissions standards within 6 months. The committee approved the new policy to go for decision by the Full Council in due course.

The Local Government Association advises that consultations should last between 6 to 8 weeks and possibly shorter in urgent situations.

Click [HERE](#) for the full report to the committee - pages 11-138 re taxis.

Balancing the Borough's Books

31 October 2022



Borough budgets are difficult to follow. However, a practice adopted this year presents to Council committees an overview of budget plans. Without savings being made in the budgets for 2023/2024 onward the Council is predicted to face a loss of £2.6 million by 2025/2026. [Small compared with Woking Borough Council's Black-Hole of a debt of £2.4 billion - see our report on their debt [HERE](#)]

Thursday 27th October's Licensing Policy and Planning Committee received a report from the Council's Finance Department. The overview and recommendations provided to the Councillors is helpful and highlights are reprinted with some edits below. Full [REPORT HERE](#) (see pages 7 - 10). The recommendation approved by the Committee that "growth items" must be funded from existing budgets means that some items will not grow but will diminish. Cuts might be avoidable if recommended rises in various chargeable services are sufficient to pay.

Report to Councillors:

"The Council is facing a great deal of uncertainty, with sufficient information unlikely to be available to reliably predict the medium-term impact of elevated inflation and the cost-of-living crisis on Council services before the end of 2022. As such, the report to Strategy & Resources Committee modelled 3 scenarios - optimistic, neutral and pessimistic - to forecast the Council's future budget position.

In the neutral scenario, adopted for financial planning purposes, the Council faces a projected budget deficit of **£2.6m by 2025/26**.

Budget targets include:

Excluding any new growth in expenditure, a level of savings of £2.6 million is needed to achieve a balanced budget over the next three year financial planning period to 2025/26.

Recommendations:

That estimates be prepared including the delivery of savings already identified in the Financial Plan for 2023/24 totalling £215,000.

That at least £396,000 additional revenue be generated from an increase of 6% on discretionary fees and charges in 2023/24.

That a provision for pay award is made of £524,000 that would allow for a 3% cost of living increase.

That the homelessness service be set a target to reduce net costs by £243,000 per annum.

That any additional new growth items supported by Policy Committees will need to be fully funded from existing budgets."



Milton Impossible finally accomplished in Epsom

31 October 2022



Epsom Playhouse's capacity audience had patiently waited 12 months after **Milton Jones** show was postponed in 2022. The King of the One-Liners rewarded their forbearance with his unstoppable flow of puns and word play. "The other day I said to my longstanding girlfriend - sit down". That sort of thing in isolation is OK but when one of a torrent of double-entendres laughter is irresistible.

Following one of Milton's many granddads appearing on Zoom, **Thomas Houghton** provided a creditable and funny warm-up act that was a substantial part of the first half. Not wishing to give too much away in case you wish to catch his show on tour - Mr. Milton made deft use of national flags in holding topical and witty conversations between nations. The EU and Union Jack exchange was the shortest and funniest.

The funny showman has nearby performances coming up in Horsham 29th October, Camberley 2nd November and Farnham 4th November. See: <https://miltonjones.com/live-dates/>

Epsom's Mental Health Week

31 October 2022



Epsom and Ewell based charities **Love Me Love My Mind** and **The Friends of Horton Cemetery** joined forces with Surrey County Council Youth Workers and others this week. In Epsom Market Square on Saturday 8th October local residents and visitors took part in the "**Out of Sight, Out of Mind**" Project. This **Historic England** supported project raises awareness of the **Horton Cemetery** in Epsom. There are buried 9000 patients of Epsom's five now closed psychiatric hospitals. The largest asylum cemetery in Europe.

Borough and County Councillor **Bernie Muir** joined in the Market Square painting of memorial flowers.



Cllr Bernie Muir paints a flower

The painting continued during a day of reflection and celebration on **World Mental Health Day** 10th October at **St Barnabas Church** in Temple Road, Epsom. Activities included a walk to Horton Cemetery beside Hook Road and a song and dance performance by students from Epsom's **Laine Theatre Arts** School.



Mayor Clive Woodbridge paints a flower

Mayor **Clive Woodbridge** joined the event and painted a flower. 900 ceramic flowers are being individually painted by young and old throughout the Borough over the year. Workshops will be held to discuss the significance of the Cemetery and the lives of those who ended up in this paupers' graveyard. The aim is to plant the flowers near the Cemetery on Mental Health Day 2023. The site was sold by the NHS to a property speculator in 1983 and has been neglected ever since.

“Blot on the landscape” - Ewell care home inked in

31 October 2022



A derelict site in Ewell is to become a 70-bed care home. The Organ Inn was known to any one of Epsom and Ewell driving to London. Situated prominently on the Ewell-By-Pass at the London Road junction. It last functioned as Jim Thompsons with Thai Cuisine and was also known as The Organ and Dragon. The building was demolished and the ground left derelict for years. Thursday 6th October Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's **Planning Committee** granted full permission for the construction of a 70-room retirement care home of four storeys and a basement. Councillor **Nigel Colin** (RA College Ward) described the site at present as "a blot on the landscape."



The Organ Inn before demolition. Image courtesy Peter Reed Epsom and Ewell History Explorer. Top Image: The site viewed from Ewell Bypass.

There were two objections registered that were dismissed by the Councillors in the face of a strong application supported by planning officers. The construction of the home will contribute 38 units to the housing targets of the Borough of @ 579 per annum.

A Planning Need Assessment submitted by the applicant from **Carterwood**, a specialist in health and social care, indicated that there is a net need for 1279 en-suite wetroom bedrooms in the market catchment area (4 miles from the Application Site) and 540 in Epsom and Ewell. In terms of 'specialist dementia' care, the Assessment sets out that there is a net need for 529 en-suite wetroom beds in the market catchment area and a net need for 226 en-suite wetroom beds in Epsom and Ewell.



London Road care home plans. From design and access statement, credit: Simon Brown Architects

The Council officers reported that the developer applicant does not have experience in care-home provision. **Surrey County Council Adult Social Care** commented on the application: " While the Applicant is an organisation with no history of operating care homes itself, there is no reference to a care provider working in partnership with the organisation in the application. There is therefore very little indication of what type of care will be delivered on Site, whether the care home will operate with or without nursing care provision, and no description of exactly how the



particular development would benefit local residents or the joint health and social care system. The application therefore suffers by comparison with others, which provide details of future operational plans. Having said this, regrettably, I cannot find anything in the local planning policies which requires clarity on who will operate any future care development, nor any requirement for an operator statement alongside other statements in the application."

