

Why vote Liberal Democrat in Epsom and Ewell?

1 May 2023



Exclusive to the Epsom and Ewell Times we are bringing you statements from each Party standing for election to the local council this Thursday 4th May. We continue today with the Liberal Democrat Party.

We welcome this initiative by the Epsom & Ewell Times to set out reasons why residents should support the local Liberal Democrats. We explain our priorities for the Borough, how these arise from our values as LibDems, and why your vote for us is so important.

Our priorities for Epsom & Ewell As active local residents of the Borough our three main priorities are:

1 - Producing a sound Local Plan

Our number one priority is to make sure the eventual Local Plan not just protects the Green Belt but includes stringent conditions around bio-diversity and energy efficiency within its Policies. In addition, we want to see the Council build social housing, not just so-called “affordable housing” which does not meet the real need.

You can read a summary of our response to the Council’s Regulation 18 draft Local Plan at this link which also provides a link to our full response on all 50 questions set out in the consultation. As far as we are aware we are the only local party that submitted such a detailed response.

Our councillors would work hard to get as many of our suggestions as possible included within the next version of the Local Plan.

2 - Getting serious about the climate emergency

The Council has a Climate Change Action Plan but too little is being done to cut our own emissions and to encourage local businesses and residents to take steps to tackle the issue. Our councillors would continue to put pressure on the Council to make sure that the Climate Emergency was embedded in all decision making, and to have quantitative targets to reduce our emissions over the next 4 years.

3 - Increase local democracy and transparency

There have been too many cases in the last four years of decisions being taken behind closed doors and of important information not being shared with all Councillors, let alone residents. Two examples of these issues were a decision taken in private to investigate opening a Pet Crematorium in the borough, and not sharing the critical findings of the Local Government Ombudsman with all Councillors, as should have happened under the Council’s own constitution.

We want residents to be aware of what is happening at the Council, so informed debate can take place. Your LibDem Councillors would work to achieve this.

What is a Liberal Democrat?

All our candidates are members of the Liberal Democrat party. This means they agree with the fundamental aims of our constitution which includes in its preamble: “The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community, and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. We believe that each generation is responsible for the fate of our planet and, by safeguarding the balance of nature and the environment, for the long term continuity of life in all its forms. ... We believe that the role of the state is to enable all citizens to attain these ideals, to contribute fully to their communities and to take part in the decisions which affect their lives.”

The full document can be read here <https://www.libdems.org.uk/federal-constitution>.

It is these fundamental goals that motivate our candidates and influence their decisions as councillors. You can see how the key priorities set out previously derive from these goals and if any new issues emerge for the Borough over the next four years you will know the values and principles that will influence our decisions on those issues.



David Buxton and Alison Kelly stand in Stamford Ward for the LibDems

Why should you vote LibDem?

In summary, for three reasons:

- 1 - To hold the lethargic Residents Association (RA) to account. Democracy needs openness and debate, and the RA seems intent on stifling both.
- 2 - So you know who you are voting for. The RA make a big deal of being local residents. So are we. You also know what our values and principles are. The RA include a mixed bag of individuals and at times they don't seem to be able to agree on what they want to achieve.
- 3 - To help protect the more vulnerable in our community, and to tackle the Climate Emergency.

You can read more about our priorities and candidates on our Facebook site [here](#)

David Gulland - Chair of Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrats and Julie Morris - Leader of the Liberal Democrats Councillor Group in Epsom & Ewell

Top image: Julie Morris, Julian Freeman and James Lawrence LibDem candidates for College Ward Epsom

Ed: The Liberal Democrats are fielding candidates in all 14 wards in the Borough

Related reports:

[Why vote Green in Epsom and Ewell?](#)

[Why vote Labour in Epsom and Ewell?](#)

[Epsom and Ewell Times 4th May Local Election coverage](#)

Why vote Labour in Epsom and Ewell?

1 May 2023



Exclusive to the Epsom and Ewell Times we are bringing you statements from each Party standing for election to the local council this Thursday 4th May. We continue today with the Labour Party.

Vote Labour on May 4th for a fairer, greener, safer Borough. Your Labour candidates are determined to do all they can for the residents of Epsom and Ewell. The Tories have broken the economy and working people are paying the price. People are struggling to pay their bills. The cost of gas and electricity, the cost of essential food and our rents and mortgages have all gone up, but pay rates are stagnating. It shouldn't be like this.

Top photo: Chris, Rob, Sarah, Kate and Mark out in Town Ward hearing from people on the doorstep about the need to make Epsom safer.

The Epsom and Ewell Residents' Association, who control the council, are out of their depth in the face of the problems created by the Conservative Government. They don't have the experience, knowledge or resources to support their residents whilst public services crumble around us. So many things need fixing: - the cuts to social housing and social care that have had a devastating effect; services for young people and police numbers that have all been cut; the pot holes that are dangerous for cyclists and damage cars which continue to deteriorate. Our own chalk stream, The Hogsmill, is being polluted with sewage and it was your Labour team that met with Thames Water to challenge this. Only a Labour Government and Labour councils can rebuild the economy and address the problems we face.

Both nationally and locally, Labour is ambitious and determined to help communities grow and prosper. Labour will freeze council tax, cut energy bills by insulating homes and work to generate cheap home grown electricity.

Our priorities for Epsom and Ewell are:

- a safer borough - with more visible police back on the beat.
 - a fairer borough - with homes that local people and key workers can afford to settle in.
 - a greener borough - with more trees and we'll continue to protect our precious green belt.
 - a cleaner borough - with robust action on fly tipping and increased fines for littering to pay for more street cleaning.
- The Labour Team will continue to lead regular litter picks.

and we will crack down on town hall waste, with no more expensive, unnecessary consultants.

The Epsom and Ewell Labour Party know that proactive Labour councils can provide solutions. Labour councils improve areas by investing in their communities.

