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

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Verging on reason?

6 August 2022

Surrey County Council is to take back control of verges and on-street parking enforcement from **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council** and all other County districts. In a bid to streamline services, ensure consistency and improve biodiversity SCC will do the lot.

Surrey County Council is responsible for highway verge cutting and weed control, as well as on-street parking enforcement. It currently has agreements in place with eight of the eleven district and borough councils, including **Epsom and Ewell**, to manage the verges on the county council's behalf, and all on-street parking enforcement is managed by the districts and boroughs.

From April 2023 the county council will manage both of these county-wide to ensure consistent approaches across Surrey.

Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Economy, said: "*We appreciate the hard work our district and borough teams have undertaken on our behalf. However, as we continue on our mission for a greener future, now is the right time to take verge cutting and weed control back in-house to enable us to focus our efforts on improving biodiversity consistently across the county. We will continue to regularly cut junctions and sightlines so it's safe for residents.*

"*We also know how important parking is for residents and by managing on-street parking across the county, we can ensure it's fair and consistent. We'll also take a look at options to improve our systems and make processes as easy as possible for all Surrey residents*."

The county council aims to promote biodiversity by promoting wildflowering on appropriate highway verges and will continue to trial more sustainable approaches. Managing parking across the county will ensure a good service is offered throughout the county and offer good value for residents.

Nigel Collin, Chair of **Surrey's Wildflowering Project** said "*I welcome Surrey's commitment to promote biodiversity by promoting wildflowering on appropriate highway verges. The County wide management of verge cutting from next April is also welcomed since this will ensure a uniform approach across all of the County's Districts and Boroughs*."

This was echoed by SWP volunteer **Kim Spickett** who responded "*As a borough, I think we have a good starting point – so many of us enjoy our wildlife! Flowering verges, along with our open spaces, parks and gardens, will be a win for biodiversity. Native plants come in all shapes, sizes and heights – there are examples to beautify every situation. White Clover and her relatives supply the grass with the nitrogen it needs, giving the verge the ability to stay green during dry spells. It looks pretty and suits verges that have to be kept short – and it feeds our insects!*" Kim demonstrates the contribution verges can make to biodiversity with this photograph:



The Brown Hairstreak butterfly next to a busy local "B" road

Residents Association County and Epsom and Ewell Borough Councillor Eber Kington expressed his doubts about the plan: "*I have real concerns about these proposals. Given SCC's track record on service delivery, ensuring "consistent approaches across Surrey" will very likely mean a poorer service for residents and a levelling down rather than an improvement in the quality of service. For example, SCC currently funds just four verge cuts a season across Surrey but the Borough Council, which undertakes the verge maintenance work in Epsom and Ewell, funds between 2 and 4 additional cuts. Unless SCC continues with this current level of service, the grass verges in our residential streets will see a fall in standards and complaints from residents will rise.*

Reducing the established Borough Council service is a pattern of behaviour already established when Surrey Highways took back the maintenance of highway trees from the Borough Council. SCC will now only provide for the maintenance of a tree if it is diseased, dying, or dead. So pruning, clearing telephone wires and other maintenance work is no longer undertaken.
I also have a concern about SCC taking back on-street parking enforcement. In Epsom and Ewell, we have resisted pressure to introduced parking meters across the borough. My concern is that SCC's "fair and consistent approach across Surrey" will be used to populate our streets with these parking charging devices as a way of funding SCC's services and taking more from our residents."

Cllr **Julie Morris** (LibDem College Ward Epsom) responded to the wider plan: "*This sounds like another power grab , furthering SCC's mission to abolish district and borough councils entirely. Having the county council deal with on street parking enforcement will not work. Centralisation means there is no local knowledge. Our wardens respond really well*

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to complaints, hot spots and are quick to resolve problems when these are reported. As for wildflower planting, I'm happy to reserve judgement on that one as we've tried for a few years to get EEBC to leave verges uncut and introduce a wildflower bloom+cut regime and they've done nothing. "

Related stories

A Greener Future in Partial Sight As Verges To Be Left Unmown

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Epsom Hospital bucks Brexit staff bottleneck

6 August 2022



Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust bucks the national trend in maintaining its level of recruitment of UK qualified medical staff between 2015 and 2021. Nationally the picture is different.