Cllr **Alex Coley** (RA Ruxley Ward) questioned this inexperience and was advised by officers that the developer will contract with a specialist service provider.

Various conditions must be met by the developer, **65 London Road Limited**, a private company under the sole directorship of **Kirpal Singh**. A company that has declared over £3 million in net assets in its last and only accounts ending 31st March 2021 - in which it declared a trading loss of £2400.

The Council require the company to enter an agreement (known as a section 106) to contribute money to the improvement of bus infrastructure at both the A24 northside bus stop and A24 southside, including shelters and real time passenger information; a Push button controlled pedestrian crossing facilities on London Road and a 3-metre-wide footpath on both the London Road and Ewell Bypass frontages of the Application Site, to be dedicated as public highway.

HOBBLEDOWN NOBBLEDOWN?



This popular leisure destination for a family day out on Horton Lane Epsom had asked the Planning Committee for various permits. Installation of new restroom facilities, new boundary fencing and relocation of entrance gates, new play structures etc.

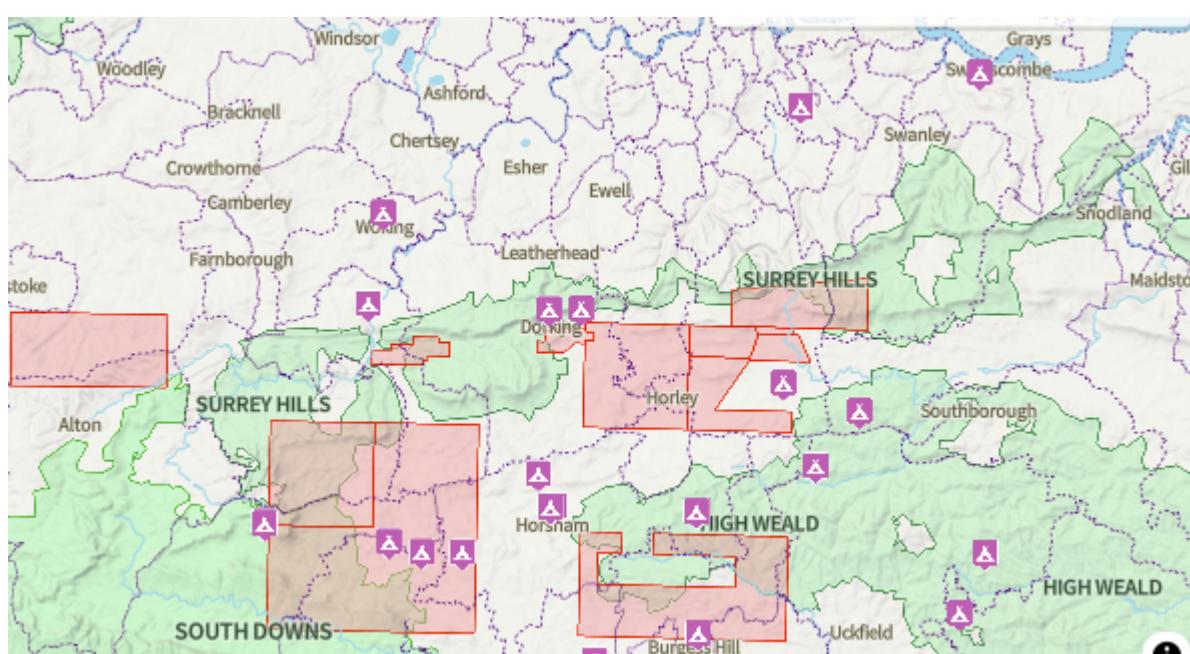
Temps were tested somewhat when **Cllr Coley** stated a flood risk assessment was necessary before proceeding further. Planning officers disagreed. Cllr **Kate Chinn** (Lab Court Ward) suggested that if the contention had been raised before the meeting the public row could have been avoided. Cllr **Steven McCormick** (RA Woodcote) brought deliberations to an inconclusive end my proposing a deferment of all of Hobbedown's requests. A motion passed by all Councillors bar three.

"Frackin'-hell!" - in Surrey?

31 October 2022



Epsom and Ewell has so far escaped the grant of licences for shale-gas exploration. Other Boroughs in Surrey are targeted. 25th September Business and Energy Secretary **Jacob Rees-Mogg** announced: "In light of Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine and weaponisation of energy, strengthening our energy security is an absolute priority, and - as the Prime Minister said - we are going to ensure the UK is a net energy exporter by 2040. To get there we will need to explore all avenues available to us through solar, wind, oil and gas production - so it's right that we've lifted the pause to realise any potential sources of domestic gas." Including through new oil and gas licences and shale gas extraction.



Red blocks are areas licensed for shale-gas exploration. Purple triangles are local anti-fracking protest groups

Friends of the Earth has provided a map and statistics showing the areas and licences for shale-gas exploration in Surrey.



Constituency	Number of licences	Licences total area (sq m)	Proportion of constituency under licence
Guildford	2	54,008,711	28.6%
East Surrey	5	122,524,280	47.2%
Mole Valley	3	59,441,785	16.1%
South West Surrey	3	94,052,391	36.7%
Reigate	3	35,937,442	32.1%

Between now and 2040 will Epsom and Ewell's natural resources have to play their part in energy self-sufficiency?

Let us know your views.

Stretching Resources?

31 October 2022



Both "The Horton" (Arts Centre) and The Horton Cemetery featured on the agenda of the **Epsom and Ewell** Borough Council's **Strategy and Resources** committee Thursday 29th September. For the second time this year discussion on a request to the Council to exercise Compulsory Purchase Order powers over the neglected 9000 body 5-acre cemetery on Hook Road, Epsom, was withdrawn.



Hon Alderman Alan Carlson by the memorial to the 9000 buried in Horton Cemetery. Image Stan Kujawa

As previously reported HERE the bone of contention, between the charity, **The Friends of Horton Cemetery** and a report to Councillors, concerns the valuation basis for compensation to the property speculator, to whom the intact Cemetery was incongruously sold by the NHS in 1983. Trustee of the Charity **Hon. Alderman Alan Carlson** stated "We are grateful our request has not been determined by the Strategy and Resources Committee. Our own independent expert and affordable valuations have not been enough to persuade the Council. We will now obtain more. We are also grateful to the many supporters who on short notice of the matter mounted an effective email campaign to Councillors in protest". He further added: "This 5-acre Cemetery is sacred to a growing number of relatives of the dead. It is a **white elephant** in the possession of **Michael Heighes of Marque Securities**, who cannot in a thousand years develop it at all. This is why he has totally neglected the site for 40 years".

