



Voles let loose on the Hogsmill

In August of 2022, years of hard work with the help of hundreds of volunteers came to fruition with the release of 101 voles back onto our local Epsom and Ewell river, **the Hogsmill**. On Saturday the 25th of February **Citizen Zoo** will be celebrating this landmark achievement and the river more broadly at the CornherHOUSE Theatre.

[Link to the website to purchase tickets.](#)

This celebratory event will feature a talk from **Dr Amy-Jane Beer**, a biologist, nature writer and campaigner. She is the author of over 30 books on natural history, a Country Diarist for The Guardian, a columnist for British Wildlife and a regular contributor to BBC Wildlife and Countryfile magazines, among others. Her recent book, *The Flow*, a beautiful and fascinating book that explores the UK's rivers, includes a trip to the Hogsmill and features our water vole project!



Volunteers bringing voles back to the Hogsmill River

The event will also premier a short film about the **Hogsmill Water Vole** project, directed and filmed by aspiring wildlife filmmaker **Molly McNamara-Langton**. There will also be a short talk about water voles by **Elliot Newton** and **Ben Stockwell**.

This family-friendly event will include Water Vole-themed crafted-making activities for children and a book signing session with Amy where you can purchase her book at a discounted price that will also contribute to the water vole project.

Going potty about pot-holes?

Who knew that 15th January was **National Pothole Day**? Earlier this month I drove around a bend in Woodcote Green Road in **Epsom** at night to be faced with a traffic cone placed a few feet into the road. Was that dangerous or was I lucky? The cone was placed in a large pothole and if the car had hit the pothole it might have been damaged. The Autocar website recently reported that a single pothole in Surrey had caused wheel and tyre damage to at least twelve cars on the evening of the 17th January. Whilst both the pothole that caused the damage to the 12 cars and the pothole in Woodcote Green Road were repaired by Surrey County Council, the surface on Woodcote Green Road leaves a lot to be desired and has done so for a number of years.



This incident reminded me of a report made to the Council via their pothole reporting web page in October of last year. It reported potholes and commented on the general poor state of the road surface of Woodcote Green Road that runs behind Epsom Hospital and is a route used by many cyclists. A reply was received. "We have visited the site and on closer inspection the problem does not need immediate work. We will continue to monitor and consider it when planning future works."



Cable exposed by pothole

Although Surrey County Council sends teams out to repair potholes they consider dangerous, the general surface of the road continues to deteriorate. On a stretch of Woodcote Green Road between Sunnybank and Pine Hill, about 450 metres long, more than 60 defects in the road surface are apparent. Some of these are no more than 2 cm wide and 10 cm long. One varied in width from a few centimetres to about 15cms, was 17 meters long and entirely in a cycle lane. Another was about a square meter in area and had cable exposed arising from and disappearing back into the road surface. Reporting a pothole shallower than 3cms or other road surface issues results in the message: "This issue is likely to be assessed as a low priority when inspected. We will probably wait to repair it as part of future improvement works."

Walking along the road it's noticeable that a number of defects are immediately adjacent to previous repairs, others are repairs that are beginning to break up and some are surfaces that have been reinstated after work by utilities and are sinking. Are the quality of repairs or reinstatements monitored and who is responsible for any substandard work?

It is also noticeable that when a team is sent out to repair a pothole, that is exactly what they do. There may be defects very close to the pothole being repaired but these are ignored. In wet and cold weather, even small holes in the road surface will fill with water, the water freezes and expands and the hole gets bigger. Would it not make sense, and maybe save money if once a team was on site they fixed not only the hole they were sent to fix but also other defects nearby?

The link to a map of planned improvements mentioned above indicates that no resurfacing work is planned for Woodcote Green Road. The map indicates that very little road resurfacing is planned for Epsom with only a little more in Ewell and Stoneleigh.

The wait goes on for better quality road surfaces in Epsom.

An Epsom and Ewell Times Special Correspondent.