The share of homegrown doctors and nurses joining England's NHS is at its lowest for seven years, BBC analysis of workforce data has found.

Some 58% of doctors joining the health service in 2021 came from the UK, with health bosses increasingly turning to international recruitment.

The **British Medical Association** told the BBC the NHS faced a "workforce crisis". It "faced a challenge retaining staff from overseas, due to the "financial and bureaucratic barriers" they faced. **Dr Amit Kochlar**, its international committee deputy chair, said medical graduates were charged up to £2,400 to apply for indefinite leave to remain, with each of their dependents facing the same fee.

While overall numbers have been increasing, critics said declining domestic recruitment was unsustainable to keep pace with demand.

Patricia Marquis, Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Director for England, said ministers must do more to reduce the "disproportionate reliance" on international recruits. "We are seeing a sharp increase in people leaving nursing, with more of our members saying they are considering alternative careers," she said.

Danny Mortimer, chief executive of NHS Employers, said it was "high time for the government to commit to a fully-funded, long-term workforce plan for the NHS" to tackle "chronic workforce shortages". He said "relentless demand" was affecting staff due to vacancies which stood at around 110,000 – "gaps which cannot and should not be filled through international recruitment alone".

A recent report by the cross-party Commons health and social care select committee concluded the large number of unfilled NHS job vacancies was posing a serious risk to patient safety.

The BBC analysed workforce data provided by NHS Digital from 2015 to 2021, to investigate if trends it previously reported following the Brexit referendum in June 2016 continued. The share of UK doctors joining the health service had fallen from 69% in 2015 to 58% last year. Over the same period, the share of new UK nurses fell from 74% to 61%. Recruitment of doctors from the Rest of the World rose from 18% to 34% over the same period, and that share of international nurses rose from 7% to 34%.



In the **Epsom and St Helier Trust** the level of UK recruitment remained even though there was a 13.7% reduction in EU recruitment and a corresponding 13.7% increase in worldwide recruitment during the period analyzed.

News and data provided by the **Local Democracy Service of the BBC** in which **Epsom and Ewell Times** is a partner. For the full in-depth report CLICK HERE

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West Street developers climbing down enough?

6 August 2022



Having a third bite at the planning cherry **Quanta Homes 3 Ltd** is applying to **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council** for permission to demolish the old and ornately faced building situated at **24-28 West Street Epsom**. In its place a new 5 / 6 storey modern residential block of 20 units. Including just 10% in the “affordable” category.

Quanta Homes **3** Ltd is one of about 10 similarly named private limited property companies, active or dissolved under the sole directorship of **Mr Robert Du Toit**.



Rejected planning applications for first a 13 storey and then an 8 storey building are now followed by a part 5 and part 6 storey building application.

No doubt this latest application will excite again the debate between modernisers of the Town and preservers of the Town. You can make your views known online to the Council on THIS LINK

Related

Mind the Epsom Town Centre Masterplan!

£225,000 to plan the unplanned

Epsom’s Summer school sanctuary for refugees

6 August 2022



The Epsom Refugee Network has succeeded in securing for 75 students of all young ages a six-week Summer school at St Johns in Leatherhead. With the generous support of the school, 25 teachers, 30 general volunteers and donors the school provides English lessons, playtime and opportunities for refugee children fleeing war zones and persecutions to be “children again” and make friendships. Afghani, Syrian and Ukrainian children mix happily as one together with English and refugee teachers and volunteers.

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Jo Sherring and Nina Kaye, on right, of Epsom Refugee Network explaining to Chris Grayling MP

Chris Grayling, Epsom and Ewell's MP, visited Tuesday 2nd August and said to Epsom and Ewell Times' reporter: "Epsom Refugee Network is amazing in what it has done. The school is a fantastic achievement and is making a huge difference".



