



## Cautious candidates cause College and Court cancellations

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

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 Londons 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?

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](#)

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## Voter ID deadline warning

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:

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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:

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(Image: SecretLondon Creative Commons)

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## Full list of candidates for Epsom and Ewell Council

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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## Beginning to line up for local elections

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**.

Related reports:

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## 4th May Surrey goes to the polls

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:

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## Register to vote deadline for elections

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.

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

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## Turn up to turn downturn in turnout!

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?

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No photo – no vote!

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

Photograph © Andrew Dunn,

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## Worrying about voter ID law

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.

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No photo – no vote!

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