To provide homes for their residents Camden Council have approved the building of new social and living rent homes on under-utilised council land, delivering: 44 new social rent homes for families on the waiting list, 23 living rent homes for key workers and 6 supported living homes. All of these homes to be built to the highest standards of design and sustainability.

In Norwich, Goldsmith Street is an award winning 100% social housing development of 93 Passivhaus homes built in a traditional street pattern. The homes provide a high level of occupant comfort using very little energy for heating and cooling.

For a cleaner borough - Lewisham have worked to reduce fly tipping by enforcement, quickly removing it and engaging with the community to reduce the huge costs. In Epsom and Ewell we would provide free skips for different wards on a rotational basis supporting people to dispose of their unwanted larger items responsibly.

There are many good practice models of providing public transport and homes, tackling anti-social behaviour and working with communities to improve the lives of residents.



Stuart Gosling, Kate Chinn, Chris Ames and Ros Godson visiting residents in Court Ward with Labour Party colleague Kezia from Kingston taking the selfie

A Labour council in Epsom and Ewell would work with and for our residents to enable individuals and the borough to grow and prosper.

The borough of Epsom and Ewell is a great place with great people. Only Labour has a plan for a fairer, greener more dynamic economy that will deliver better jobs and raise living standards for residents.

A Labour council in Epsom and Ewell would work with and for our residents to enable individuals and the borough to grow and prosper.

The borough of Epsom and Ewell is a great place with great people. Only Labour has a plan for a fairer, greener more dynamic economy that will deliver better jobs and raise living standards for residents.

We are on your side.

So, Vote Labour on May 4th and let's build a better borough together.

Ed: Labour are fielding candidates in all 14 wards in the Borough

Related reports:

[Why vote Green in Epsom and Ewell?](#)

[Epsom and Ewell Times 4th May Local Election coverage](#)

Why vote Green in Epsom and Ewell?

1 May 2023



Exclusive to the Epsom and Ewell Times we are bringing you statements from each Party standing for election to the local council this Thursday 4th May. We start today with the Green Party.

Vote Green to beat the housing crisis and ensure that the Green Belt and other treasured green spaces are protected. Vote Green for a council that stands up to Whitehall's wild housing demands, turns away speculative developers and expensive consultancies. A Green focus opts for low-carbon, preferably Passivhaus standards to provide social housing that people can afford to rent and buy in the places people need them. Vote for Green answers to providing adequate community infrastructure - surgeries, cycling and walking networks, nurseries and schools, vibrant youth centres and care services.

Vote Green to alleviate the cost of living crisis with a freeze on rent rises, a ban on no-fault evictions, free school meals and 35 hours free childcare from 9 months old. We support £1 fares on local bus routes, subsidised insulation schemes, housing - not hotels - for the homeless and refugees. Vote Green to view a successful economy as one that provides a sustainable and fair society for all.

Janice Baker - Green Party candidate for Nonsuch Ward.

Photo: Janice Baker and Andrew Bailey - Green Party candidates showing willing for the hustings.

Ed: The Green Party are fielding candidates in the following wards: Ewell Village, Nonsuch, Ruxley, Stamford, Town, West Ewell, Woodcote and Langley Vale.

Related reports:

[We are very very sorry for hustings hosting hash](#)

Cautious candidates cause College and Court cancellations

1 May 2023



The three willing Residents Association candidates for College Ward were disappointed that the Liberal Democrats, Conservatives and Labour Candidates did not register to participate in last night's scheduled local election hustings. The Epsom and Ewell Times pulled the plug on the event in the afternoon as we did not think it appropriate to stage a one-party event. Cllr **Nigel Collin** (RA College Ward) and his colleagues **Charlotte Day** and **Kate Brooks** had willingly registered after the first invitation to do so.

Top image - an empty 3rd Scout Hall St John Chandlers, Church Road, Epsom

Similarly, for Court Ward, only **Robert Geleit** of the Labour Party registered to face the public and debate with his opponents from the Liberal Democrats, Residents Association and Conservatives, but they did not show willing and we pulled the plug to avoid a one-man one-party show.

The willing candidates:

Charlotte Mary **Day** - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell for College.



I aim to create a sustainable future and if elected, I will focus on sustainable development as well as protecting the countryside and our green spaces.

Kate Emily **Brooks** - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell for College.



I am committed to protecting our area and my 10 month old daughter has made me want to make Epsom and Ewell the best place to enable families to thrive. I will press SCC to improve maintenance of our roads and pavements.

Nigel **Collin** - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell for College.



My aim is to continue to improve the Community and to help resolve residents problems. If elected , I will continue to scrutinize Council Expenditure to ensure value for money and to fight for a cessation of the statutory nuisance caused by operations in the chalk pit. Cllr Collin was keen to use the opportunity to rebut LibDem claims: On the Local Plan Cllr Collin points out the LibDems voted for the Draft Local Plan, the Government forces EEBC to use Green Belt, Council meetings are only held in private to protect 3rd party privacy and potholes are Surrey's responsibility and we will press them hard.

Rob **Geleit** - Labour Party for Court.



I am standing to stick up for my friends and neighbours in Court Ward. We go out door knocking every weekend and get round the area once a year. Every time we are out we pick up two or three problems to fix, so over the course of an electoral term we really lift the area.

No other Party will do this for you.

We are a strong opposition to the ruling Residents' Association Party. I have heard one of them say that we are their 'conscience'.

Vote Labour!