Safe environment for refugee children of different nationalities to play at St Johns School

Ukrainian volunteer Olha Zyatyk said "It is a great thing really. A huge number of children, 114 have been registered, giving them a possibility to find friends and not feel alone. We learn from each other to understand the cultural differences. All helps make a new life in a new country".



St Johns School Leatherhead Surrey – Summer home for refugee school.

Helping Ukrainian refugees access work

A group of Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network volunteers are supporting Ukrainian refugees to find suitable employment in the local area. Many Ukrainian refugees have professional qualifications and significant experience in areas such as: accountancy, medicine & health care, teaching and construction. In order to secure a job in the UK at the same level they have previously been working at, many have to convert their Ukrainian qualifications into the UK recognised equivalent, an ambition which is both costly and time consuming.

The Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network work support group is looking for local employers who can utilise the extensive skills and experience that these refugees bring to us now; who can offer jobs that do not require UK professional qualifications as a prerequisite to carry out associated or similar work; recognising that work offered in the UK is unlikely to be at the same level than they have recently been operating at.

If you have a vacancy that may be suitable for a Ukrainian refugee or want to know more please email: epsomrefugeenetwork@gmail.com

For any further information on local initiatives to support refugees please visit Epsom & Ewell Refugee

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Networkwww.epsomrefugeenetwork.org

Bringing to life the dead in Epsom's forgotten cemetery – Historic England awards local charity.

6 August 2022



Historic England has announced £9,988.00 in funding to the **Friends of Horton Cemetery** Charity in **Epsom and Ewell** as part of its 'Everyday Heritage Grants: Celebrating Working Class History.' [Photo: Aerial shot of Horton Cemetery taken in 1952.]

This grant will help the charity realise their heritage project titled '**Out of Sight, Out of Mind**' which will amplify in-progress research by 50+ volunteers to reconstruct biographical histories of the thousands of men, women and children buried in 'pauper graves' within the largest abandoned hospital cemetery in the UK. Co-creation of 900 ceramic flowers to commemorate former psychiatric patients without memorialisation, an exhibition and crafting workshops.

This announcement follows an open call earlier this year, inviting community or heritage organisations across the country to apply for grants of up to £25,000.00 in a bid to further the nation's collective understanding of the past. Competition was intense with 57 successful bids being announced today out of 500 nation-wide applications.

Historic England hope the grant will contribute positively to participants' wellbeing, as well as providing innovative volunteering opportunities for young people or those facing loneliness and isolation. Local heritage also gives people a sense of pride in place, a cornerstone of the levelling up agenda, and they are excited to help it act as a powerful catalyst for increasing local opportunities and prosperity.

Dr Alana Harris, Director of Liberal Arts at King's College London, local Epsom resident and expert consultant to the Friends of Horton Cemetery will direct the Project. She said "The support of Historic England is a ringing endorsement of the importance of Horton Cemetery as a heritage site of national importance and widespread interest. I am excited by the opportunities provided by this prestigious funding grant to involve more people in remembering these forgotten histories."

Kevin McDonnell, who leads the volunteer research team, responded to the award of this grant*:* "Winning this grant is down to the skill, dedication and time generosity of the great team of volunteer researchers who are telling the stories of the forgotten people, mainly Londoners, buried in this cemetery as paupers, and bringing them "back to life".

The Friends of Horton Cemetery are encouraging teams researching other psychiatric hospital cemeteries around London to use a similar model to theirs. Anyone interested in working on these projects should email hortoncemetery@gmail.com

Visit www.hortoncemetery.org for further information

Another consultation during the holiday month….

