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Interview with the New Mayor of Epsom and Ewell – Cllr Robert Leach

3 June 2025



Cllr **Robert Leach** (RA Nonsuch) was elected Mayor of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell at the Council meeting on 13th May 2025. The *Epsom and Ewell Times* put some questions to the new Mayor about his plans, priorities, and personal reflections as he embarks on his year of office.

EET: You are championing three charities during your Mayoral year. Could you tell us why you chose these particular charities?

Mayor Robert Leach: As my role relates solely to the borough of Epsom and Ewell, I focused on charities that primarily operate here. I was looking for organisations with the capacity to actively participate in fundraising, and which support those less fortunate in our community.

I've chosen:

- **Good Company**, which runs the foodbank, Epsom Pantry and other services that provide basic food provisions.
- **Citizens Advice Bureau**, which offers vital help with financial, legal, family and administrative issues—often stepping in when people have no one else to turn to.
- **PHAB**, which promotes physical and mental activity for all ages and abilities.

I believe three is the maximum I can support properly, though I recognise that there are many other excellent charities locally. I hope to support them in other ways, such as by attending their fundraising events.

EET: What are your priorities for the year ahead?

Mayor Robert Leach: My main priority is to build a stronger sense of cohesion across the borough and foster a feeling of self-worth among its residents. I'm the Mayor for all—regardless of politics, religion or beliefs.

I'm also launching a "*Friend of the Mayor*" scheme, aimed primarily at children (though adults are welcome too). The idea is simple: a Friend of the Mayor promises not to hate anyone—or at least to try not to. Disagreement is fine, disapproval too, but hatred fuels everything from petty disputes to international conflict. This is just a small, local step to push back against that.

EET: What do you think could be improved about the Borough?

Mayor Robert Leach: Overall, I believe the borough is well run and well-resourced. There are, of course, a few minor housekeeping matters that could be improved. And I do miss the old Rolls-Royce mayoral car with the crest!

EET: What are you most looking forward to in your new role?

Mayor Robert Leach: Meeting people. I hope I can encourage and thank the vast army of volunteers who work so hard for their neighbours. I'm especially keen to spend time with children and young people. Encouraging and engaging with the next generation will be a special part of this year.

EET: What hobbies might have to take a back seat during your Mayoral year?

Mayor Robert Leach: Music is my main hobby. I play in a 15-piece dance band and often deputise in another. I've already had to excuse myself from at least one gig, but I've promised the bandleaders it's only for a year!

As a pensioner with diabetes, I've also been working to get match fit for the job. I've lost over three stone and am trying to reduce my intake of cake and wine!

EET: Any final message for our readers?

Mayor Robert Leach: I want to be a residents' Mayor. I encourage all local organisations to consider inviting me to their events—there is no charge. You might even like to host a "*Meet the Mayor*" evening.

Becoming Mayor is a great honour, and I look forward to carrying out my duties with enthusiasm and commitment.

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