Is your road potted with potholes? Are you going potty about these potholes? Send us photos of your potted street. Epsom and Ewell Times admin@epsomandewelltimes.com

Interim Council CEO's permanency tipped.

Jackie King is set to become the new Chief Executive of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, subject to ratification by Full Council on Tuesday 14 February. Jackie has been recommended for the position following a robust and competitive recruitment process.

Jackie joined Epsom & Ewell Council (EEBC) in September 2021 as Director of Corporate Resources and has been in the position



of interim Chief Executive since July 2022. Jackie has had an extensive career across the public and private sector and prior to joining EEBC was Acting Chief Executive at Tandridge District Council. She also spent eight years at Surrey Police in various People, Change and Transformation roles as well as roles relating to performance and risk in global financial institutions.

Cllr **Hannah Dalton**, Chair of the Residents' Association Majority Group, said: "We are very pleased to be recommending the appointment of Jackie King as the new Chief Executive of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council. Through the rigorous recruitment process undertaken, Jackie demonstrated that she is a strong and effective leader with the drive and vision to take EEBC forward. Jackie has the support of Councillors, staff and partners in leading the delivery of our agreed priorities and in helping our communities to face the significant challenges that lie ahead in these tough times."

"Jackie has been with the Council as our Director of Corporate Services for 18 months and I have every confidence that, with her at the helm as our Chief Executive, we will make strong progress in the years ahead and deliver the change that Councillors are looking for and that our residents expect."

Jackie King said: "I am delighted to be recommended for this position as EEBC's next Chief Executive. As a long-term resident of the borough I am so proud of what we have to offer here, and am looking forward to working with colleagues, Councillors, partners and residents to support the borough to grow and thrive. The last few years have been challenging for us all in many ways and from my time here at the Council I know how committed and ambitious everyone is to really make a difference and deliver the best services we can for our communities, businesses, and visitors."

Press release EEBC.

Want to join the Surrey Fire Service?

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) welcomed 37 new firefighters to the service this month. The group of wholetime firefighters took part in three different 15-week training courses, starting in April, July and August.

This is the latest group of recruits to join the service, and they will be posted to fire stations across Surrey of which there are a total of 25.

SFRS's Chief Fire Officer, **Dan Quin**, said: "It is such a pleasure to be able to welcome our 37 new firefighters into the service. They have all worked so hard to get to this point. The training they have undertaken is not easy, it takes hard work, determination and teamwork and that is what every single one of these new firefighters have shown. Welcome to Team Surrey, I look forward to working with you."

"Having trained as a firefighter myself and attended a pass out parade, I know what a special occasion these events are for our new colleagues and their families. I look forward to seeing our new firefighters out at fire stations soon."

The firefighters will be posted to locations across Surrey including Camberley, Dorking, Egham, Esher, Farnham, Guildford, Haslemere, Painshill, Walton and Woking Fire Stations.

Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety, which includes SFRS, **Denise Turner Stewart**, (Conservative, Staines South and Ashford West) said: "A huge congratulations to the new firefighters joining the service today. I have had the pleasure of attending a number of Pass Out Ceremonies in recent years, and it is always such a wonderful occasion to meet the new members of the service who have committed to keeping the communities of Surrey safe."

"Today is also an opportunity for us to celebrate with their family and friends, who will be by their side every step of the way in their new career. We hope it is a special day for them too."

"I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our superb training team for their knowledge and expertise, and everyone else behind the scenes who has helped towards enabling this course. The service offers exceptional career aspects, so I look forward to seeing the future achievements and development from our new firefighters."

SFRS currently has opportunities for firefighters on on-call contracts, these are skilled people from all walks of life who offer daytime, evening and/or weekend cover at on-call fire stations in addition to their normal, day-to-day commitments. Just like their wholetime counterparts. SFRS are recruiting for on-call firefighters at all of their on-call stations. If you, or someone you know is interested on being on-call please take a look at the website.