6 August 2022

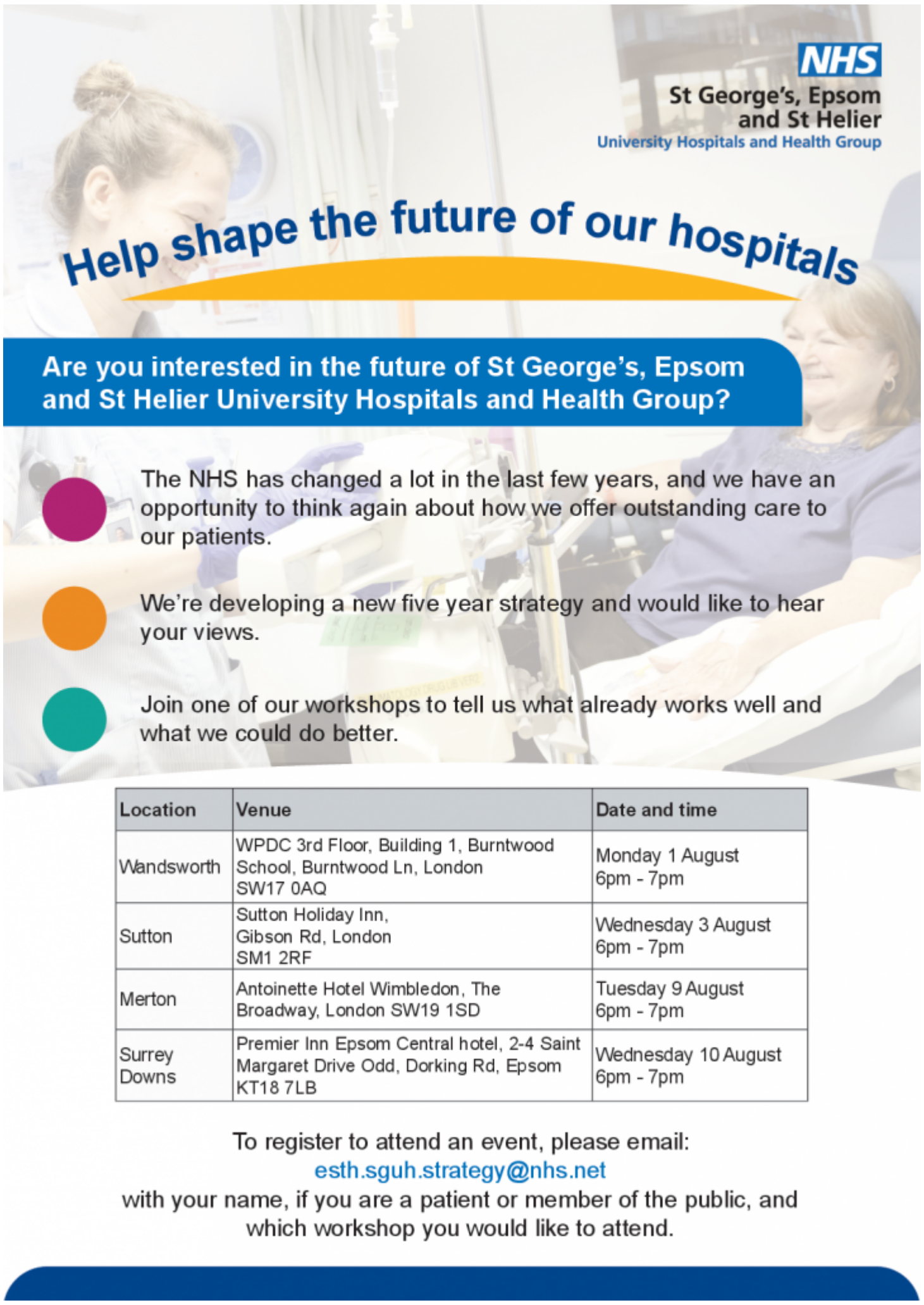


Epsom and St Helier and St George's Hospital are holding a series of workshops starting this week and next for patients and the public to attend. The workshop will involve shaping the new joint strategy for St George's and Epsom and St Helier Hospital. The workshops will be approximately 60-90mins long and facilitated by the hospital's transformation and strategy team. Teas and coffees will be served on the night. A full break down of the events, dates and times can be found below. **Epsom and Ewell's** will be held at the **Premier Inn Dorking Road** Epsom on Wednesday 10th August at