Chairman of the Committee, Councillor **Neil Dallen** (RA Town Ward), responded to the supporters' campaign stating the Council will meet the Charity as "aspects of the Council Report have been misunderstood by the Trust".

The Horton

Just one week after an opening event at **The Horton** arts and heritage centre, the venue appeared on the agenda of the



same meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee. However, without challenge from any of the 10 Councillors present, the Committee went into secret session to discuss the item. The committee stating that the item concerned the finances of a “third party” and it was not “in the public interest” for them to be disclosed publicly.

Other items:

The committee approved investment in a new gas boiler for the Council’s **Community and Wellbeing Centre on Longmead, Epsom**. The Council has investigated the efficacy of ground and air heat-pump systems, but the building is not well enough insulated for them to be effective. This prompted Cllr **David Gulland** (LibDem College Ward) to query whether insulation should be invested in. The officer responded that the Council was reviewing insulation across the Council’s entire estate.

Following the sudden departure of **Kathryn Beldon** from the top Council post of Chief Executive (reported HERE) the committee agreed to extend the employment of **Jackie King** as interim Chief Executive pending a permanent posting. The meeting also noted a requirement for the appointment of a chief legal officer. **Cllr Kate Chinn** (Labour Court Ward) joked she had asked a previous Council law officer **Simon Young** to return from The Falklands where he had migrated to be the islands’ lead attorney.

The chief IT officer had been lost recently so an Information Technology strategy review was withdrawn from the meeting.

The committee approved the business plan being put this Autumn to a vote of business rate payers in the central Epsom area. This would allow **Epsom Bid Ltd** (known as **Go Epsom**) to continue for another 5 years to make improvements to the business zone, funded by an additional levy to business rates. Cllr **Eber Kington** (RA Ewell Court Ward) expressed enthusiastic support for the recent work of **Epsom Bid** in the changes and activities it has initiated.

Strengthening Epsom’s Seniors

31 October 2022



Epsom Strength and Balance is celebrating five years of helping seniors in the local community stay stronger and keep upright longer. **Karen Willson** changed career to one in the fitness industry after medically retiring from working at City Hall. She trained thanks to **Instructability**, which trains disabled people and helped her get a job at a local leisure centre in 2014. Enjoying helping people improve their health, she later trained as a personal trainer and Otago instructor. This allowed her to start Epsom Strength and Balance [ESB] in September 2017. Gradually classes increased in size and more classes were required. Now, after the pandemic, she is rebuilding her business and reconnecting with people in our community. She just loves to see people ‘stay strong and keep upright longer’.



Karen Willson

The ESB community has improved their strength and balance by doing activities in fun weekly group classes. This has improved their posture and mobility, which reduces their risk of tripping and falling. They learn how to safely get up off the floor and how to recover their balance so they do not fall. This allows us to safely do the things we enjoy.

We are all getting older each day and we can improve our quality of life during our later life. These weekly classes have helped reduce the severity and number of trips into hospital following a fall. ESB classes are now delivered at home via zoom and as group classes in Ashtead and Epsom.

Is it time you reduced your risk of falling by improving your posture and mobility?

Some people prefer to move to music. **Sit and Stay Fit** is a class of gentle movement to music from the 60s and 70s and this can be done sitting down. You'll be surprised how beneficial it is for the whole body.

Join Karen:

Ashtead St George's Christian Centre Mondays at 1:45 or

Epsom Methodist Church Wednesdays at 11:30 & 13:30.

Email Epsomstrengthandbalance@gmail.com or call Karen on (07771 647132)

Sit and Stay Fit Tuesdays at Epsom Methodist Church 14:00

email Sitandstayfit@gmail.com or call Karen on (07771 647132)

Visit: EpsomStrengthandBalance.com

Ukrainian refugees made welcome by King's rep.

31 October 2022



Vice Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Sir Stephen Lampert came to Epsom Saturday 24th September. Addressing an audience in Epsom Methodist Church he condemned the aggression of Russian President Putin. He welcomed to Surrey those refugees from Ukraine who have come. He applauded the work of local charities, including Surrey Stands With Ukraine.

His speech was followed by 90 minutes of classical music performed by Ukrainian musicians. Sergei Sinkovski and



Yevheniia Semydilko played Bartok duets on violins and Vivaldi. Kateryna Bolkunevych sang Casta Diva from Bellini's opera Norma and Song to the Moon by Dvorak. Her powerful voice filling the vaulted Worship Hall. She was accompanied by pianist Bogdana Ravliuk who played Ukrainian composer Lysenko's elegy.

Epsom poet Audrey Ardern-Jones, who's Ukrainian mother fled Kiev in WWII to escape the Nazi occupation read three poems including a haiku. Translated and read in Ukrainian by the evening's co-presenter Darina Dvorinchenko.

Young star of Surrey's Yehudi Menuhin School of Music, Vadym Perog, born in Odessa, played a Mozart sonata for violin accompanied on the piano by Svitlana Kosenko.

The evening was crowned by Juliya Komyshyan who brought tears from the standing audience with the Ukrainian national anthem. She played and sang other music using the traditional Ukrainian bandura instrument; to the amazement of all.

