

# Karl Nicholas honoured with Active Citizen Award at Borough Civic Reception

14 March 2026



A long-serving community volunteer whose work spans youth organisations, music, policing and education has been honoured with Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Active Citizen Award at the Mayor's Annual Civic Reception.

The award was presented to **Karl Nicholas** by the Mayor, Cllr Robert Leach, during the civic gathering held on the evening of 13 March at Bourne Hall in Ewell. The reception, hosted by the Mayor and Mayoress Marilyn Leach, brought together councillors, aldermen, freemen of the borough, past mayors and other invited residents who have contributed to civic life in Epsom & Ewell.

Among those attending was Mary Zoeller, Deputy-Lieutenant of Surrey, along with a wide range of community figures representing voluntary organisations, education, faith groups and public service across the borough.

The Active Citizen citation described Nicholas as someone with a "distinguished record of public service", highlighting decades of involvement across multiple areas of community life.

He has been involved with Second Cuddington Scouts for more than two decades, including 18 years serving as assistant commissioner for the area. The scout group provides activities for boys and girls aged six to eighteen and offers training opportunities for young people, including camps and leadership development.

Music has been another major thread in Nicholas's community service. He serves as bandmaster and assistant musical director of the Kingston and Malden Scout and Guide Band, a role he has held for 25 years. The band has performed at prestigious occasions including Buckingham Palace garden parties and the Lord Mayor's Show.

His musical contribution also extends to church life. Nicholas learned to play the organ at Cuddington Church and has been involved in church music there for more than 30 years, first as a choirboy and later as organist and choir director. The citation notes that he has frequently stepped in to support services when needed, including standing in at short notice to play for the Mayor's civic service when the regular organist was taken ill.

Alongside his voluntary work, Nicholas has also served as a special constable for 14 years, and in his professional life works as a teacher. He currently serves as Head of Inclusion and Special Needs at Southborough High School, having previously been deputy head at a school in Cheam.

The citation concluded that across these roles Nicholas has shown "commitment and competence" and that his personal manner and skill make him "a worthy recipient of the Active Citizen Award".

The civic reception itself provided a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere in Bourne Hall. The evening featured musical performances from Ukrainian musician Vladislav Voloshin, who entertained guests with a programme including pieces by ABBA and Bach, performed on saxophone and clarinet. The Mayor himself accompanied the performance on the piano.

Guests mingled over refreshments in the hall while reflecting the borough's long civic traditions. The gathering brought together representatives from across the political spectrum and many strands of local life, demonstrating the borough's continuing culture of voluntary service and public engagement.

Proceedings were guided with humour and warmth by Cllr Julian Freeman, the Liberal Democrat councillor who acted as master of ceremonies for the evening.

While politics often divides in the council chamber, the reception provided a reminder that the borough's civic culture rests on a broader shared commitment to public service and community life.

That spirit was embodied in the recognition of Karl Nicholas — a volunteer whose decades of work in youth development, music, education and policing have quietly strengthened the fabric of local life in Epsom & Ewell.

Lionel Blackman

Image: Karl Nicholas holding his award medal against the background of St Mary's Church (Des Blenkinsopp - CC BY-SA 2.0)

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# Epsom Christmas carols of two colleges and a council

14 March 2026



In the first and a unique festive venture for the Borough of Epsom Ewell a special carol service was held in the Chapel of St Luke, Epsom College this evening. Organised on the joint initiatives of Julie Kapsalis (CEO NESCOL), Jackie King (CEO Epsom and Ewell Borough Council) and Mark Lascelles (Head of Epsom College).

The event brought local choirs together including NESCOL's own choir, singers from Epsom College and the local Ukrainian choir Renaissance.

Solos were sung by Evie Kingsley, Sienna-Leigh Campbell, Benedict Raper and Caleb Mangatal-Francis.

Julie Kapsalis read from the Gospel of St Matthew 2: 1-12 and Jackie King recited her own reading "The Heart of Christmas", reprinted below.