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6.00pm RSVP via esth.sguh.strategy@nhs.net



August Police warn drink drivers in Surrey

6 August 2022



Surrey Police have launched their annual summer crackdown on drink and drug drivers in Surrey. Drink and drug-

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driving is one of the most common causes of collisions which result in death or serious injury, and in 2021 416 drink or drug drivers were arrested and charged on the roads of Surrey.

From 1 August to 1 September, Surrey and Sussex Police will have extra resources dedicated to preventing and detecting incidents of drink and drug-driving. This is in addition to the routine roads policing work carried out 24/7, 365 days a year, by their **Roads Policing Un**it and new **Vanguard Road Safety Team**.

The Vanguard Team are a new and dedicated police resource focusing solely on the 'fatal 5' – the leading contributory factors in collisions, to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on Surrey's roads.

In line with their previous campaigns, anyone arrested during this period and then convicted will be identified on their website and social media channels as a deterrent.

Chief Inspector Michael Hodder, of the Surrey and Sussex Roads Policing Unit, said: "It cannot be said enough how much drink and drug-driving can ruin lives.

"Drink-driving is something that is becoming more socially unacceptable but unfortunately, we are seeing more and more drug-driving on Surrey roads. This is something we are working hard to tackle, and these dedicated campaigns are crucial in raising awareness, deterring would-be offenders, and keeping as many people as possible, safe on the roads.

"As always, we will deal extremely robustly with these offenders through a combination of measures including education, engineering, and enforcement, with a special emphasis on reducing casualty rates of vulnerable users like motorcyclists and young drivers.

"Technology now allows us to test drivers at the roadside there and then for drugs, which allows us to be more effective in how we tackle drug driving and means that drivers who are breaking the law, will be caught.

"Alcohol and drugs affect everyone differently, so do the right thing, don't risk it and arrange alternative ways home if you are planning on going out."

The consequences of drink or drug-driving could include:
• Killing or seriously injuring yourself or someone else;
• A minimum 12-month ban;
• An unlimited fine;
• A possible prison sentence;
• A criminal record, which could affect your current and future employment;
• An increase in your car insurance costs;
• Trouble travelling to countries such as the USA.
• If you know someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, call 999.

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report it online. www.crimestoppers-uk.org

The campaign is being run in conjunction with the **DriveSmart in Surrey and Sussex Safer Roads Partnership.**

Council's last minute opposition to ULEZ extension.

6 August 2022



With just one day to go before the end of the consultation period, **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council** agreed on 28th July a response to Transport for London's (TFL's) proposed plan to extend the **Ultra Low Emissions Zone** (ULEZ) to all London boroughs, including neighbouring Kingston and Sutton. See Epsom and Ewell Times report 17th June on ULEZ extension.

ULEZ is a charge, currently £12.50 a day, imposed on the most polluting vehicles that enter the zone. Most petrol cars manufactured after January 2006, most diesel cars manufactured after September 2016 and all electric cars are exempt from the ULEZ charge.

In a special motion to the Council meeting on 28th July, Councillor **Phil Neale** (RA, Cuddington Ward) proposed a response to the consultation arguing for a significant increase in the number of exempt routes and an extension of any scrappage scheme to include Epsom and Ewell. The motion also called for an extension of the consultation period to allow more careful analysis of the cause and effect to the welfare and economy of the boroughs neighbouring London. "We support the move to reduce the high level of air pollution caused by congestion and high-emission vehicles," he said. "However, in this time of economic pressure, the scheme needs to consider the economic, social and mental health needs of all communities affected by the scheme, not just London boroughs. It is going to hit lower income families more. I'm not asking for ULEZ to be dropped, I'm asking for TFL to consider what will happen in the boroughs surrounding London."