Surrey County Council news service



Bassetts hound Sutton & Epsom

Sutton & Epsom RFC 5 – Royal Wootton Bassett 26. 21st January. Sutton & Epsom had travelled to Wiltshire in October to take on the winless Royal Wootton Bassett and returned to Surrey with their tails between their legs having lost 31-29. So the return fixture at Rugby Lane saw the bottom two clubs, with only two wins each this season, desperately slugging it out to grasp a lifeline to stay in Regional 1 South Central. For both clubs every match is of critical importance in their fight to retain their status but the coaches, players and supporters would have eyed this fixture as one to win. At the full-time whistle it was RWB who were triumphant in the relegation battle winning 26-5.

Rugby Lane was bathed in sunshine on an afternoon where the hard ground had claimed half of the league fixtures that afternoon. S&E gave a debut to Alex Mawdsley in the centre and Lawrence Elliott and Jack Howes, who were replacements against London Welsh, started. Jamie Flatley's kick off was plucked from the sky by the S&E pack and Sutton were immediately on the attack. A penalty was kicked into the corner and Josh Glanville gathered the line out and was stopped a metre short. The forwards inched their way under the posts before it was spun wide to Robbie Martey to nip over in the corner. Though Freddy Bunting's conversion slid by it was an ideal start for the Black & Whites who led 5-0.

The Wiltshire All Blacks response was instantaneous. They matched S&E by regaining the restart and also winning a penalty with the only difference being they went for the quick tap. Scrambling defence denied the initial surge before the ball was delivered to the opposite touch where flanker Scott Parry crossed untouched. Rhys Floyd added the extras for the visitors to take a 7-5 lead. Royal Wootton Bassett pressed hard to extend their advantage and endured a series of near misses as they failed to exploit an overlap and were also held up over the line. It was one-way traffic and deservedly at the end of the first quarter flanker Ollie Baycroft scored for RWB. Rhys Floyd missed the conversion but his team were well worth their 12-5 lead.

Sutton were struggling to gain any fluency despite the upper hand in the set scrum and a fully functioning line out. The hosts' best opportunity to level the scores came on the half hour with some exquisite footwork from Jamie Flatley. The diminutive 10 jinked his way from halfway to five metres from the posts but his pass was knocked on under the pressure of the scrambling defence. For the remainder of the first half the Black & Whites were the architects of their own misfortune as they tried to attack from their own 22 and conceded possession. However, despite the visitors dominating territory and possession they had to be satisfied with the 12-5 interval score.

RWB opened the second period by kicking a penalty to the hosts' 5-metre line. Sutton stole the line out but an inadequate clearance was returned with menace only for the alert Kyren Ghumra to secure the loose ball. The Black & Whites were struggling to find any sustained pressure as their opponents continued to search for a third try. The Wiltshire 10 entered flamboyant mode. First Rhys Floyd chipped over the top and re-gathered the ball in the 22 but was enveloped by the cover. Then a cross-field kick was added to his expanding repertoire. With Wiltshire winger favourite to score a cruel bounce denied the visitors.

Sutton & Epsom were clinging on by their fingernails but 15 minutes into the second period the pressure finally told. A sweeping attack was halted 10 metres short but a perfectly timed and angled run from the outstanding Number 8 Gavin Ougan saw him score. Rhys Floyd impressively converted from the flank for a 19-5 score-line. At this stage the Sutton resistance was being led by bullocking runs from Stefan Cooksammy who had replaced an injured Robbie Martey in the first period but there was very little fluency in the S&E game. Then at the start of the final quarter the Black & Whites arose from their slumber. Their best play saw Kyren Ghumra denied in the corner by a fine cover tackle. Then from a 22-metre line out the Surrey men attacked the left hand corner before switching to the wide-open spaces on the right. A try looked a certainty before an unforgiving pass left a brace of backs staring at the undefended line.