The service was officiated with humour and aplomb by The Reverend Canon Andrew Haviland.

Epsom Racecourse supported the service.

And no less a figure than the Worshipful Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Cllr Robert Leach (RA Nonsuch) accompanied the congregation on the magnificent Chapel organ and played the processional at the end J.S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in F from his book of 8 preludes and fugues.

The carol service was an uplifting beginning for many to the festive season and promises have been made to make it a regular feature in the Borough in future years.

Lionel Blackman



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## The Heart of Christmas

There are so many ways to tell the story of Christmas.  
Some begin with angels, some with gifts, some with the hush of falling snow.  
But however the story starts, it always finds its way to one place-  
the warmth we share when we come together.

Christmas is found in the quiet moments:  
in the smell of something baking,  
the sound of wrapping paper being carefully - or not so carefully - torn,  
in the giggles of children who can't quite sleep,  
and in the gentle nod of someone who's seen many Christmases before.

It's in the messages sent to far-off friends,  
the unexpected kindness from a neighbour,  
the extra chair pulled up to the table,  
and the thought that maybe - just maybe -  
there is more that connects us than divides us.

And in this season of gathering and giving,  
we also pause for a moment to hold in our hearts  
those who are not with us tonight-  
loved ones we remember with tenderness,  
and friends or family who are far away.

We think of Christmases past -  
of laughter spilling across the table,

carols sung a little off-key,  
hands held during snowy walks,  
stories told beside the glow of the tree.  
Those moments, though now memories,  
are treasures we carry with us -  
poignant reminders of love shared,  
and joyful times that shaped who we are.  
Their voices may have quietened,  
but their light has not dimmed.  
It lives in our hearts,  
woven into every song, every smile, every candle we light.

Distance and time may keep us apart,  
and for some, separation comes through hardship or conflict.  
Tonight, we think of them too -  
those far from home,  
those seeking safety,  
those waiting for peace.  
May they feel the warmth of the world's compassion  
and know that they are not forgotten.

For love is wonderfully stubborn;  
it travels in our thoughts, in our stories,  
and in the quiet spaces where we still feel their presence.  
Each memory, each name whispered with a smile,  
becomes part of the light that surrounds us now.

For some, Christmas means faith.  
For others, it means family, friendship, or the turning of the year.  
But for all of us, it can mean light-  
the light we share when we care,  
when we welcome,  
when we choose to hope.

So tonight, as the music rises and the candles glow,  
may we remember what truly makes this season shine:  
not the decorations or the presents,  
but the people-  
those beside us,  
those we miss,  
and those we have yet to meet.

Because the heart of Christmas is not found under a tree -  
it's found in us,  
in every act of kindness,  
every hand extended,  
every loving thought that crosses the miles or the years.

For when we give, include, and love-  
we keep the heart of Christmas alive.

Jackie King



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## 23rd October 2025

14 March 2026

Council News

### **Surrey County Council under pressure over safeguarding review**

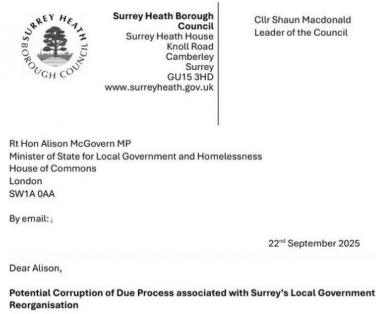


21 October 2025

Surrey County Council is facing growing calls to come clean about when it will publish the findings of its independent review into how it dealt with Pride in Surrey and ... [Read More](#)

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## Surrey County Council LGR leaflet misleading claim



20 October 2025

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Council Elections

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20 October 2025

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Council Planning Westminster

## Surrey home extension charges aired in Parliament



20 October 2025

"Complex and inflexible" rules that unintentionally and "unfairly penalise" homeowners with six-figure fines "for the apparent crime of building a home extension" will be reexamined, the housing minister has said. ... [Read More](#)