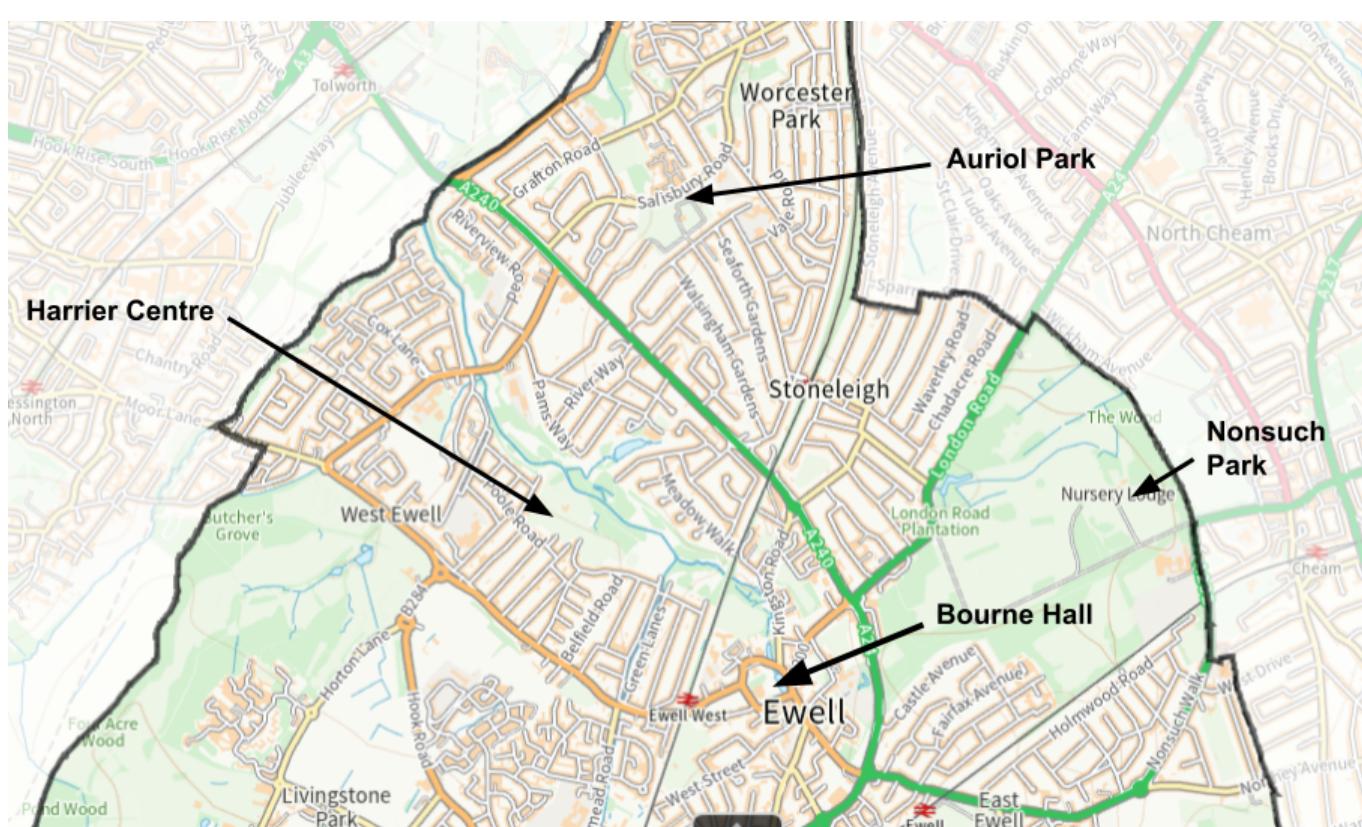
The Cost of Spending a Penny

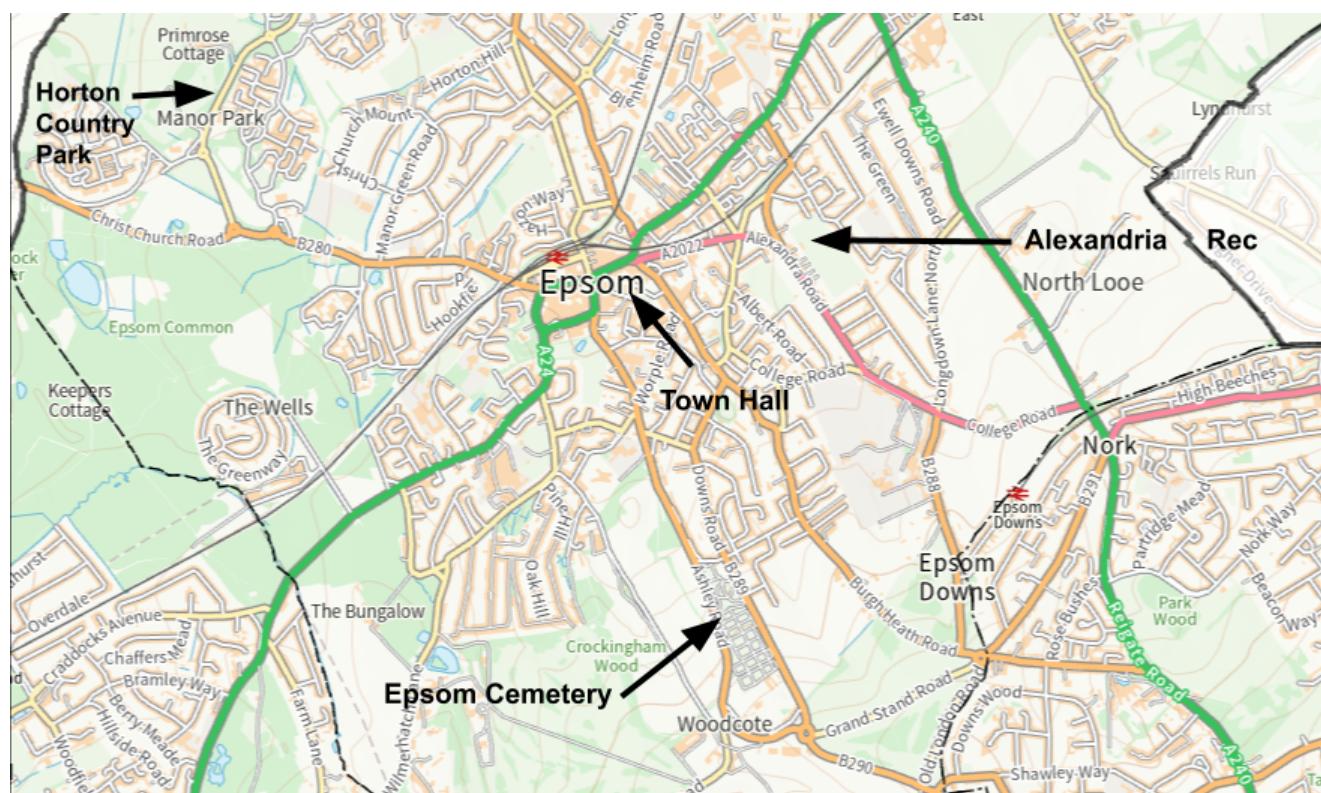
31 October 2022



Following the demise of the public toilets on the B290 up on Epsom Downs, The Epsom and Ewell Times reports on the current Council provision of conveniences for the public:

- Nonsuch Park - open during park opening hours which are usually 6am to 1/2 hour before sunset.
- Horton Country Park - open during park opening hours as above
- Alexandria Recreational Ground Pavilion - operated by the café during café opening hours
- Auriol Recreation Ground, Stoneleigh - operated by the café during café opening hours
- Epsom Cemetery - open during cemetery opening hours
- Bourne Hall, Ewell - open during centre hours
- Epsom Town Hall - open during operating hours
- Harrier Centre, Poole Road, West Ewell - open during operating hours





In answer to The Epsom and Ewell Times, The Epsom and Ewell Borough Council provided the following information on the costs of spending a penny of those public toilets that are NOT part of a building used for other purposes (e.g., The Town Hall and Bourne Hall etc). To be clear - they are free to use! It won't cost you a penny except through your Council tax.