Related Reports:

Letters › Epsom & Ewell Times - Julie Morris responds to Cllr Collin

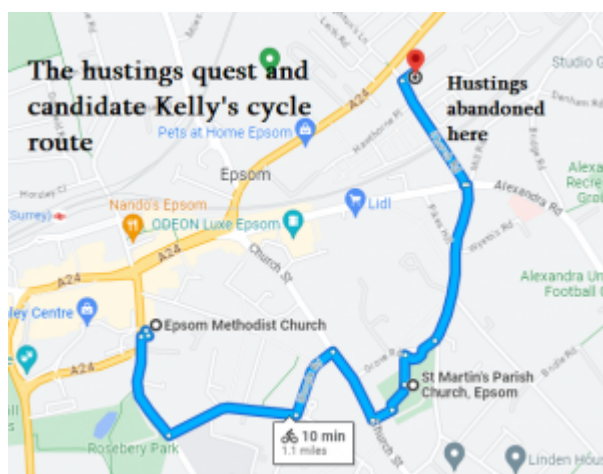
Local Elections 4th May 2023

Borough Council Election Hustings 2023

All Candidates listed

We are very very sorry for hustings hosting hash

1 May 2023



The Epsom and Ewell Times accepts full responsibility for last night's farce and failure over the promised Stamford Ward election hustings. We apologise unreservedly to the public.

Residents Association candidates **Steve Bridger** and **Martin Olney** had been prepared to answer your questions and debate with **Alison Kelly** (who cycled to three churches in her quest for the hustings - see below) and **David Buxton** of the Liberal Democrats and **Andrew Bailey** of the Green Party.

The candidates who did *not* register to attend the hustings were **Karen Landle** and **Richard Chinn** (Labour) and **Aaron Persand** and **Stephen Pontin** (Conservative).

The Gods seemed to be determined that this hustings would not take place. Firstly, we wrongly assumed a hall we had booked was the Scout Hall at the rear of Epsom Methodist Church in Ashley Road. An eagle eyed scout-leader spotted our error Tuesday and pointed out that we had booked the St Martins Scout troop hall. We then wrongly assumed their hall was beside St Martin's Church in Church Street and re-directed people there. Then on the night we discovered the scout hall is in fact at the rear of the former St. John Chandler Church in Church Road.

To cap it all Church Road was closed for access at the East Street junction.

Two determined electors of Stamford Ward managed to work this out and turned up but agreed the abandonment of proceedings. But nevertheless they had the chance to engage with Cllr **Steve McCormick** (RA candidate for Woodcote and Langley Vale) who had attended as a spectator. As had **Janice Baker** of the Green Party standing in Nonsuch.

Lionel Blackman, who was to chair the event said: "It's all my fault. I am sorry. We will get it right in 2027. Plenty of time to continue our mission to inject new life into our local democracy. You know, in the global struggle against authoritarianism not only must we nurse democracy at the micro-local level, if conducted with personal respect democracy can be fun. And we did have a bit of fun last night, albeit at my expense."

Epsom and Ewell Times is very confident, however, that the next hustings for the new ward of Horton will take place on

Tuesday 2nd May at Southfield Park Primary School, Long Grove Rd, Epsom KT19 8TF at 7pm. There is only one such school isn't there?

The candidates willing to face the public standing in Stamford Ward:

Steve **Bridger** - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell



I took up the challenge of being a Councillor when I retired to put something back into the area that I have lived for the majority of my life. I have secured 3 successful CIL bids for my Ward - 2 for Epsom Common and 1 for Horton Country Park. I am a believer in sustainability and any way that we can recycle, use power and resources more efficiently and generally be more careful about what we buy.

I became part of the RA due to the non-political stance that it takes - I am not told what to do or how to vote (I have voted against items that could affect my Ward and residents). I enjoy meeting residents, helping them out not only with matters concerning the Council but giving my life experiences to assist in some civil matters. I have assisted in fighting inappropriate planning matters (Kingswood House School, Clayhill Lodge etc.)

Party Politics should not come into local 'politics', promises of changing things that are outside our realm are matters that are decided by the politicians and outside our control - they have no place here.

I am proud to be part of the Borough that is known throughout the world, just mention Epsom and everyone knows or has heard of it, so lets keep it non-political and a great place to live, work and enjoy!

David **Buxton** - Liberal Democrat Focus Team



David has lived in Epsom for 18 years and worked as CEO for one of London's leading Disabled Peoples Organisations. David was previously an Epsom and Ewell Borough Councillor for four years. For 10 years David was a Committee Member and Chair of Livingstone Park Association leading the campaign to pull down the derelict Water Tower, and the campaign for the dilapidated Horton Chapel to become a charitable trust, enabling its transformation to its former glory as a listed building - the now new Horton Chapel Arts Centre! David was formerly Chair of the British Deaf Association and is a current Board Member of the European Union of the Deaf. David led the British Sign Language (BSL) Act Campaign nationally, he has won several national campaign awards and has been named as one of Britain's most influential disabled people. David is keen to protect wildlife, parks and the Green Belt.

Alison **Kelly** - Liberal Democrat Focus Team



Alison has lived in Epsom since 1986 and was a Borough Councillor for 8 years serving on planning and finance committees. From 2007 to 2015, Alison was the main opposition spokesperson on budgetary and financial policy. Alison became involved in local politics to protect our open areas and gardens because of her dismay at the number of planning decisions that were changing the landscape. Alison welcomes this opportunity to be directly involved in deciding local planning issues. Alison is particularly interested in promoting energy efficiency and recycling and is keen to ensure that the borough exceeds targets and meets residents' expectations. Alison also enjoys fitness, gardening and volunteering locally.

Alison Kelly outside the final destination of St John Chandlers Church of her cycle-quest to find the hustings.

Epsom and Ewell Times can confirm her bicycle was there – just out of view of the photo.

Andrew **Bailey** – Green Party



Andrew Bailey says:

“I will help build a sustainable future where our greenbelt is fully protected. I strongly believe in community engagement and consensus politics. My aim is for Epsom council to provide better tools so people can recognise positive change - increases in recycling, downturn in pollution, engage in development plans and tell the council where they don’t feel safe. A community exists only when people feel their voices are heard.”

Andrew Bailey - Stamford Ward and Green candidate Janice Baker, who is standing in Nonsuch Ward, in eager attendance at the second of the wrong venues - St Martins Church Hall.

