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Kissing goodbye to anti-social behaviour in Long Grove Park in Epsom?

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Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has installed new kissing gates at Long Grove Park in Epsom as part of ongoing efforts to improve safety, tackle antisocial behaviour and create a more welcoming environment for residents and visitors.

Long Grove Park has been identified as an area affected by the misuse of motorcycles, mopeds, quad bikes and high-powered e-bikes, which can have a detrimental impact on the safety and enjoyment of other park users. The new gates have been carefully designed to deter unauthorised motorised vehicles while maintaining access for pedestrians, wheelchair users and cyclists.

The improvements form part of a coordinated approach with the council's Safer Epsom & Ewell partners, including Surrey Police, to address concerns about illegal and antisocial vehicle use across the borough. Both organisations recognise the growing nuisance and danger caused by the reckless use of non-compliant e-bikes and e-scooters in public spaces.

Through Operation Scramble, Surrey Police have been targeting illegal and modified vehicles, seizing those that do not meet legal requirements and educating riders about the risks they pose to themselves and others.

Councillor Alan Williamson, Chair of the Crime and Disorder Committee, said:

"Everyone should be able to enjoy our parks and open spaces safely. These new kissing gates at Long Grove Park are a practical measure that will help deter unauthorised motorised vehicles, while ensuring the park remains accessible and safe for other users.

"Tackling antisocial behaviour is a priority for the council, which is why we launched the Safer Epsom & Ewell partnership earlier this year. By working closely with Surrey Police and our other partners, we have taken a coordinated approach to addressing the issues that matter most to residents.

"The installation of these gates, alongside enforcement activity such as Surrey Police's Operation Scramble, demonstrates our shared commitment to making Epsom & Ewell a safer place for everyone. We will continue to listen to residents' concerns and take action where it is needed."

Inspector Tommy Pearson, Borough Commander for Epsom and Ewell, said:

"The illegal use of e-bikes and e-scooters is a growing problem in our borough, as it is across the country. We are committed to working with the borough council to tirelessly pursue riders who are causing fear and nuisance in our community.

"Last month saw two days of action targeting e-scooters in Epsom which delivered excellent results. I hope this activity, alongside deterrents such as the new kissing gates, provides direct reassurance that we are listening to your concerns around illegal and reckless riding and taking decisive action."

- A RADAR key arrangement will be in place for disabled park users.
- Find out more about Safer Epsom & Ewell – Safer Epsom & Ewell | Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

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Photo: The Borough Commander and Cllr Alan Williamson at the kissing gate

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