Rugby Sports

## Epsom's Rugby Team Make Light Of Missing Men To Go Top



20 October 2025

Gravesend 12 Sutton and Epsom RFC 29. Saturday 18th October. Sutton and Epsom arrived at the Rectory Field seeking a return to winning ways following their first loss of the ... [Read More](#)

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Editorial

## Local government reform or just more layers?



17 October 2025

EDITORIAL When Whitehall speaks of “streamlining” local government, most people imagine fewer tiers of decision-making, simpler accountability, and a shorter distance between citizen and power. Yet, as the picture for ... [Read More](#)

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## Where do we stand on local government reorganisation in Epsom and Ewell and the County?



17 October 2025

The future shape of local government in Surrey is moving into its final stage, with national and local plans converging on the abolition of all borough, district and county councils ... [Read More](#)

Health Volunteers

## Epsom Hospital’s support for bereaved mum of baby



17 October 2025

A Tadworth mother whose baby died tragically from a rare infection aged only eight days has praised the nurses and

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Environment News

## Epsom Downs leftovers



15 October 2025

Heaps of leftover racing dirt and old equipment have been abandoned on Epsom Downs, prompting criticism of the “weed-infested eyesores”. Epsom Civic Society has raised the alarm over soil heaps ... [Read More](#)

Council Environment

## Ewell High Street gets a cleaner bill of health



15 October 2025

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s Environment Committee has agreed to revoke the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for Ewell High Street, marking a major milestone in local environmental improvement. The ... [Read More](#)

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# Local government reform or just more layers?

14 March 2026



EDITORIAL

When Whitehall speaks of “streamlining” local government, most people imagine fewer tiers of decision-making, simpler accountability, and a shorter distance between citizen and power. Yet, as the picture for Surrey emerges, the so-called “reorganisation” seems to be producing the opposite effect.

Instead of the two existing levels - borough and county - the new design threatens to spawn three or even four. We are told that the twelve boroughs and districts, together with Surrey County Council, will be swept away and replaced by one or more “unitary” councils. But at the same time, ministers promise a directly elected county-wide Mayor and a new Strategic Authority above the unitaries. Meanwhile, below them, parish and neighbourhood councils are to be invented to replace the voice that boroughs once provided. It all begins to look suspiciously like multiplication rather than simplification.

The slogans speak of bringing local government closer to the people. Yet residents may soon find themselves further away from anyone who can actually make a decision. The proposed Mayoral Authority will sit at a distance, occupied with big-ticket issues such as transport, growth and infrastructure. The new unitaries will cover territories so large that many of Surrey’s smaller communities will struggle to be noticed. Below them, the new parish or “community” councils will have limited powers, modest budgets, and uncertain influence.

Epsom and Ewell’s own decision to consult on forming parish councils is both understandable and ironic. For ninety years the borough has prided itself on a direct, residents-led form of local democracy. Now, in the name of devolution, that independence is being dismantled. The new parish layer would exist solely to replace what is being abolished. It may well

be the right precaution, but it is a strange kind of progress.

Surrey County Council's pilot "Neighbourhood Area Committees" add a further tier of consultation. These panels may be useful experiments in local engagement, but they are not elected and carry no statutory power. However well-intentioned, they underline the growing sense that accountability is being replaced by advisory talk-shops.

If the reform was meant to cut complexity, it has already failed that test. Residents will have to learn a new vocabulary of "unitaries", "mayoral authorities", "combined areas" and "neighbourhood committees" - each with its own meetings, officers, and costs. The idea of saving money and clarifying responsibility fades the more layers are drawn on the map.

There is still time for ministers to stop and listen. Surrey is not ungovernable; it is merely suffering from the same pressures faced by councils everywhere - tight budgets and rising demand. Reorganisation may change the furniture, but it will not conjure new funds or restore trust.