Martin **Olney** - Residents’ Associations of Epsom and Ewell



The RA has not cut any services in the last four years and the auditors have complimented them on their sound management of ever-dwindling financial resources. I want to help maintain the Borough's efficiency and continue to provide what local people want. I was a Councillor in 2015 -2019, my main interest was planning and planning policy. I also looked after Veterans in the Borough as well as maintained our heritage assets.

The results of the consultation on the Local Plan have made the RA pause the plan. I will work for a new plan that meets the needs of the residents.

Surrey County Council is failing to maintain our roads, deliver enough schools places or provide adequate transport. Ofsted gave a 'requires improvement' for their Child Service, one of many dismal performances. I will pressure them to meet their obligations as they take 76% of your Council Tax.

The RA is focused on issues, within their responsibilities, that impact the people in the Ward. The National political parties have a wider agenda and are influenced by a central office. A vote for the RA is a vote for local decisions being taken after consultation with local people.

Polls apart - from the norm?

1 May 2023



The Epsom Playhouse is listed as one of Surrey's "quirky" polling stations in the report below from the BBC's LDRS (Epsom and Ewell Times' official news partner). A full list of the polling stations for the Borough of Epsom and Ewell Council's upcoming 4th May elections can be [FOUND HERE](#).

When many Surrey voters head out to cast their ballot in local elections on May 4 they will go to the village halls, community centres and schools that are often used as polling stations.

But some will visit more unusual locations, including a pub, a theatre and a former home for "vagrants and casual workers" all being used as polling stations.

Local elections are being held in all 11 districts and boroughs across the county, though not all residents will go to the polls.

Some councils, including Elmbridge, Tandridge and Woking, elect their councillors "by thirds", meaning one third of council seats are up for election each time.

Others, including Guildford and **Epsom and Ewell**, hold "all out" elections every four years.

At the Bull Inn, in Warlingham, people voting in Tandridge District Council elections will be able to grab a pint once they are done and drink it in the pub's garden. It is the third time the pub has been used as a polling station, and tea and coffee will be served in the morning with alcohol available from midday.

While voters in Esher, within Dominic Raab's parliamentary ward, will tread the boards of the Esher theatre to cast their vote. A production of City Of Dreams will run at the theatre until April 29, and there is a performance the day after the vote of Cool Britannia Cabaret.

It's not the only theatre to be used as a polling station on May 4, with the **Epsom Playhouse** also being used as a polling station for voters in Epsom and Ewell's Town ward.

Some voters in Guildford will have the opportunity to cast their ballot at the Spike in the borough's Castle ward. The purpose-built home for vagrants and casual workers, which opened in 1906, was built to separate vagrant workers from those within the main workhouse. In 2005, the Charlotteville Jubilee Trust fundraised to rescue the building, after a period of it being used by St Luke's Hospital before its relocation to the Royal Surrey site, and after it was listed as a Grade II building. The Community Centre and Heritage Centre now on the site opened in 2008.

Polling stations on May 4 will be open from 7am until 10pm, and voters should receive a polling card from their district council to let them know which polling station to attend.

It is also the first local elections where voters nationwide will need to show ID in order to be able to vote.

A full list of accepted forms of voter ID is available on the gov.uk website and the deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate is 5pm on Tuesday, April 25.

Related Reports:

[Epsom and Ewell Local Elections general](#)

[Beginning to line up for local elections](#)

[Register to vote deadline for elections](#)

[4th May Surrey goes to the polls](#)

[Turn up to turn downturn in turnout!](#)

[Worrying about voter ID law](#)

[No photo – no vote!](#)

Voter ID deadline warning

1 May 2023



Epsom and Ewell Times has reported before about anxieties around the new requirement for photo ID for voters at the upcoming local elections 4th May. LDRS reports on anxieties in the Surrey Borough of Runnymede which are no doubt shared in Epsom and Ewell:

Don't leave getting your voter ID for the May local elections sorted until the last minute. That is the message from Runnymede Borough Council's election manager as the deadline to secure proof approaches.

Local elections are taking place this year on Thursday May 4 and this year, for the first time, every voter heading to a polling station in England must show a photo ID in order to cast their ballot.

Councils across Surrey have been rolling out communication pushes as the "last thing they want" is to be turning people away at the polls. Kath Richards is the election manager for Runnymede Borough Council. She said: "The deadline to apply for voter id is April 25 at 5pm. After the 25th there is nothing they can do. My concern is people will leave it until the last minute. The nearer the election day they've got to rely on the post. If they leave it they might have to collect it themselves. We don't know if there is going to be a rush."

There are a host of valid IDs that will be accepted on the day, including expired official documents such as passports, so long as there is still a strong resemblance to the photograph.

Those who do not own an accepted ID can apply for what is known as the free Voter Authority Certificate – a fast track card that will allow people to vote.

However, the deadline to apply is fast approaching leading to fears some may leave it too late. Applying for the voter card can be done online. Residents upload a photo of themselves and it lands with the council where it is then checked to ensure the person is who they say they are.

After that it is sent to a printing company in Sunderland before being posted back to people's homes.

So far Runnymede has received about 60 applications – which have come through 'in dribs and drabs' despite the communications push that saw notices go up on bins, banners and through people's doors.

She said: "We don't want people to turn up on the day and not be able to vote because they've not got the right

information. The ID needs to be an original document. I've got a picture of my passport on my phone but I can't use it. I can be an out of date passport as long as the picture bears a resemblance. If you still look like the picture in your passport it will still be accepted. I don't want to be in a position where somebody says they don't know about it. The last thing we want to do is turn people away."

She estimates that there are between two and eight per cent of the voting population who do not have a valid photo ID.

Not a massive figure in a population of about 60,000 voters but enough to potentially swing the balance in wards where there is a small majority.

Accepted forms of photo ID:

You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID when voting at a polling station.