With the chance for a grandstand finish and memorable comeback fading by the minute it was Gavin Ougan that steadied the nerves of the Wiltshire All Blacks. Whether picking the ball up from the base of the scrum or receiving the ball in open play he rampaged forward clocking up the yardage to put Sutton on the back foot. With ten minutes left remaining RWB secured their fourth



try and the bonus point that their superiority on the day warranted. Attacking from a line out on the S&E 22 they won a penalty 5 metres from the line. A couple of phases later winger Jamie Murray was over in the corner. Rhys Floyd made light of the angle to bisect the uprights for 26-5. The hosts were left playing for pride as they sought out a consolation score or two. A beautifully weighted kick from Jamie Flatley from 40 metres initiated a curious moment. The RWB cover gathered the ball near his line and passed it to an S&E player who immediately passed it to back to another RWB man, it was becoming one of those afternoons for Sutton. From a 5-metre scrum the retreating Wiltshire pack conceded a penalty. The Black & Whites spread themselves wide and from the tap penalty were held up over the line. The hosts returned the drop out from under the posts and nearly scored in one corner before switching directions. Jamie Flatley was in a promising position threatening a score but lost his footing and a grateful defence swallowed him up. The referee then ended the contest with Royal Wootton Bassett victors to the tune of 26-5.

With this result for Sutton the thought of relegation has shifted from possibility to probability with this crucial defeat to the side that sit at the foot of the table. In contrast RWB will be not studying the '3 Rs' but the '4 Bs' as they have fixtures against Bracknell, Banbury, Brighton and Bournemouth as the plot their route to survival. The visitors thoroughly warranted their success and will hope to maintain their momentum they have gained since the prolonged festive break. In contrast the Black & Whites remaining fixtures are predominantly against those teams in the upper echelons.

Next Saturday S&E will be visiting new territory when travelling to Horspath to play against the Oxford Harlequins. In the reverse fixture the Rugby Lane crowd saw a thrilling contest that the Oxfordshire side edged by 22-19.

Sutton & Epsom

Lawrence Elliott, Robbie Martey, Freddy Bunting, Alex Mawdsley, Kyren Ghumra, Jamie Flatley, Austin Bell, Tom Boaden, Jack Howes, Will Lloyd, Josh Glanville, Ewan McTaggart, Chris Farrell ©, Rob Hegarty & James Caddy.

Replacements: (all used) Alex Mount, Stefan Cooksammy & Ross Parsons.

Royal Wootton Bassett

Daniel Hale, Matthew Huggins, Scott Douglas, Connor Tomley, Jamie Murray, Rhys Floyd, Rhys Higginson, Ben Wilkinson, Scott Parry, Christopher Roshier, Jack Daynes, Josh McCafferty, Ollie Baycroft, Dylan Higginson, Gavin Ougan ©.

Replacements: (all used) Jamie Davison, Sam Williams & Sean Marsden.

Flight of refugees: history repeating?

Epsom and Ewell Times marks **Holocaust Memorial Day** (Friday 27th January) with an article about Surrey characters who saved Jews from persecution *and* we report on the work of a daughter of a Holocaust survivor, now living in Epsom, who is saving today's refugees.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 27/1

Marking Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January) Surrey History Centre highlights local characters who saved Jews from persecution. Across Britain many so-called ordinary people made extraordinary and often brave attempts to help rescue and settle people escaping Nazi oppression. Surrey was no exception: individuals and committees alike demonstrated remarkable compassion and team spirit in helping refugees during the 1930s and 1940s.

Some of these extraordinary people were themselves Jewish refugees from Europe: people like childcare specialist, Alice Goldberger (1897-1986) from Berlin, who set up a hostel for child Holocaust survivors at Weir Courtney in Lingfield in 1945; Dr Hilde Lion (1893-1970), an academic from Berlin, who established Stotley Rough School in Haslemere in 1934; and Julius Warschauer (1907-1982) from Berlin who chaired the Mayor of Guildford's Refugee Committee, and was helped in the pastoral care of Guildford's Jewish refugees by his father Rabbi Malwin Warschauer (1871-1955).