Before dismantling the one part of local democracy that still feels local, government should ask a simple question: is this truly reform, or is it bureaucracy reborn?

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## Epsom Hospital's support for bereaved mum of baby

14 March 2026



A Tadworth mother whose baby died tragically from a rare infection aged only eight days has praised the nurses and midwives who supported her family during "the darkest time in our lives".

Jodie Picknett gave birth to baby George at Epsom Hospital in April 2023. Shortly afterwards, he returned to hospital to be treated for jaundice but became suddenly very unwell and lethargic. At just seven days old, he was admitted to the Special Care Baby Unit.

That night George deteriorated, and despite the determined efforts of the neonatal nurses, he sadly passed away. A post-mortem later revealed that he had contracted a severe enterovirus — a condition usually mild for most people but which can prove deadly for newborns.

For Jodie and her family, the care and guidance of Specialist Bereavement Midwife Lydia Baker and the Maternity Bereavement Team at Epsom Hospital were a vital source of strength. The team liaised with the coroner and post-mortem services and connected the family with funeral directors experienced in compassionate bereavement care.

Jodie, 37, said: "Lydia supported us through every step - from looking after George and making practical arrangements to simply being there when we needed her. Her compassion and understanding made the hardest moments that little bit more bearable."

Thanks to funding from Epsom and St Helier Hospitals Charity, Lydia and her team can provide detailed 3D 'memory castings' for bereaved families. The casts capture each tiny feature of a baby's hands and feet, offering parents a lasting, tangible connection. Previously, families received only basic prints, but the charity's support now enables the team to create intricate castings from the twenty-sixth week of pregnancy onwards.

Lydia said: "When a baby dies, families don't have a lifetime of memories, so creating something tangible in that moment is vital."

Jodie is now fundraising for the hospital charity so this work can continue. She is inviting people to donate ribbons that will form a memorial display at their local church, with proceeds supporting more bereaved families.

"After George died, the bereavement team helped guide us through the darkest time in our lives with empathy and respect," Jodie said. "By fundraising, we hope to help Lydia and her team continue their vital work, ensuring more families receive the same compassionate, specialist care. Our ribbon display is a small gesture, but it offers a space for others to remember their babies too. It's a way to say: your baby mattered, and they are not forgotten."

For Jodie and her husband Ben, 41, Epsom Hospital holds special meaning. Their daughter Alice was born there in August 2021 and their third child, Lucy, in May 2025.

Jodie added: "We think about our son every day - he is part of everything we do. We will never get to see George take his

first steps, say his first words, or start school. That loss is felt every day. So being able to say his name and honour his memory publicly is incredibly important to us.”

Molly Simpson, Head of Charity and Fundraising at Epsom and St Helier Hospitals Charity, said: “Losing a baby is devastating for any family and we are very proud to support the teams who help them through their grief. We’re grateful to Jodie and her husband Ben for sharing such a personal story and know it will inspire others to give what they can - your generosity will mean our exceptional teams can continue to support bereaved parents when they need it most.”

Jodie is sharing her story during Baby Loss Awareness Week, which offers a space for anyone affected by pregnancy and baby loss to share their experiences.

Donations can be made via Jodie and Ben’s JustGiving page.

St George’s, Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals and Health Group

Photo: George with mum Jodie and sister Alice

## 16th October 2025

14 March 2026

Rugby Sports

### Sidcup Burst The Sutton & Epsom Bubble



13 October 2025

Sidcup 22 Sutton & Epsom RFC 12. Saturday 11th October. Sutton & Epsom first visited Crescent Farm in 1914 for a 25-0 win and it is a delight that, despite ... [Read More](#)

Community Volunteers Westminster

### Epsom MP leads cross-party delegation to Ukraine to examine impact of explosive weapons



12 October 2025

A cross-party delegation of UK Parliamentarians has travelled to Ukraine to assess the humanitarian and environmental impact of explosive weapons and to strengthen cooperation between the two countries on mine ... [Read More](#)