International travel

Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country

Driving and Parking

Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence)

A Blue Badge

Local travel

Older Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom

Disabled Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom

Oyster 60+ Card funded by the Government of the United Kingdom

Freedom Pass

Scottish National Entitlement Card

60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card

Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card

Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

War Disablement SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

Proof of age

Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)

Other government issued documents

Biometric immigration document

Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)

National identity card issued by an EEA state

Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland

Voter Authority Certificate

Anonymous Elector's Document

The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote.

Those who have registered to vote anonymously and want to vote in person, need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document.

Voter ID cards can be applied for via the Government's website

Related reports:

Register to vote deadline for elections

Worrying about voter ID law

No photo - no vote!

(Image: SecretLondon Creative Commons)

Full list of candidates for Epsom and Ewell Council

1 May 2023



Epsom and Ewell residents will go to the polls on May 4 to elect their councillors for the next four years.

All 35 seats on the council are up for election in Surrey's smallest borough, and elections are taking place at the other ten lower-tier authorities in the county as well.

The election at Epsom and Ewell Borough Council comes just six weeks after members voted for a pause to the plan for homes in the borough in order to re-consider the inclusion of green belt sites such as Horton Farm being used for homes.

The council is currently led by Residents' Association councillors and has been since it was founded in 1938. Residents will elect councillors to 14 wards this year, with a new ward added in Horton.

Below we list all the candidates standing across the borough:

Auriol

Hannah Mireille Jackson Abrahams - Conservative
John Richard Beckett - Stoneleigh and Auriol Residents' Association
Garrick Bigwood - Labour Party
Caleb Michael Philip Heather - Conservative
Julia Karen Lucas - Labour
Oliver Schuster - Liberal Democrat
Darren William Talbot - Stoneleigh and Auriol Residents' Association
Dorothee Katarina Wilbs - Liberal Democrat

Local Elections 4th May 2023 - Times coverage

HUSTINGS:

Wednesday 26th April:

3rd Scout Hall, Epsom Methodist Church, Ashley Road. Epsom, KT18 5AQ

6.15pm **Stamford Ward**

7.15pm **Court Ward**

8.15pm **College Ward**

Tuesday 2nd May at 7pm:

Southfield Park Primary School, Long Grove Rd, Epsom KT19 8TF, one hustings will be held for the new **Ward of Horton**.

College

Kate Emily Brooks - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Nigel Kenneth Benno Sippel Collin - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Charlotte Mary Day - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Julian Peter Freeman - Liberal Democrat Focus Team
James John Lawrence - Liberal Democrat Focus Team
Helen Lewis - Labour Party
Julie Anne Morris - Liberal Democrat Focus Team
Christopher Charles Muller - Conservative
Tom Peer - Conservative
Michael John Ware - Conservative

Court

Chris Ames - Labour Party
Christine Rosemary Beams - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Kate Chinn - Labour Party
Rob Geleit - Labour Party
David Erwin Lyndsay - Conservative
Geoffrey Christopher Pope - Conservative
Karen Seidel - Liberal Democrat
Sandy Smyth - Conservative
Mary Catherine Sullivan - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
David Michael Triggs - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell

Cuddington

Caroline Barretto - Labour Party
Dan Brown - Liberal Democrat

Kevin Rhys Davies - Labour Party
Garrett Michael Doran - Conservative
Alex Paul Hawkes Cole - Conservative
Graham Owen Jones - Residents' Association of Cuddington
Phil Neale - Residents' Association of Cuddington
Arun Matyjas Saini - Liberal Democrat
Rajesh Saini - Liberal Democrat
Kim Spickett - Residents' Association of Cuddington
Lynn Walker - Conservative

Ewell Court

Tamas Balog - Liberal Democrat
Tom Chaloner - Conservative
Oliver Nathaniel Clement - Conservative
Dan Edwards - Labour Party
David Walter Gulland - Liberal Democrat
Debbie Monksfield - Labour Party
Peter William O'donovan - Ewell Court Residents' Association
Christopher Robin John Watson - Ewell Court Residents' Association

Ewell Village

Christine Gladys Cleveland - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
andrew Nicholas Cook - Conservative
Sandra Noel Hatfield - Labour Party
Kenneth John Kimber - Liberal Democrat
andrej Kubicek - Liberal Democrat
David Anthony Lee - Green Party
Graham Rapier - Conservative
Clive David Woodbridge - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell

Horton

Ros Godson - Labour Party
Eber Alan Kington - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Henal Vinod Ladwa - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Philip Mclauchlan - Liberal Democrat
Bernie Muir - Conservative
Kieran Persand - Conservative
Mark Christian Todd - Labour Party
Paul Stephen Vagg - Liberal Democrat

Nonsuch

Jamie Abrahams - Conservative
Janice Baker - Green Party
Stephen William Dixon - Liberal Democrat
Shanice Goldman - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Gaye Hadfield - Labour Party
Christine Anne Howells - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Robert Leach - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Steven Liu - Conservative
Gary Derek Peters - Liberal Democrat
Sharon Marie Stead - Liberal Democrat
Ajay Kumar Uppal - Conservative
Ian Leslie Ward - Labour Party

Ruxley

Rob Adnitt - Labour Party
Joseph Ojo Alawo - Conservative
Catherine Anne Carver-Hill - Labour Party
Alex Coley - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
David Raymond John Collins - Conservative
David Michael Kidd - Green Party
Jan Mason - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Marian Paula Morrison - Liberal Democrat

Stamford

Andrew Darren Bailey - Green Party
Steve Bridger - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
David Colleton Buxton - Liberal Democrat Focus Team
Richard William Chinn - Labour Party
Alison Kelly - Liberal Democrat Focus Team
Karen Landles - Labour Party
Martin Olney - Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell
Aaron Persand - Conservative
Stephen Pontin - Conservative