Read the full story from the Surrey History Centre [HERE](#)

History repeating?



Nina Kaye, who lives in Epsom and is one of the founders of the **Epsom & Ewell Refugee**



Network, is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. Her mother, Marianne, was born in Vienna in 1925 and had to flee when the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938. Marianne's mother was granted a visa for Great Britain but she was not permitted to bring any dependents with her, so Marianne had to apply for a visa for the kindertransport and, at the age of 13, travelled alone from Vienna to Stockholm. Later, in 1943, she was able to rejoin her mother in London.

In 2015, Nina wanted to offer Syrian refugees a room in her house but there was no organisation that matched refugees with private families offering to host them. So she helped set up Refugees At Home (www.refugeesathome.org), a charity that has since become one of the leading organisations to match people with a spare room to refugees and asylum seekers in need of somewhere to stay. Since then she has hosted more than 30 refugees in her home.

At the same time she was involved in setting up Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network (EERN), a local organisation whose aim is to help support refugees and asylum seekers in and around Epsom. EERN is a volunteer led local organisation with an enthusiastic support network. Before the Ukrainian crisis, EERN was helping around a dozen families and some individuals settle in to the area and make a new life for themselves, providing English lessons, offering support to find jobs, helping children settle into schools, organising events and addressing many of the issues that arise. Since the war in Ukraine started, EERN now support around 180 families, helping them integrate into the community. Host families in this area have been very kind and generous and EERN offers support to both the families and their guests.

EERN's most pressing need is for more sponsor families and potential landlords for Ukrainian families. If anyone can help, please contact epsomrefugeenetwork@gmail.com

Green-belters seeing red on Local Plan?

A determined group of Epsom & Ewell residents, representing over 1,700 petitioners, took to the podium at last night's meeting of the Council's Licensing, Planning and Policy Committee (January 19th). They asked Councillors eleven questions about the threat of Green Belt sites being included as "Preferred Options" in the imminent Draft Local Plan.

[Official Council record: The Chair (Cllr **Steven McCormick** - RA Woodcote Ward) provided an oral response to each question. Eight supplementary oral questions were asked. The Chair, the Interim Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration, and the Planning Policy Manager provided oral responses to seven of the supplementary questions. The Chair confirmed a written reply would be provided for one of the supplementary questions.]

Otherwise the business of the meeting was confined to approving increases between 6 and 10 % for 2023/2024 on a range of Council charges relating to Planning matters, private hire vehicle licensing, animals and scrap metal.

Given every indication that the Government no longer thinks Green Belt reviews are necessary with housing targets advisory only, and fresh from Mole Valley District Council's unanimous vote to remove Green Belt sites from its Local Plan, residents challenged the councillors and planners to seize the opportunity to save the Green Belt now and focus on brownfield sites for new affordable homes.

In answer to one question about whether planners had consulted HM Inspectors about Green Belt removal, council officers confirmed that, as EEBC was at an initial stage of decision taking, they had no need to consult the Inspectorate at this time, unlike Mole Valley are now required to do.

Given this difference, residents believe that it will now be entirely the responsibility of Councillors - the majority of whom are Residents Association, if Green Belt land ends up being developed. According to the Council for the Protection of Rural England, over 99% of sites earmarked for development by local authorities eventually get built upon, so the campaigners say it is both

crucial and necessary to ensure no Green Belt sites are included at the outset.

The group intend to return to make more representations at the final decision-taking meeting on January 30 before the EEBC Draft Plan is published on February 1.

Further details of this residents' campaign petition can be seen on epsomgreenbelt.org

Chris Grayling MP for Epsom and Ewell has written to constituents: "There have been two new developments on the Local Plans which shape the future of housing development in our area - in Epsom and Ewell and Mole Valley.

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is due to publish its draft plan in the next few days (sic), and this will show the degree to which it has decided to push for development on local green belt land. I very much hope they have chosen to focus on brown field sites and particularly on the potential for the Kiln Lane and Longmead areas.