Annual Expenditure 2021 to 2022 up to end of March 2022.

Nonsuch public toilets - Cleaning: £14,716.56

We cannot break down the costs for Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) as it comes within the expenditure for the whole of the Mansion House.

Cemetery - Cleaning £6161.04 and M&E £993.68

Horton Country Park - Cleaning £5555.40 and M&E £741.36

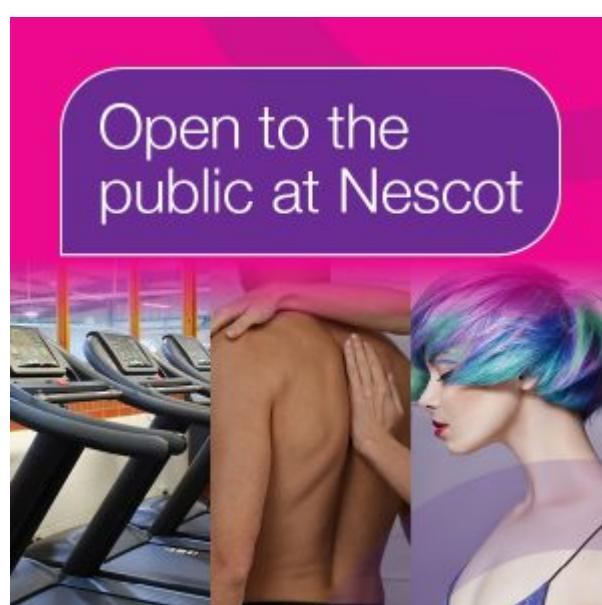
The utility costs are also not broken down for just the toilets and therefore we cannot provide separate costs.

Contrary to myth a person not patronising a pub does not have a right to use its toilet. London promotes a "Community Toilet Scheme" that encourages businesses to allow non-customers to use their toilets. London's Railways stations take part. In the Borough of Epsom and Ewell the Ashley Centre would be hard pressed to prevent a member of the public having no intention to spend a penny in its shops from spending a penny in its toilets.

Should Epsom and Ewell have a Community Toilet Scheme? Write to us.

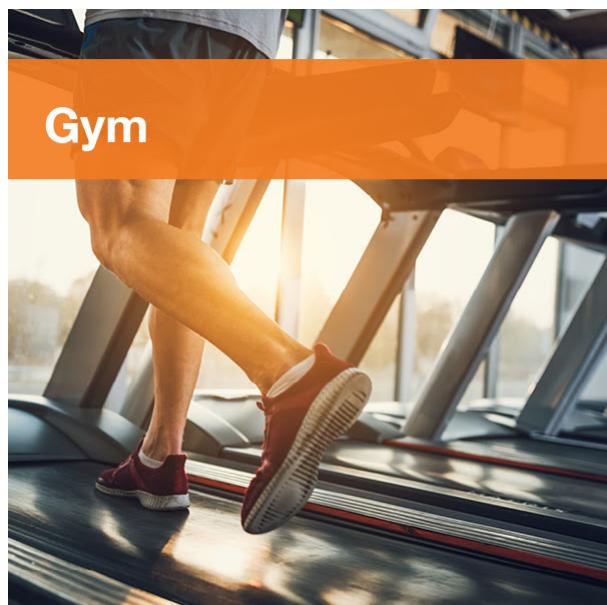
NESCOT opens to the public

31 October 2022



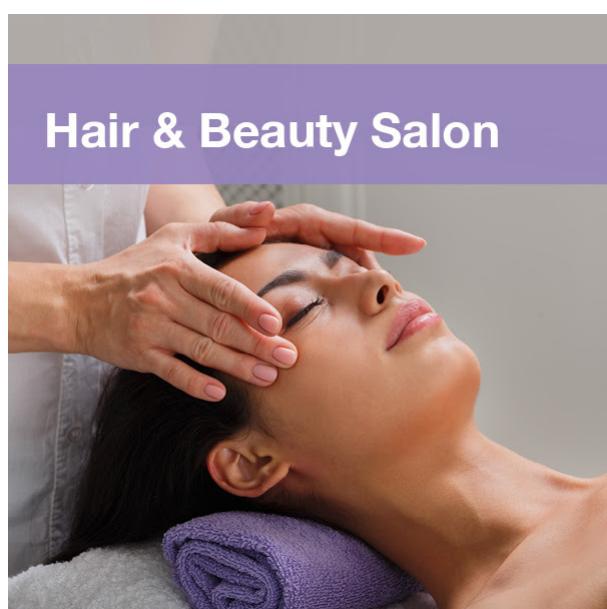
In the heart of Epsom and Ewell, The North-East Surrey College of Technology has a range of activities and courses available to the general public. From theatre hire, Saturday courses, distance learning, osteopathy and beauty.....

An open event for next year's courses is on Wednesday 28 September (4.30pm - 7.30pm). Register to find out about courses for school leavers, adult part-time, apprenticeships, university-level or FREE distance learning courses.



Gym

A gym is fully fitted with a range of cardio and weights for all your workout needs. Instructors are on hand to provide advice to help you achieve your goals. Membership options from £21 per month, no contract. Fitness classes included. Personal training now available. Students get an extra discount. [Details HERE](#).

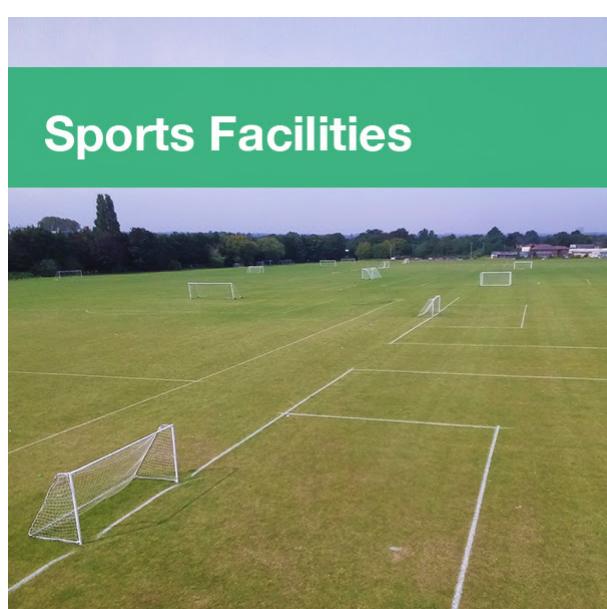


Hair & Beauty Salon

A professional hair and beauty salon is offering a 10% discount to all new customers on their first visit. [Details HERE](#).