Stoneleigh

Rusmat Roland Arthur Ahmed - Liberal Democrat

Charlotte Ann Angus - Conservative
 Hannah Charlotte Emily Dalton - Stoneleigh and Auriol Residents’ Association
 Brian William Fisher - Liberal Democrat
 Anthony John Froud - Stoneleigh and Auriol Residents’ Association
 Sue Hoyle - Labour Party
 Tracy Margaret Muller - Conservative
 Ragu Raymond - Labour Party

Town

Arthur Abdulin - Residents’ Associations of Epsom and Ewell
 Neil andrew Dallen - Residents’ Associations of Epsom and Ewell
 Danny Leonard Fullilove - Conservative
 John Stuart Gosling - Labour Party
 Yvonne Caroline Grunwald - Green Party
 Sarah Louise Kenyon - Labour Party
 Rachel Sarah King - Residents’ Associations of Epsom and Ewell
 Gillian Miles - Liberal Democrat
 Jamie Joseph O’sullivan - Conservative
 Philip Victor Pavey - Liberal Democrat
 Meera Persand - Conservative
 Sarah Louise Charlotte Whitworth - Liberal Democrat

West Ewell

Jason George anderson - Labour Party
 Patrick Christopher Campion - Conservative
 andrew John Casey - Liberal Democrat
 Linda Martha Chmiel - Liberal Democrat
 Tony Foster - Green Party
 Lisa Zahra Haghir - Liberal Democrat
 Nafiz Huq - Conservative
 Lucie Kimberley McIntyre - Residents’ Associations of Epsom and Ewell
 O’sullivan Kitty - Conservative
 Humphrey Reynolds - Residents’ Associations of Epsom and Ewell
 Alan Keith Williamson - Residents’ Associations of Epsom and Ewell

Woodcote and Langley Vale

Abbey Bloom - Labour Party
 Liz Frost - Residents’ Associations of Epsom and Ewell
 Bernice Froud - Residents’ Associations of Epsom and Ewell
 Daniel Charles Martyr - Liberal Democrat
 Emily Lucia Cottam Martyr - Liberal Democrat
 Steven John McCormick - Residents’ Associations of Epsom and Ewell
 Jonathan Neil Parkinson - Green Party
 John Michael Payne - Liberal Democrat
 Fiona Peer - Conservative
 Henry Strausser - Conservative
 Emma Charlotte Ware - Conservative
 Mike Westbrook - Labour and Co-Operative Party

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[Register to vote deadline for elections](#)

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[No photo - no vote!](#)

Beginning to line up for local elections

1 May 2023



A new Epsom and Ewell Borough Council will be elected on the 4th May. All 35 seats in all 14 wards are open to the competition. Epsom and Ewell Times is providing every candidate standing the opportunity to have published on these pages details of their candidacy and a short statement why they are standing.

The candidates are listed strictly in order of receipt of their details.

CLICK HERE for the Epsom and Ewell Times guide to all candidates – as it stands today.

When nominations close and the official list of candidates is published our list will be verified. We are not responsible if any candidate chooses not to provide details but we will endeavour to include the names and parties represented of all candidates after the official lists are published.

Candidates can supply their details via Form of entry for candidates.

You may find useful this EEBC official map of the Wards. You should have posted to you a polling card stating in which ward you live and are eligible to vote for.

The new ward of **Horton** and the three most closely contested wards in the last election of 2019 will each have a hustings organised by Epsom and Ewell Times as follows:

Wednesday 26th April:

3rd Scout Hall, Epsom Methodist Church, Ashley Road. Epsom, KT18 5AQ

6.15pm **Stamford Ward**

7.15pm **Court Ward**

8.15pm **College Ward**

Tuesday 2nd May at 7pm:

Southfield Park Primary School, Long Grove Rd, Epsom KT19 8TF, one hustings will be held for the new ward of **Horton**.

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4th May Surrey goes to the polls

1 May 2023



Election day in Surrey takes place on May 4 this year but because of the way the county is broken up, not every poll will be the same. Surrey operates under a two-tier system, so there is a county-wide council that sits atop of 11 boroughs and districts. On May 4 it's the boroughs and districts that go to the polls.

But even the boroughs and districts are holding different types of election. Surrey Heath, Spelthorne, **Epsom and Ewell**, and Guildford will have all out elections, where every councillor, in every ward will be decided on election day. The same process is also happening in Mole Valley and Waverley, although this is because of boundary changes.

In Mole Valley there will be 13 new wards, down from 21, represented by 39 seats rather than the previous 41. Waverley too has undergone major changes and instead of returning 57 members there will now only be 50 councillors. The remaining five boroughs and districts, Elmbridge, Tandridge, Runnymede, Reigate and Banstead, and Woking will be going out in thirds.

This year will also be the first time people will be required to show photo ID to vote in person.

In previous elections, residents of Woking have taken part in the Government's photo ID pilot tests. The law was changed last year so that voters have to show photo ID before being issued a ballot paper in polling stations for general, local, police and crime commissioner elections, or any future referendum.

Related reports:

Register to vote deadline for elections

Turn up to turn downturn in turnout!

Worrying about voter ID law

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Register to vote deadline for elections

1 May 2023



The deadline to register to vote in May’s local elections is approaching. Those who need to register, including those who have recently moved house, need to do so before midnight on April 17.

Local elections are being held on May 4 across the country, including for councils across Surrey.

All 11 district and borough councils in Surrey are holding elections, some for a third of their councillors and some for the whole council. There is also a by-election for Surrey County Council in the Walton South and Oatlands division, following the resignation of Cllr Tony Samuels.

Councils have started sending out poll cards to voters, anyone who has not received one or who has recently moved may not be registered to vote.

Registration should take around five minutes on the gov.uk website, and though people may be asked for their National Insurance number, it is possible to register without one.

Registering anonymously is also possible for those who do not want their name to appear on the electoral register.

May’s elections will be the first where all voters will need to bring photo ID to vote, with only certain forms being accepted. Those without the necessary photo ID, which includes passports, driving licence and an Oyster 60+ Card, can apply for a free voter ID document.