Meanwhile in Mole Valley, the Council has asked the Planning Inspector to delay consideration of their plans, following the Government's revision of its national planning policies. It is too early to know if this may affect the plans for Ashted, but I will keep you posted."

Related reports:

[Lessons for Epsom in Mole Valley's "shouty" Local Plan struggle?](#)

[Crucial month for local Local Plans?](#)

[Gove gives pause for thought on Local Plans?](#)

[Local Plan Battle: early skirmishes on Downs Farm](#)

[MP's housing solution for Epsom and Ewell](#)

Surrey Police Top Complaints Table

Surrey Police received more complaints per officer in its force than any other in England and Wales. The Home Office recently published the statistics for the year end 31st March 2022.

Epsom and Ewell Times has analysed the tables and the top forces are as follows:

Rank	Force	Number of police officers	Number of allegations	Allegations Per officer
<u>1</u>	Surrey Police	2,153	3,983	1.8500
<u>2</u>	Cleveland Police	1,443	2,358	1.6341
<u>3</u>	Gloucestershire Constabulary	1,279	1,940	1.5168
<u>4</u>	Essex Police	3,678	5,375	1.4614
<u>5</u>	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary	3,302	4,734	1.4337
<u>6</u>	Kent Police	4,064	5,527	1.3600

Lisa Townsend, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, said: "My office has been in detailed discussion with Surrey Police following the understandable concerns that the public may have following the national news this week. There is no place for misogyny or abuse of any type in Surrey Police and I have been clear with the Force that I have the highest expectations of our police officers.

"I am pleased that Surrey Police have rigorous processes in place to discourage all forms of behaviour that fall below the standards we have of every officer, and I am confident that all cases of misconduct are carried out with the utmost seriousness when an allegation is made either externally or internally. The latest quarterly data from the IOPC to last September shows a reduction in complaint cases against police officers in Surrey. However it is important to note that while every case is taken seriously, the total number of complaints received relates to a wide variety of themes. Many complaint cases are resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant.



"My office continues to play an important role in scrutinising the Force in all areas of performance, including regular meetings with Surrey Police's Professional Standards Team and the IOPC. This includes identifying trends and working to improve the timeliness and quality of the service that every complaint receives."

Helen Maguire Liberal Democrat PPC for Epsom and Ewell said: "As a former Royal Military Police Officer, it goes without saying that I fully support the difficult work that Surrey Police do. However, following the conviction of David Carrick, these Surrey figures will be seen locally as being very disturbing and so the public needs reassurance. Therefore Surrey Police Force must ask themselves why they are top of the table and how do they investigate internal complaints against their own police officers. That can only be achieved if there is external scrutiny of the figures - the public will not take kindly to seeing Surrey Police marking their own homework!"

Mark Todd, Chair of Epsom and Ewell Labour Party said: "In Epsom & Ewell we get a terrible deal on policing, so it's no wonder that complaints are so high; and the huge problems at the Met show that the problems go wider still. During austerity the Conservative Government cut our police funding by 20% and Epsom's police station was closed. It lies derelict on Church Street with just a small base during working hours at the town hall. We need a properly resourced, trained and managed police force and that's what a Labour Government would provide. Currently our police force is not fit for purpose and it's all the Government's fault."

A full table of complaints against officers in each police force is available from Epsom and Ewell Times [HERE](#)

Surrey Police have hit back: "The Home Office figures quoted by some outlets are for overall public complaints to the force. These capture dissatisfaction with the service provided by police. The figures do not reflect misconduct investigations. This is a really important distinction to make. "

Epsom and Ewell Times has extrapolated the figures above from the Home Office table: "Number of individuals (officers) subject to a complaint". Readers may explore for themselves via this Home Office website page.

ULEZ will come to Epsom and Ewell borders

London has an air quality problem. That's why the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is expanding across all London boroughs from 29 August 2023 to help clear London's air.