Community Foodbank Volunteers

### Handmade in Epsom and Ewell: local makers unite to support Epsom Foodbank

10 October 2025

Handmade in Epsom and Ewell (HiEE) will hold its first community event, The Festive Makers Fair, on Saturday 29th November 2025 from 10am to 3pm in the Youth Hall at ... [Read More](#)

Council News

## Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Annual Report

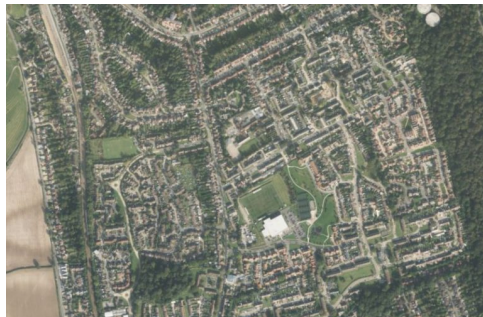


10 October 2025

EEBC publishes an Annual Report amid some questions over priorities and spending. Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has released its 2024/25 Annual Report, showcasing a range of achievements over the ... [Read More](#)

Community Education Health

## Surrey inequality report challenges 'leafy county' myth



10 October 2025

The idea that Surrey is all leafy lanes, golf courses and big houses is a myth, according to a new report. Despite being a prosperous area of the country, the ... [Read More](#)

Education Health News

## Defibrillators delivered by drone?



10 October 2025

A groundbreaking project testing how drones could be integrated into the UK's 999 emergency response system to deliver defibrillators to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patients has been launched by the University ... [Read More](#)

Business Education

## Epsom and Ewell College Principal wins Silver at National Business Women's Awards



10 October 2025

Julie Kapsalis recognised for bridging the gap between boardroom and classroom. Nescot's Principal and CEO, Julie Kapsalis, won silver in the 'Community Champion' category at the National Business Women's Awards ... [Read More](#)

Arts Community Environment

## Ewell East underpass transformed by new community mural

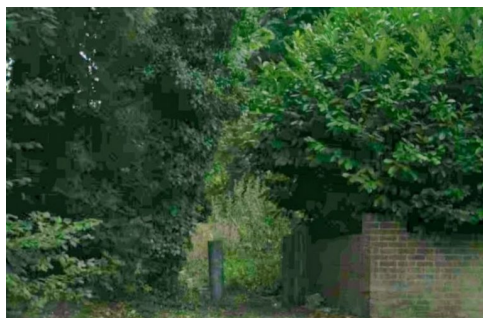


10 October 2025

A once grim and intimidating underpass in Ewell East has been given a striking new look thanks to a community mural designed to tackle anti-social behaviour and instil pride in ... [Read More](#)

Council Environment

## Inquest into Banstead tree fall death of 12 year old



10 October 2025

A full inquest into the death of 12-year-old Brooke Wiggins, who was crushed to death by a falling tree branch on the Surrey and South London border last year, is ... [Read More](#)

Community Health

## Reducing food waste nationally and in Epsom and Ewell



10 October 2025

A growing number of major UK supermarket chains are removing 'best before' dates from many fresh fruit and vegetable products in an effort to reduce food waste. Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, ... [Read More](#)

Council Environment

## Three new schemes to help Surrey residents save energy and cut costs



10 October 2025

Surrey County Council is launching three new schemes to help residents make their homes warmer, greener, and more affordable to run. With over 300,000 homes in Surrey energy rated D ... [Read More](#)

Business Community

## “Outstanding” rating for Worcester Park based carers



10 October 2025

Trinity Homecare Group is delighted to announce that its Worcester Park-based visiting care service has been awarded an ‘Outstanding’ rating by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) following a recent inspection. ... [Read More](#)