"There seems to be no thought by TFL whatsoever of the impact this will have on the borough and our residents" said **Cllr. John Beckett** (RA, Auriol Ward, Chair of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee). "I welcome the travel

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corridors that have been put in, but I do have to question why I can drive 98% of the way to the new hospital site, but the road I need to use to get into the hospital site is in the proposed ULEZ."

"If we get public transport sorted, that would be the time to get people moving out of their cars" said **Cllr. Neil Dallen** (RA, Town Ward, Chair of the Strategy and Resource Committee).

Cllr Kate Chinn (Labour, Court Ward) provided the solitary voice opposing the motion. "It is only the oldest and most polluting vehicles that apply – these need to be taken off the roads…let's give people help to do that and let's look after this world for ourselves and the people who come after us."

The motion was passed by a considerable majority. Exact voting figures were not announced by the Mayor who chaired the meeting.

"Statement of community involvement" involves what about what?

6 August 2022



Following a 4-week public consultation, **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council** unveiled its new draft **Statement of Community Involvement** (SCI) at a meeting of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee on 28th July. This describes how local residents, businesses and other organisations can be involved in the planning process in Epsom and Ewell.

It is a legal requirement for the Council to have an SCI and to review it every five years as the way in which communities and the Council interact changes.

Planning decisions affect us all so, if you are interested in your area and would like to be involved in shaping future planning policy in Epsom & Ewell, you can:

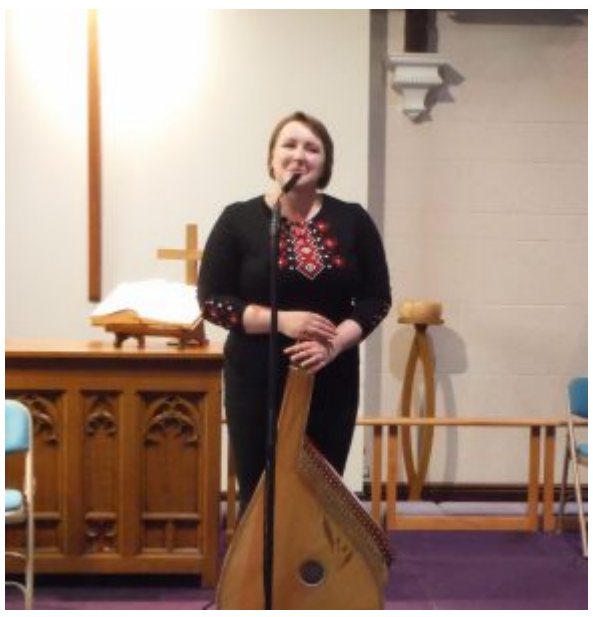
- Sign up to receive notifications about local plan consultations.
- Read the council's Local Development Scheme to find out what documents are going to be produced and when.
- Monitor the council's Planning Policy webpages for updates and latest news.

· Check if a Neighbourhood Forum has been established in your area to prepare a neighbourhood plan.

The draft SCI can be read in the Agenda Reports Pack of the committee meeting, but please be aware that it is subject to some small amendments as a result of questions and suggestions raised by councillors at the meeting.

Blues on a bandura blow minds in Epsom

6 August 2022



Ukrainian refugee musicians delighted a packed audience in the Epsom Methodist Church Saturday 30th July. On behalf of the local community **Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Cllr Clive Woodbridge** extended a warm welcome to all Ukrainian refugees and thanked the sacrifices of local hosts who have taken them into their homes.

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Organised by **Lionel Blackman** with **Nina Kaye of Epsom Refugee Network** and **Surrey Stands With Ukraine,** the evening was compered by **Darina Dvorinchenko,** a refugee from Odessa, who also conducted all the required interpretation.

In response to the Mayor professional pianist **Natalia Zadorizhna** expressed the deep gratitude to our community for all we are doing in standing with her country in the “evil time”. And that gratitude was demonstrated by fine performances also from her young daughter **Diana**, who played the piano and recited from memory and in English the Ukrainian poem “**Love Ukraine**” by **Volodymyr Sosiura**.