Poor air quality is not just a central London problem. In fact, the greatest number of deaths related to air pollution occur in outer London areas.

The ULEZ has already made a significant difference, helping to reduce harmful nitrogen dioxide pollution by nearly half in central London. But we need to act now to help give the five million Londoners in outer boroughs clearer air to breathe too.

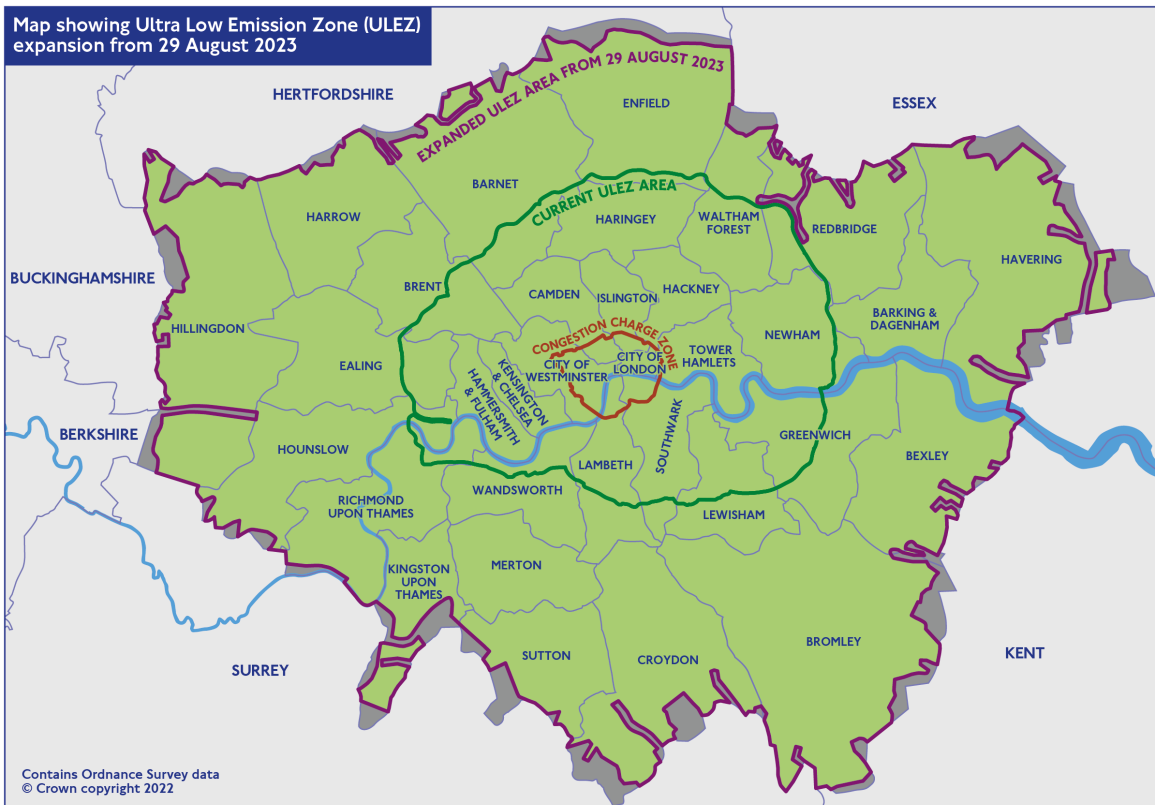
Cars, motorcycles, vans and other specialist vehicles (up to and including 3.5 tonnes) and minibuses (up to and including 5 tonnes) will need to meet the ULEZ emissions standards or pay a daily charge of £12.50 when driving within the zone, including the expanded area from 29 August.

More than four out of five vehicles already meet the standards. But, if you drive a petrol vehicle over 16 years old or a diesel vehicle over 6 years old, you need to check in case you're affected. Use our simple online vehicle checker.