Business Education News

## Surrey Uni to open in India after UK PM’s visit



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Surrey joins new UK Universities in India Alliance while on UK trade mission to India The UK’s universities can be a “skills and research accelerator” for the potential of the ... [Read More](#)

Council Housing Planning

## Historic Surrey Hills mansion saved from falling into “rack and ruin”

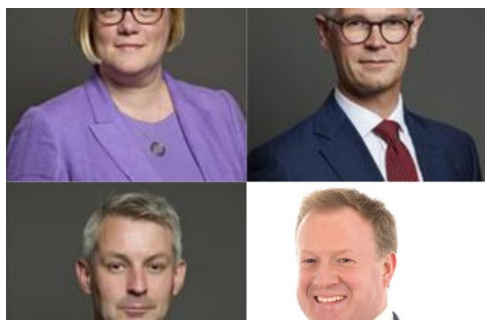


10 October 2025

An additional 27 homes will be built at an abandoned Surrey Hills mansion and stables to stop the heritage buildings falling into “rack and ruin”. In February 2023, Mole Valley ... [Read More](#)

News Westminster

## Not MPs’ expenses again!?



8 October 2025

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# Ewell High Street gets a cleaner bill of health

14 March 2026



Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Environment Committee has agreed to revoke the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for Ewell High Street, marking a major milestone in local environmental improvement.

The decision, made at the committee's meeting on 14 October 2025, follows nearly two decades of monitoring and action to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels that once exceeded national safety limits. The designation, first imposed in 2007, will now be formally lifted after a sustained and verified improvement in air quality, confirmed by data approved by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Councillor **Liz Frost**, (RA Woodcote and Langley) Chair of the Environment Committee, described the development as "fantastic news" and said the result reflected years of cooperation between the borough council, Surrey County Council as the highways authority, and national agencies. She added that the improvement "is a testament to the work of both Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and our partners in the area, as well as interventions that have taken place both regionally and nationally to tackle nitrogen dioxide emissions."

The Ewell High Street AQMA had been declared when air quality readings showed nitrogen dioxide levels breaching the annual mean limit of 40 micrograms per cubic metre. The pollutant, primarily generated by vehicle exhausts, is known to aggravate respiratory conditions and contribute to ground-level ozone formation.

Over the years, the council and the highways authority introduced several targeted measures to tackle traffic congestion and emissions. These included disapplying certain parking bays during rush hours, widening the road outside 76 to 62 High Street, and re-engineering the busy junction with Cheam Road (B2200). Together with broader improvements in vehicle efficiency, cleaner fuels, and regional policies, these steps brought pollution levels below the national threshold.

## A cleaner trend across UK high streets

The revocation in Ewell reflects a wider national trend. Across the UK, councils have been removing long-standing AQMAs after years of falling nitrogen dioxide concentrations. DEFRA's latest data show that the number of AQMAs in England has dropped by more than a third since 2019, largely due to the tightening of vehicle emissions standards, expansion of low emission and clean air zones in cities such as London, Birmingham, and Bristol, and increased adoption of electric vehicles.

Nitrogen dioxide levels nationally have declined by around 45% since 2010, although urban areas with dense traffic still exceed targets. According to Public Health England, poor air quality contributes to between 28,000 and 36,000 premature deaths each year.

Local authorities continue to play a key role through the Local Air Quality Management framework introduced by the Environment Act 1995. Where air quality standards are achieved and are expected to be maintained, Section 83(2)(b) of the Act requires AQMAs to be revoked, as in the case of Ewell.

## Looking ahead

The committee noted that the borough's 2025 Air Quality Annual Status Report has been approved by DEFRA and published on the council's website. Monitoring of nitrogen dioxide and particulate levels will continue across Epsom and Ewell, in line with national guidance.

The revocation also contributes to the council's Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2029, specifically its goal to improve local air quality and maintain a "green and vibrant" borough.

While Ewell's achievement highlights positive progress, environmental experts caution that rising traffic volumes and population growth could reverse gains unless clean transport initiatives continue. Measures such as promoting active travel, installing more electric vehicle charging points, and supporting public transport remain central to long-term sustainability.