A very popular Day Nursery for children aged 0-5 has recently been extended to allow for more places. Ofsted rated 'Good'. [Details HERE](#)

Saturday Academies for 13-16 year olds. A new season of popular, fun courses for teenagers starts in November, and they are selling fast. [Details HERE](#)



Sports Facilities

They have excellent grass football pitches for hire (adult and junior). The Sports Centre is available for hire for a range of activities, including badminton, basketball and football. Available for single bookings or block bookings. [Details HERE](#)

Any aches and pains? Nescot's Osteopathy Clinic offers affordable treatment in our modern facility. Concessions available for public and students. [Details HERE](#)



NESCOT has small and large rooms for hire, and a 215 seat theatre. Details [HERE](#). The campus and its facilities are available for filming or as a location base. Details [HERE](#)

Services for Local Business

NESCOT offers apprenticeship training and they also have students available for industry placement and work experience. They also host business breakfasts at Nescot for local business people to get together. Details [HERE](#). Nescot offers a service providing leaflets, booklets, binding and copying for both businesses and individuals. Details [HERE](#).

Free Level 2 online courses for 19+ in Health, Social Care, Business, Computing, Education and more. See [HERE](#) for eligibility.

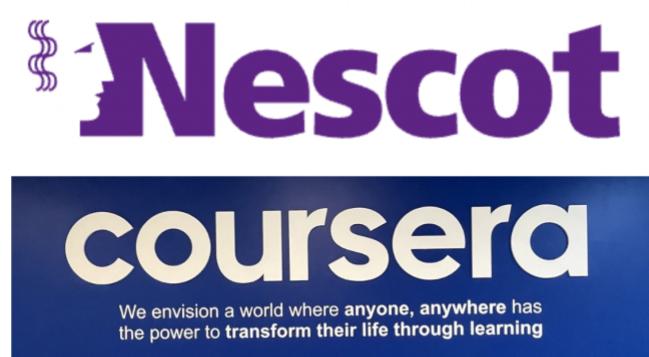
Nescot. An institution the Borough can be proud of.

Coursera & NESCOT to enhance further education

31 October 2022



Coursera Inc., a global online learning platform, has announced that it is partnering with **North East Surrey College of Technology** (NESCOT), to both enhance and expand teaching delivery, and to prepare the college's 9000 students for in-demand careers in the digital economy.



With NESCOT being a partner in the new Coast to Capital region's Institutes of Technology, access to Coursera will support the college's aim to deliver a wider range of advanced technical qualifications and higher education courses. NESCOT's staff will have access to the full Coursera catalogue, including 22 entry-level professional certificates offered by Google, IBM, Meta, and other leading industry partners. The partnership will thereby create additional opportunities for NESCOT's staff to develop the skills needed to deliver courses on high-demand technologies including AI, data science, engineering and software development.

Coursera is doubling down on its efforts to support the nation's further education strategy, with the UK government increasingly investing in its new T Levels programme, and with participation in adult government-funded further education having increased by 4.6% over the past year.

The partnership with NESCOT builds upon Coursera's relationship with the TEC Partnership, one of England's largest providers of further and technical education, to expand its contribution to the UK's further and higher education sector. It will do so by filling curriculum gaps, expanding NESCOT's provision of job-aligned vocational courses, and bridging the gap between student skills and employer needs.



By empowering faculty professional development and bridging this gap, Coursera and NESCOT seek to narrow the UK's technology and data science skills gaps. The 2022 Global Skills Report, released in June by Coursera, found that the United Kingdom's technology skills proficiency continues to lag behind a majority of European nations, ranking 42nd globally for technology skills, and 24th among the 33 European nations indexed in the report.

Anthony Tattersall, Vice-President for EMEA, Coursera, said: "As the UK further education sector seeks to empower learners to thrive in the digital economy, collaborating to scale up the delivery of high-demand technology, business, and data science skills is essential. We are excited to partner with NESCOT by helping support their faculty to deliver high-quality, job-relevant skills training to their students, and to evolve the college's blended learning provision."

Coursera currently supports the skills development of 2.75 million UK learners. UK institutions already partnering with Coursera include Imperial College London, Queen Mary University of London, The University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, University of Leeds, University of London and the University of Manchester. UK learners are able to access 2,500+ Guided Projects, 5,000+ courses, 625+ Specializations, more than 75 Certificates (of which 22 are Entry-Level Professional Certificates), and 35+ degrees. In the first eight months of 2022, UK learners spent more than 1.1 million hours upskilling and reskilling on Coursera's platform.

About Coursera

Coursera was launched in 2012 by two Stanford Computer Science professors, Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller, with a mission to provide universal access to world-class learning. It is now one of the largest online learning platforms in the world, with 107 million registered learners as of June 30, 2022. Coursera partners with over 275 leading university and industry partners to offer a broad catalog of content and credentials, including courses, Specializations, Professional Certificates, Guided Projects, and bachelor's and master's degrees. Institutions around the world use Coursera to upskill and reskill their employees, citizens, and students in fields such as data science, technology, and business. Coursera became a B Corp in February 2021.

About NESCOT

Nescot is a further and higher education college based in Ewell, Surrey. Each year over 2000 16-18-year-olds study at the campus on a wide range of vocational courses and apprenticeships, alongside 500 adults on university-level programmes. It also provides part-time and professional qualifications to thousands of adults - both on campus, and through distance learning and employer partnerships.

New Downs Hack Canter in the running...

31 October 2022



From 1st October 2022, a **new turf Hack Canter on Walton Downs** will be provided and maintained for leisure horse riders on **Epsom and Walton Downs**. This will replace the sand Hack Ride, which will permanently close from this date and be left to return to its natural state. Image © Copyright Hugh Craddock (Horses training on Walton Downs)

FORMAL NOTICE

OPENING OF HACK CANTER AT EPSOM DOWNS AND CLOSURE OF HACK RIDE

After substantial consultation and discussion between interested parties, from 1st October 2022, a new turf Hack Canter on Walton Downs will be provided and maintained for leisure horse riders on Epsom and Walton Downs. This will replace the sand Hack Ride, which will permanently close from this date and be left to return to its natural state.