Packed audience at Epsom Methodist Church

Young **Liza Pryiemska** played piano, recited the poem in Ukrainian and sang beautifully. 21 year old **Tetiana Zheliba** at short notice replacing an artist who fell sick, took to the fine grand piano at EMC for two compositions.

Young 16 year old **Nika Vlasova** played **Schubert’s “The Bee”** solo on violin.

Like a winged harp carrying angel **Yulia Komyshan**, recently arrived from Ukraine, had heard about the event on a social network and simply turned up unannounced, **Bandura** in hand. She crowned the night with the audience standing to the national song and included in her performance was a remarkable rendition of a blues number. She certainly blew the blues away. The audience all rose to their feet in a sustained ovation for these remarkably talented and brave Ukrainians.

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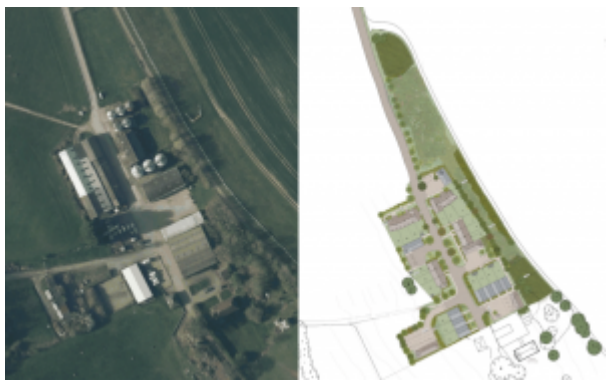
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Darina Dvorinchenko, Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Natalia and Diana Zadorizhna, Liza Pryiemska, Tetiana Zheliba, Nika Vlasova and Yuliya Komyshan with her Ukrainian bandura.

Did the Inspector get to the Bottom of this?

6 August 2022



Langley Bottom Farm in Epsom is to become a small housing estate following the decision of Planning Inspector **D Hartley** dated 14th July 2022. Overturning a refusal of the **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council** and against overwhelming objections of the public in the 168 recorded submissions the Inspector allowed the appeal of **Fairfax Properties**, despite the location being in **Green Belt land**.

The Inspector made the following controversial observations:

“One of the purposes of Green Belt is to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment. The site includes a number of existing buildings and areas of hardstanding. The latter has the continued potential to be used for the parking of vehicles. Overall, and taking into account the existing use, characteristics and extent of development on the site, I am satisfied that subject to the imposition of planning conditions the proposal would not lead to countryside encroachment and hence there would be no conflict with this Green Belt purpose.”

Concerning **local facilities** for the future occupants he stated “Langley Vale is within reasonable walking and cycling distance of the appeal site. It contains a limited number of facilities and amenities such as the ‘Park and Shop’ petrol filling station convenience store, ‘The Shop on the Corner’, garage, village hall, pre-school and primary school. I acknowledge the Council’s comment that ‘The Shop on the Corner’ appears to have ceased trading. There is of course some possibility that the property could be used again as a shop but, in any event, ‘The Park and Shop’ does provide some food and drink provision albeit that I acknowledge that it would likely only be used on the basis of day to day ‘topping up’.”

On **public transport, walking and cycling** he observed with optimism: “The site is located in close proximity to bus stops within Langley Vale and includes bus service E5 every two hours to Epsom (Monday to Saturday) and school service

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618 (Monday to Friday). Furthermore, three mainline railway stations are located nearby (Epsom, Epsom Downs and Tattenham Corner) providing commuting services to London and access to destinations further afield. There is also bus service 408 from Epsom to Cobham and stopping at Leatherhead and which runs Monday to Friday calling at Langley Vale once a day. I acknowledge that services are not very frequent but nevertheless I find that some of the proposed residents would use them on occasion. The evidence is that the site is served well by a number of public footpath and cycle routes where some limited opportunities would be available, primarily in the day time and when there is no inclement weather. These could be used to visit services and amenities both locally and further afield."