While online registration is the quickest way, voters can also print off a paper form to be sent to their local Electoral Registration Office, which is the relevant district or borough council.

To check if they are registered to vote, voters also need to contact the electoral services team at their local council.

Voters must be aged 18 or over on election day and be a British, Irish, European Union citizen, or Commonwealth citizen with permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need permission, as well as being registered to vote.

Image – Runnymede Council.

Epsom and Ewell Times adds: For guidance on photo ID read our report [HERE](#) “No Photo, No Vote”.

Related reports:

Turn up to turn downturn in turnout!

Worrying about voter ID law

Turn up to turn downturn in turnout!

1 May 2023



In an exclusive for Epsom and Ewell Times we report on voter turnout in the last four Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Elections. 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019. The May 2015 Council election was held on the same day as the UK Parliamentary General Election and the turnout for the local election was much higher as a result. The next election in Epsom and Ewell will be held on Thursday 4th May.

Excluding the 61% 2015 turnout the average turnout across the Borough between 2007 and 2019 was 38.19% of the electorate, with the lowest turnout last time in 2019 with just 32.83%.

Consistently the Wards with the lowest turnouts have been Ruxley, Court and Town. Ruxley having the lowest since 2007 of just 25.23% in 2019.

The highest turnouts are in the richer wards of Woodcote, College and Stamford. Though these wards are also more closely contested and that can explain their higher turnouts as well. The highest recorded since 2007 being College Ward in 2011 with just over 59%. (Again the General Election year of 2015 excluded.)

However, Court Ward is also one of the top three contested Wards in the Borough and that is why it features in the Epsom and Ewell Hustings for three Wards that takes place on 26th April. [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

Will the requirement for photo ID see a further decline in voter turnout in Epsom and Ewell?

Related reports:

[Worrying about voter ID law](#)

[No photo - no vote!](#)

[Click HERE](#) for the full analysis.

Photograph © Andrew Dunn,

Worrying about voter ID law

1 May 2023



Voter disenfranchisement and how to overcome it was discussed at **Reigate and Banstead Borough Council** Thursday 30th March as the authority wound up its business ahead of the May 4 elections.

The country goes to the polls in a little over a month amid the “biggest change to the electoral process in decades” as people will be required to present valid photo identification before casting their ballot.

Councillor **Ruth Ritter**, during questions from members at the March 30 full council meeting, asked what measures were in place to feed back on its impact on turnout.

She said: “At a time when voter turnout for local elections in Reigate and Banstead Borough Council was as low as 29 per cent in one ward last year and voters need to be encouraged to partake in democracy. Voter ID is the biggest change to the electoral process in decades, and it will affect voters in polling stations at the upcoming elections on May 4. It is therefore important that we have assurances that voters aren’t being disenfranchised by this significant change.

“With that in mind, will the returning officer be gathering data on how many people are unable to vote at polling stations due to not having appropriate ID so that this data can be fed back to national government?”

Last time the average turnout for the borough was 35 percent two power cent higher than the national leverage last year.

Responding was **Mari Roberts-Wood**, managing director at Reigate Borough Council whose responsibilities include increasing participation in elections.

She spoke of the “extensive communications about the massive changes to electoral law” and how the council had been targeting hard-to-reach groups such as younger voters and the elderly.

Ms Roberts-Wood said: “We can always do more and should do more and with the introduction of voter ID we need to do more than ever.”

Councils, she said, would also be collecting data from polling stations about the impact of the legislation and sending that to the electoral commission – who will be collecting the data centrally.

A report on its impact is expected to be published in November this year.

She said: “This data will include the number of voters who are essentially refused a ballot paper due to suspected forgery or impersonation, or they failed to answer the statutory required questions, they showed the wrong ID – there are 23 different types of ID that you can show on May 4. For those who don’t have one of those or don’t have any ID at all we will be collecting that data. Also recording those asked to show their ID in private and those who are refused a ballot paper but returned with a valid ID. We’re trying to capture as much as possible.”

She added that it was an “opportunity to collect a lot of data to understand the impact of these changes and hopefully increase our reach coming forward”.

Reigate and Banstead Council has a voter ID section on its website that people can use to ensure they can vote on May 4.

Related reports:

No photo – no vote!

Image credit: Crown Copyright fair use and DVLA CC BY-SA 3.0

No photo – no vote!

1 May 2023



You need photo ID to vote in person at the upcoming 4th May local elections. In an important announcement from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council the new Government rules are explained.

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at elections. If you do not show ID then you will not be issued with a ballot paper. This new requirement will apply for the first time at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. These are some of the main ones you can use:

- passport
- photo driving licence (full or provisional)
- blue badge
- Older Person’s Bus Pass, Disabled Person’s Bus Pass, Oyster 60+ Card, Freedom Pass
- identity card with PASS hologram (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- biometric immigration document
- defence identity card
- national identity cards issued by an EEA state

You can use photo ID if it’s out of date, as long as it looks like you.

The name on your ID should be the same name as you are registered to vote. If it is not then you should take along other proof of name change such as a marriage certificate or deed poll.

There will be more information on your poll card about other acceptable forms of photo ID or you can find out more on the Electoral Commission website <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id> or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You can apply for this online at the Voter Authority Certificate Service <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate> or contact Electoral Services for a paper form.

The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for elections on Thursday 4 May 2023 is by no later than 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023. You need to be registered to vote before you apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.

You do not need photo ID if you vote by post.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Local Government Boundary Commission completed its review of all Epsom & Ewell electoral wards in 2022 and the changes they made will apply at the elections on 4 May.

Poll cards for the elections on 4 May will be going out from 27 March and will contain information about which ward you are in and the location of your polling station. You should check your poll card when it arrives to see if you need to go to a different polling station since you last voted.