Check your vehicle now To support Londoners through the expansion, the Mayor of London's scrappage scheme is providing financial assistance for those on certain low income or disability benefits. There is also help for London based sole traders, businesses with up to 10 employees and registered charities. The scheme opens on 30 January 2023. For more information on the scrappage scheme and other support, visit our website.

The ULEZ will continue to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year except Christmas Day (25 December). Any money received from the scheme is reinvested into running and improving London's transport network, such as expanding bus routes in outer London.



Visit the interactive map to see if a postcode, location or landmark is in the expanded area. Check your postcode If you drive within the Congestion Charge zone in central London, you will also need to pay the daily Congestion Charge unless your vehicle has an exemption or is registered for a 100% discount. The Congestion Charge zone won't be expanding.

Transport for London 19.01.2023



Chris Grayling MP for Epsom and Ewell has written to constituents to say:

"I am strongly opposed to the change at this time because of its impact on our area, on pensioners and people on low incomes with older cars and most significantly those seeking treatment at St Helier or the Marsden. I have asked him to reconsider this aspect of the scheme in particular....."

... the plan does not include extending the zone right to the London boundary everywhere. For us the outline ULEZ map says it will not cover the route from Epsom to the M25 via Malden Rushett or from Ewell to Tolworth and the A3 going southwards. There has been some confusion over the status of Rushett Lane and I am checking that with TfL. It will also not include the north end of Stoneleigh and parts of Worcester Park.

.... The target date for the launch is August 29th, though that may slip as some councils are refusing to work with the Mayor to install the cameras that will be needed to make it operational."

Related articles

[Yet more on ULEZ....](#)

[More on Epsom and Ewell and Surrey and ULEZ](#)

[Council's last minute opposition to ULEZ extension.](#)

Surrey County Council Stands Against Scams

Surrey County Council has been officially accredited as a "Friends Against Scams" (FAS) organisation. FAS is an initiative run by the **National Trading Standards** (NTS) Scams Team that aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering people to 'Take a Stand Against Scams'.

The accreditation follows on from some impressive work by Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards, which has seen them:

- Train 22,269 Friends Against Scams
- Train 161 SCAMchampions
- Train 152 Scam Marshals
- Instal 562 call blockers
- Instal 38 doorbell cameras

The impact of this work can be seen in the financial impact of their interventions which between April 2019 and December 2022 generated savings of £66million.



In addition to the accreditation, Surrey County Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety **Denise Turner-Stewart** officially joined the initiative as a "SCAMBassador".

SCAMBassadors protect the public from scams and the damage they cause by working with members of both their community and at national level to educate and support those who may be vulnerable to scams.

Scams affect millions of people across the UK and cost consumers an estimated £5-10 billion of detriment of each year. The people who are targeted are often in the most vulnerable circumstances and the impact on their lives is devastating – from large financial losses to severe emotional damage which leaves victims feeling intimidated, scared and afraid to be in their home.

Denise Turner-Stewart, Surrey County Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety said: *"I'm delighted to become an official SCAMBassador and to help Friends Against Scams continue their vital work in protecting the public against exploitative and deceitful fraudsters."*

"Anyone can become a victim of scams but they often target the most vulnerable in society and these criminals and fraudulent practices must be stopped."

"I would urge residents and business alike to attend one of the online FAS training webinars delivered monthly by Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards Service and if you are plagued by nuisance and scam telephone calls email trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk to see if you are eligible for a free call blocker."

"Scams damage lives, affecting people both financially and emotionally, but together with the Friends Against Scams Team, the Chartered Trading Standards Institute and our very own Trading Standards Team, we will do all we can to keep residents safe."

Louise Baxter, Head of the National Trading Standards Scams Team said: *"The tactics used by criminals leave victims socially isolated and ashamed of telling their friends and families what's really going on behind closed doors. "It is fantastic to have such an influential figure in the community to help us tackle this problem on a local, regional and national level and I would encourage all those that are interested in showing their support to join the campaign and be part of our growing SCAMBassador network."*

Surrey County Council News Service