This change has been agreed in the interests of the safety of horses and their riders, and all users of The Downs. The Hack Canter, which is on grass land previously restricted for use only by Licensed Racehorse Trainers, will be available for use by leisure riders after noon each day. It may also continue to be used by Licensed Racehorse Trainers before noon on any day: on such occasions, this will be agreed and communicated in advance by The Training Grounds Management Board.

The Jockey Club reserves the right to temporarily close part or all of the Hack Canter, as a result of poor weather and/or unsuitable or unsafe ground conditions, or to facilitate any required maintenance and major repair works.

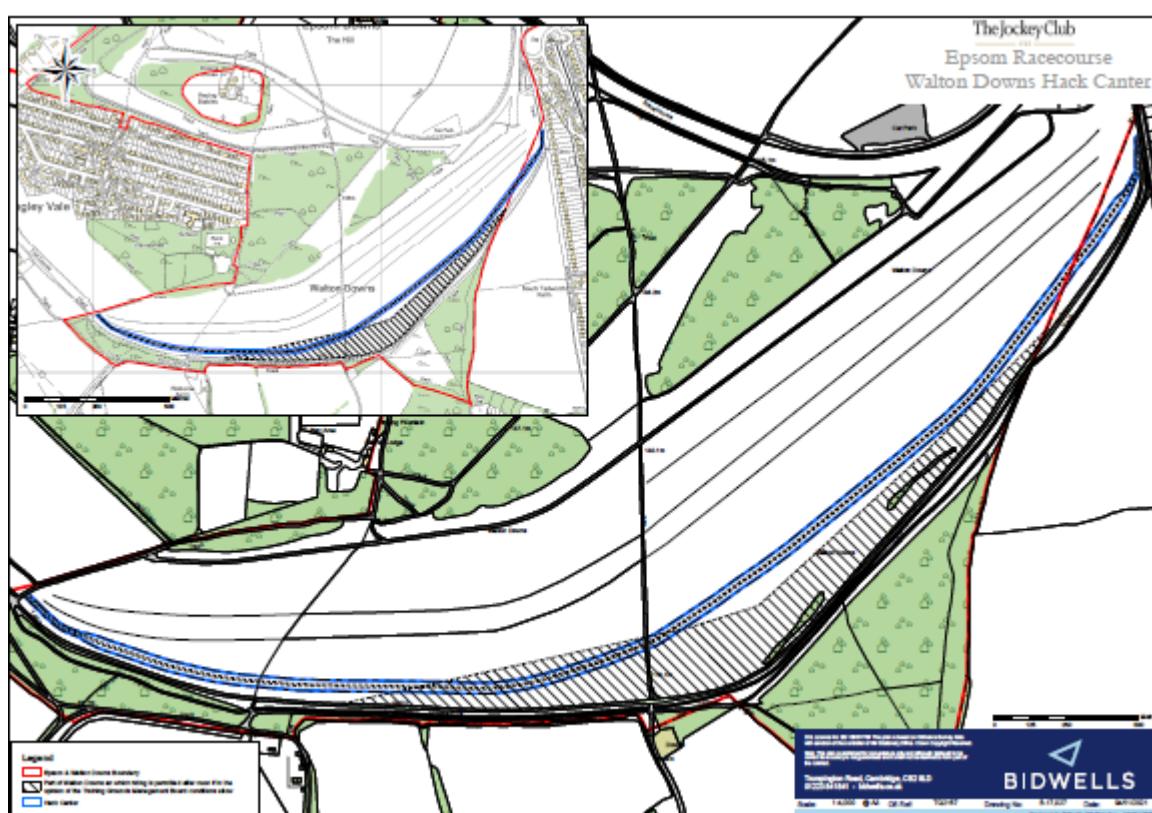
The terms of this new arrangement have been approved by The Jockey Club, The Horserace Betting Levy Board, The Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators, The British Horse Society, and The Epsom and The Walton Downs Training Grounds Management Board.

Those who wish to comment on this change have 28 days from 22nd August to do so and all



comments and contributions will be gratefully received. Any correspondence must be sent to Epsom.reception@thejockeyclub.co.uk by 5.00pm on Monday 19th September 2022.

The Jockey Club
22nd August 2022



Saturday's rugby: SUTTON & EPSOM 22 -BANBURY 26

31 October 2022



A two minute silence for the Late Queen was observed before this tightly fought match played out on 10th September 2022. This fixture would have been the first league encounter between these two clubs at **Rugby Lane** [the home ground of **Sutton and Epsom RFC** situated just inside the borders of the **Borough of Epsom and Ewell**,] but the unusually dry summer adversely affected Sutton and Epsom's pitches. Therefore, in accordance with the regulations the hosts found an alternative venue and were most grateful to the generosity and hospitality of Cobham RFC for letting them use their splendid synthetic surface at Fairmile Lane. This was the first time in the league era that Sutton & Epsom had played a home fixture on a neutral venue though the club have experienced this situation on their travels in the past.

There were seven changes to the squad that lost the opener to Bracknell last Saturday. Returning to the fold were Sutton & Epsom's stalwarts George Drye, James Caddy and Stefan Cooksammy. In comparison Robbie Martey (Barnes) was making his debut for the Black & Whites. Meanwhile Ross Parsons, Charlie Aylward and Luke Halford were making their first appearances of the campaign. Banbury also failed to win their first game of the season as visitors Havant triumphed at Bodicote Park 26-18. Both clubs were eager to get off the mark and record their first points at the second time of asking. It was mission accomplished for the visitors who recorded a 26-22 win and a bonus point to boot.

After the observation of the silence for Queen Elizabeth II Banbury kicked off the fixture. Soon the Bulls were on the scoreboard after solid ball from the scrum it was spun down the line and Quinten Blythe broke away down the flank and passed to supporting full back Tommy Gray to score for the perfect start. Ed Phillips added the extras for a 7-0 lead. S&E came back strongly with a charge down and turn over from the restart. To add to the woes of the hosts Stefan Cooksammy departed injured to be replaced by Sam Hurley.

Having reshuffled their resources the Rugby Lane team pressed hard to draw level. Just before the end of the first quarter the Black & Whites kicked a penalty into the corner. Following a line out and another penalty hooker James Craig forced his way over from a rolling maul for his first S&E try. Freddy Bunting added the conversion to level it at 7-7.