For more information about the election including all official election notices please visit <https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/council/elections-and-voting>

Low turnouts see political changes in Surrey

1 May 2023



The Liberal Democrats have taken two seats off the Conservatives in Surrey County Council by-elections. Winning by just 15 votes, a vote in the Sunbury Common and Ashford Common division took place on Wednesday November 30), with the Liberal Democrats beating four other candidates to be elected.

Harry Boparai got 735 votes, with the Conservative candidate Naz Islam in second place with 720 votes. The by-election was held following the death of Councillor Alison Todd, which was announced in September. With a turnout of 17.5 per cent, the votes for each party broke down as below:

Harry Boparai, Liberal Democrats 735 (elected)
Naz Islam, Conservative 720
Khalid Mustafa, Labour Party 383
Rory O'Brien, Reform UK 144
Helen Couchman Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition 63

Councillor Todd's death following a terminal lung cancer diagnosis in 2021 was announced in September. Colleagues on the council described the county and former Spelthorne borough councillor as a "strong and determined" councillor who wanted to use her own experiences to "make the world a better place".

In May 2021, Cllr Todd was elected for the Conservatives with 1,509 with the second place Liberal Democrat getting 610 votes.

The result represents a 17 per cent swing to the Lib Dems, with no Green or Independent candidates standing, as there was in the 2021 election.

The Liberal Democrats took another Conservative council seat in Surrey after a by-election on Waverley Borough Council.

Dave Busby won the Chiddingfold and Dunsfold by-election on Thursday (December 1) with 652 votes, with the second place candidate getting 297 votes.

The Conservative candidate for Chiddingfold and Dunsfold, Ian Mitchell, was suspended on Monday (November 28) and stood as an independent, though ballot papers had already been issued listing him as a Conservative. A spokesperson for the South West Surrey Conservatives said an investigation was pending regarding a social post "that could be considered to be an inappropriate use of social media".

The association said in a statement: "Given this, we have suspended Mr Mitchell from the Conservative Association pending an investigation into his conduct that may potentially lead to disciplinary proceedings being taken."

No Green candidate stood in the Waverley by-election, and the result represents a 43 per cent swing to the Lib Dems since the 2019 election.

The borough council's Lib Dem leader Cllr Paul Follows (Godalming Central and Ockford) said: "I am ecstatic by the result, further strengthening the progressive coalition at Waverley Borough Council that I have the honour of leading with the addition of a fantastic, local, and hard-working new councillor.

“This is also a huge win and swing in a part of our borough in which the Conservatives have long just assumed the vote was theirs.”

The election took place following the death of Cllr John Gray, who died in September, having been a councillor since 2015.

The full results were as follows:

Dave Busby, Liberal Democrat: 652 (66.6 per cent) Elected

Ian Mitchell, Independent: 297 (30.3 per cent)

Rebecca Aitken, Labour 30 (3.1 per cent)

There are now 16 Liberal Democrat councillors on the county council, of a total of 81 seats.

Council’s secret strategy on public resources?

1 May 2023



Epsom and Ewell’s powerful **Strategy and Resources Committee** went into secret session on four items of public interest at its meeting Tuesday 15th November. The four items were:

1. INCOME GENERATING OPPORTUNITY
2. COST OF LIVING PAYMENT
3. LAND RETENTION
4. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY UPDATE

In each case the secrecy was justified on the following ground:

“.... the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings..... deals with information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Committee and third parties and the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”

However, the Committee did not close the meeting during discussions on the motion to close. During that discussion **Councillor Eber Kington** (RA Ewell Court Ward) revealed in public that the “income generating opportunity” related to a crematorium.

Councillor David Gulland (LibDem College Ward) argued that the proposal “is an interesting development which would benefit from a wide-ranging discussion with our residents ... I feel we’re trying to be too secretive...we should be open with what we’re trying to achieve with our assets.” The Interim Chief Executive, responded that “the reason this is a restricted item is because it’s a commercial opportunity and we need to protect our negotiations...with potential suppliers, etc”. However, **Councillor Kate Chinn** (Lab, Court Ward) agreed with Cllr. Gulland. “Part of making the business case is to see if there’s a need for it in the borough,” she said. “Surely the easiest way to do that is to ask the residents.”

It was at this point that Councillor Kington made the statement that “I want to get as much as I can out in the open. But what we have here is the Council looking at a possibility of a crematorium.” He went on to defend the proposal to exclude press and public: “ [If this] is a runner, it would have to come back to this committee and it may well be that that will be the time when it will be a public document. We don’t want to give anyone the heads up that this is what we are planning. In most cases, we will put things not on pink paper if we can help it.” [Ed. “Pink paper” is the colour of secret papers.]

The Residents’ Association majority on the committee agreed with Councillor Kington and excluded press and public from any further details of this and the other three items.

At the same meeting:

VOTER ID LIKELY FOR 2023 - BUT COUNCILS MAY HAVE TO PICK UP THE BILL

Following public consultation, a new polling station is expected to be in operation for the borough elections in 2023. This is to be situated in the arts centre at the newly refurbished Horton Chapel and will serve the residents of the new Horton Ward. This new ward will comprise the four former hospital sites of Clarendon Park, Livingstone Park, Manor Park and Noble Park, plus some roads that are currently in Court Ward around the northern end of Hook Road.

Receiving the detailed report that included this information Councillor **Hannah Dalton** (Residents’ Association, Stoneleigh Ward), asked about the Council’s preparedness for the introduction of voter id at polling stations. “There will be a lot of communication from the government about this,” the council officer replied. But he went to say that it will be a

challenge getting it ready because the Council will be able to issue identity slips where people don't have photo identity.

Councillor **Liz Frost** (Residents' Association, Woodcote Ward) followed this up by asking about the cost implications of this for the Borough Council. The Interim Chief Executive, stated that "there are discussions going on with government at the moment ... At the moment, the proposal is that local councils will fund ID cards ... It's an ongoing discussion."