The Inspector did observe that **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council** had allowed arguably unauthorised uses of the land to continue unchallenged for so many years that the "developed uses" became lawful. The claims of threats to the Green Belt were thereby undermined.

40% of the houses are to be "affordable". Time will tell how affordable they will be.

Safer nights ahead in Epsom with funding boost

6 August 2022



Epsom & Ewell Borough Council will receive £271,712 in government funding for a project to improve safety for Epsom town centre's night-time economy.

The Home Office's Safer Streets funding was secured in partnership with Surrey Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Business Improvement District, Go Epsom.

These improvements are aimed specifically at supporting the safety and vitality of the night-time economy, including reducing violence against women and girls.

The funding will help the following items:

- Upgrade of CCTV in Epsom town centre
- Support businesses operating in the evening with training and accreditation
- Support the existing Street Pastors with equipment and training
- Develop a further night-time presence to build on the work of the Street Pastors
- Provide anti drink spiking equipment to licensed premises and customers
- Deliver a communications package promoting the safety of patrons in the town centre and promote personal safety

In response to ongoing issues in and around Epsom town centre, Surrey Police worked closely with Epsom & Ewell Borough Council to draw up an application for Safer Streets funding.

A survey was sent out into the community and the results were closely consulted when drafting the application. Among the concerns raised were drug use, threatening behaviour, extreme drunkenness, and violence within Epsom town centre, closely linked to the night-time economy.

The survey highlighted a desire for better signposting to help and support, and a need for increased confidence in the police response to issues within the town centre.

The application was drafted by the police and council, then approved and submitted by Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner Lisa Townsend. Other areas in Surrey to benefit from successful funding bids are Sunbury Cross and the Surrey Towers development in Addlestone.

The money will be used, among other measures, to modernise CCTV use, deliver training packages for licensed premises, and to provide free anti-drink spiking and spiking detection devices within Epsom town centre.

Councillor John Beckett, Chair of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee, said, "It's great to hear Epsom has received the Safer Streets funding, we are particularly proud of the partnership working that took place to bring this resource together for the benefit of local residents and businesses.

"Supporting the night-time economy while ensuring the safety of residents, particularly female ones, is an important priority and we will continue to work with everyone involved to ensure this money is spent effectively. Epsom town centre is a vibrant evening economy and we are delighted to enhance safety and boost confidence for every business and visitor."

Inspector Jon Vale, Borough Commander, said, "This is fantastic news. Surrey Police and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council have worked tirelessly as a partnership in the submission of this bid.

"The community have told us their concerns, and we have listened. The funding made available will allow the partnership to implement numerous measures that would not otherwise been a possibility.

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“This will help to make Epsom town centre an even safer place for users of the night-time economy, in particular women and girls. Tackling violence against women and girls is a specific priority for the Epsom & Ewell Community Safety Partnership and this work demonstrates our shared commitment in this respect.”

Rod Brown, Chair of the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership, said, “We know from speaking with residents that the safety of their environment is of great importance. I am delighted that this award will allow us to deliver lasting benefits to the late-night economy in Epsom to allow business to invest with confidence and secure safety improvements for the town.”

Adam Kick the Chairman of Epsom and Ewell’s **Pubwatch** enthuses: “This is amazing news for the borough and has most certainly been achieved as a result of tireless work by all parties involved in the proposal. This funding will most certainly help towards supporting the aim of providing a vibrant nightlife where customer safety is paramount.”

Karen Pengelly, BID Manager at Go Epsom, said, “Since Epsom’s businesses reopened after Covid lockdowns, the BID has been doing lots of groundwork on safety and security, engaging with our local licensed premises and retailers and working with security experts to reduce offending.

“This fresh investment in a modern and much improved CCTV system provides Epsom with the tools that are needed to reduce theft and anti-social behaviour. It’s wonderful news.”

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