Sam Jones - Reporter



# Inquest into Banstead tree fall death of 12 year old

14 March 2026



A full inquest into the death of 12-year-old Brooke Wiggins, who was crushed to death by a falling tree branch on the Surrey and South London border last year, is set to take place next spring, as urgent questions remain over the tree's maintenance and safety.

The date was set following a pre-inquest review held on October 7 at South London Coroners Court, inside Croydon Council Chambers, and overseen by Coroner Ivor Collett. The inquest will determine whether Sutton Council, Surrey County Council, or both, bear any responsibility for the conditions that led to her death.

Brooke died on November 9 last year after a branch snapped from a tree she had been swinging on using a rope swing, while playing with friends at Grove Place, near the junction with Carshalton Road. The scene was described as deeply distressing, with her friends screaming for help as they waited for emergency services to arrive.

Emergency services spent over an hour trying to free her from the fallen branch, but despite efforts from residents and rescue teams, she was pronounced dead at the scene.

The inquest will hear evidence from the police, the Health and Safety Executive, and representatives of Surrey County Council. The council is responsible for managing the tree from which the rope swing was attached.

Arboriculture managers from Surrey will be called to give evidence on the inspection regime for the tree and whether it met required safety standards. The hearing will aim to establish if the branch failure was preventable and whether council maintenance processes were sufficient.

Coroner Collett noted the broader significance of the case, describing it as "an important issue for Surrey", given that it has the highest number of trees of any county in England, with a tree cover of 22.4%. He has also granted Surrey County Council permission to begin 'monolithing' - the removal of remaining branches on the tree involved in the incident.

The coroner is considering whether the London Borough of Sutton should be named as an "interested party" in the inquest. Interested parties are individuals, organisations or representatives with a legal interest in the death, giving them the right to be more actively involved in the inquest than other witnesses.

Although the tree was under Surrey's control, the branch extended over land owned by Sutton, and Brooke and her friends are believed to have accessed the area by crossing rights of way also owned by Sutton.

The inquest will examine the cause of Brooke's death and determine how and why the branch gave way.

Brooke's family attended the hearing and are expected to provide a pen portrait during the inquest to honour her memory. Coroner Collett confirmed that distressing body-worn footage from the day will not be used during the hearing, but that audio from the 999 calls will be played as part of the evidence.

Collett acknowledged that while the potential spring date for the three-day hearing was regrettable, it was a realistic outcome given the current backlog facing the court. Confirmation of the exact date is expected within the month.

Harrison Galliven - LDRS

Image: Brooke was killed after she was crushed by a branch in Banstead last year Credit: Google Maps

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## "Outstanding" rating for Worcester Park based carers

14 March 2026



Trinity Homecare Group is delighted to announce that its Worcester Park-based visiting care service has been awarded an 'Outstanding' rating by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) following a recent inspection.

The CQC awarded the service **Outstanding in four of the five key areas** - Well-led, Caring, Effective and Responsive - placing it among a *tiny handful* of homecare providers nationally to achieve this level of recognition.

## A service at the heart of the community

Inspectors praised the service for being "exceptionally personalised and kind," with carers and managers going above and beyond to support local people in their daily lives. The Worcester Park branch provides visiting care to individuals and families across Surrey, including communities in Cobham, Walton, Weybridge, Byfleet, Addlestone, Epsom, Banstead, Kingston, Tadworth, Ashted, Leatherhead, New Malden, Surbiton, Thames Ditton, Molesey and Chessington.

Highlights from the inspection report included:

- Helping clients maintain independence, with flexible support tailored around their daily routines.
- Supporting people to enjoy life's small but meaningful moments - from feeding ducks and gardening, to celebrating birthdays.
- Spotting health needs early and working with families and local professionals to ensure the right support is in place.
- Embracing new technology and creative initiatives such as *Stories for Life*, enabling people to capture their personal history and strengthen family connections.