The game ebbed and flowed with Luke Halford closest to scoring when he was held up over the line as the half hour approached. Five minutes later James Craig went from hero to villain as he was penalised for a high tackle on wing Alex Garbett. S&E would have to endure ten minutes without their hooker. Despite some cussed defence by the Surrey men



Banbury would not be denied. Recycling the ball quickly they broke through on the blindside and lock Louis Tooth strode over to score. Ed Phillips added the kick to lead 14-7 in time added on in the first period. There was no further score in the lengthy period of injury time. Sutton returned to their full compliment but James Craig remained on the sidelines with tactical substitute George London continuing whilst the sacrificial lamb, Austin Bell, returned to the fray.

The opening quarter of an hour of the second period saw both sides best play undermined by errors. Then the Oxfordshire team knocked on from a Sutton line out. From the scrum S&E went blind and Robbie Martey touched down to score on his debut. Bunting's conversion drifted wide as the home team trailed 12-14. S&E were given a helping hand when the Bulls hooker Nick Agbo saw yellow for a deliberate knock on. Then another penalty gave Freddy Bunting the chance to take the lead and he obliged with a well struck kick for a slender 15-14 advantage with a dozen minutes to go. The lead lasted only seconds as Banbury playing their best rugby put together their phases and made the crucial line break to see winger Alex Garbett score. With Ed Phillips' conversion bisecting the uprights the visitors had a 21-15 lead. A couple of minutes later Tommy Gray pounced on a knock on, scored his second try and the Bodicote Boys had secured a bonus point for a fourth try. Despite the missed conversion the rapid 12-point burst after they had momentarily trailed meant Banbury led 26-15 with five minutes remaining of normal time.

The Black & Whites needed an immediate response and they regathered the restart and forced a penalty. A few phases later and veteran Sam Hurley was through for the try. The conversion was added by Freddy Bunting and Sutton were within a score as they trailed 22-26. The Oxfordshire men pressed hard for the decisive score but stout Sutton resistance prevailed though at the cost of an injured Josh Glanville who was forced off the pitch. In a frenetic finale Luke Halford made a 30 metre break to raise the hopes of the S&E followers but the visitors' line was not seriously threatened.

With no further addition to the score Banbury had earned their first points of the campaign and a win on the road. Sutton & Epsom were unfortunate to suffer early injuries to not only Stefan Cooksammy but also Alex Mount. However, it was their self-inflicted wounds that were their undoing in a contest that could have gone either way. Tommy Gray was the Man of the Match with a couple of tries in a performance that carried a constant threat. For the Black & Whites Robbie Martey rounded off an impressive debut with a try. It was a case of the curate's egg for James Craig with a try and a yellow card to add to the now familiar strikes against the head. Freddy Bunting endorsed his growing reputation with fine place-kicking to add to his already considerable all around game.

Next Saturday, 17th September, will see the Black & Whites visit fellow Surrey club Camberley for the first time for a league fixture since January 2013. The hosts after an impressive opening day win over Wimbledon stumbled at the second Havant hurdle and will be keen to return to winning ways. The kick off will be 3pm at Watchetts Recreation Ground as Sutton & Epsom seek their first success of the season.

Sutton & Epsom

Austin Bell, Charlie Aylward, Freddy Bunting, Stefan Cooksammy, Robbie Martey, Jamie See, Ross Parsons, Alex Mount, James Craig, Luke Halford, Ben Tame, George Drye, Tom Brooker, Chris Farrell © & James Caddy.

Replacements: (all used) Tom Boaden, Josh Glanville & Sam Hurley.

Banbury

Tommy Gray, Quinten Blythe, Thomas Burman, Louis Richards, Alex Garbutt, Oscar Triggs, Ed Phillips, James Leonardi, Nick Agbo, Sonny Rowe, Louis Tooth, Jacob Turner, James Hibbert, George Ding & Ed Berridge.

Replacements: (all used) Ian Isham, Jacob Mills & Dan Brady.

Other Results From Round 2

BRACKNELL 14 29 MAIDENHEAD

HAVANT 18 6 CAMBERLEY

OXFORD HARLEQUINS 21 13 BOURNEMOUTH

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT 12 22 LONDON WELSH

WIMBLEDON 55 26 BRIGHTON

God Save the Queen, Long Live the King

31 October 2022



Since 1946 Her Late Majesty **Queen Elizabeth II** missed only three **Derby Races** held in **Epsom**. In tribute to Her love of the event the magnificent **Queen's Stand**, opened in 1995, was so named. This **Platinum** year it was officially



renamed **The Queen Elizabeth II Stand**. Sadly, she missed this year's race-meeting on the occasion of her unparalleled seven-decade long reign. Undeterred the **Borough of Epsom and Ewell** held a fitting celebration with the lighting of the **Platinum Beacon** on the **Epsom Downs**. A feature that will remain a constant reminder of Her Late Majesty's steadfast service to the Nation and beyond. Over these years it has been the habit of many locals to wait beside a road, hoping to see the Queen on her way to or from the Derby. The lucky ones receiving that famous Royal wrist-ache saving back-handed wave!



The Queen at the Derby 2015 - Wikipedia Commons



The Queen's Stand - geograph.co.uk

The **Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux** has issued the following statement:

"On behalf of the **people of Surrey**, I have expressed our profound sympathy and sincere condolences to HM The King on the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. His Majesty and all the members of the Royal Family are very much in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time. May she rest in peace."

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has issued the following statement:

The Councillors and staff of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (EEBC) are deeply saddened at the news of the death of Her Majesty The Queen. Our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this time.

Flags in the Borough are being flown at half-mast and books of condolence are available for everyone to sign at the Town Hall, Bourne Hall and the Wellbeing Centre. An online book of condolence is also available at <https://www.royal.uk>.

The Mayor of EEBC, **Councillor Clive Woodbridge**, has said, 'Her Majesty was no stranger to Epsom, rarely missing a Derby. She was a much loved and respected monarch, and I know the vast majority of the residents of this Borough will be profoundly saddened by today's news.'

'As well as our sovereign, Her Majesty was also a mother, grandmother and great grandmother; on behalf of the people of Epsom & Ewell, I extend our sympathies to members of the Royal Family on their personal loss.'

The Interim Chief Executive of EEBC, **Jackie King**, has said, 'As Members attend to the democratic process in the Council Chamber, they do so under a portrait of our late monarch; a poignant reminder of duty and personal commitment.'

'I am very aware of the esteem in which Her Majesty is held by the Council's staff, and on their behalf, I offer our sympathies to the Royal Family.'

Rt Hon **Chris Grayling MP** for Epsom and Ewell has written to constituents. "I am sure you will want to join me in expressing very great sadness at the death of the Queen. She has been such an important part of our national life and will be hugely missed."