## Celebrating local carers

"Families in our local communities trust us not just to provide safe care, but to make every day more meaningful," said **Carla Gama, Director of Operations at Trinity Homecare Group**.

"That is thanks to the incredible work of our carers here in Worcester Park and across Surrey. They bring compassion, kindness and professionalism into people's homes every single day, and this Outstanding rating is truly theirs to celebrate."

**Summer Smith, Registered Branch Manager at Worcester Park**, added:

"I am so proud of our team here. Every carer and support staff member goes above and beyond to make sure people feel safe, valued and cared for in the way they want. This rating reflects their dedication and the strong relationships they build with clients and families in our local communities."

## About Trinity Homecare Group

Trinity Homecare Group is one of the UK's leading providers of live-in and visiting homecare, supporting people to live independently and safely in the comfort of their own homes. With over 25 years of experience and a growing national footprint, Trinity continues to set the standard for high-quality, person-centred care.

The Group includes a family of trusted brands: Trinity Homecare, Country Cousins and Patricia White's - together spanning fully managed, regulated live-in and visiting care, as well as introductory agency live-in and visiting care services across the UK.

Learn more or view the full CQC report: [www.trinityhomecare.co.uk](http://www.trinityhomecare.co.uk)

[Copy prepared by Trinity Home Care.]

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## From Epsom to the Big Screen

14 March 2026



Dean Puckett Returns Home with His Debut Feature *The Severed Sun* for a Special Screening and Q&A next week Wednesday 8th October!

A special homecoming event is set to light up the screen at Epsom Picturehouse as local filmmaker Dean Puckett returns to share his debut feature film, *The Severed Sun*. Dean, a former student of Glyn High School and UCA Farnham, moved from London to Surrey as a teenager before embarking on a filmmaking career that has taken him to major international festivals. Now, he returns to Epsom for a screening and Q&A celebrating the launch of his haunting British folk horror debut.

Set in an isolated church community gripped by paranoia and superstition after a brutal murder, *The Severed Sun* is a chilling tale of faith, fear, and folklore. The feature marks the first full-length film from Puckett — produced by Rebecca Wolff (Grasp the Nettle Films) and Jude Goldrei (Lunar Lander Films) — and had its world premiere at Fantastic Fest 2024.

Following screenings at Picturehouse cinemas across the UK, this special Epsom event will feature a post-screening Q&A with Dean, who will share insights into the creative process, behind-the-scenes stories, and what it takes to bring a first feature from script to screen.

“I discovered my love for filmmaking in a small cupboard at Glyn High School in Epsom. This was entirely thanks to one exceptional teacher, Mr Ramasami, who believed in me. Despite struggling academically, he saw that I had a flair for visual storytelling. I lived in Worcester Park from the age of 12 and took countless trips to the cinema in Epsom during my youth, so it’s incredibly gratifying and moving for me to return now with my own feature film. “

— Dean Puckett, Director of *The Severed Sun*

“It’s a real privilege to work with homegrown talent like Dean and to share his debut feature with the community that helped shape his creative journey. Events like this are not only exciting cinematic moments, they’re also a chance to show aspiring filmmakers that it is possible to follow your passion and make something special. Community is at the heart of what we do at Picturehouse, and hosting screenings like this — which bring people together and celebrate local success — is exactly what our cinema is all about.”

The screening is a chance not only to experience one of the most distinctive new British films of the year but also to celebrate a hometown success story — and discover what it’s really like to turn a dream into a debut.

Event Details:



Epsom Picturehouse, Epsom Square, Epsom, KT19 8AG

*The Severed Sun*: followed by a Q&A with Dean Puckett and filmmakers



Tuesday 8 October, 6:30pm



Tickets: [www.picturehouses.com/epsom](http://www.picturehouses.com/epsom)

Image of Dean Puckett