



Surrey County Council to be strike free this Summer?

Surrey County Council's lowest paid staff are set to receive a pay boost after unions and council officers **agreed** a proportionate pay offer that sees pay increases on a sliding scale.

The offer will give people at the lowest pay grade a 7.85% increase and will exceed the UK Living Wage Foundations National Living Wage with a minimum hourly pay rate of £10.24ph.

The percentage increase drops further up the scales, with those earning the most receiving no increase.

Surrey Pay is subject to local agreement and negotiations between the Council and recognised trade unions (Unison & GMB). Negotiations this year focused on the sharp increases in costs of living, with the final offer reflecting the council's stated ambition of No One Left Behind – helping those who need us most.

The offer is targeted at lower earners who are inevitably struggling most with the costs of living increases, hence the graduated nature of the pay uplift.

Leader of Surrey County Council Cllr Tim Oliver (Conservative) said: *"I'm pleased that a strong pay offer has been agreed, one that particularly protects our lowest paid staff.*

"We know that the cost of living is proving a challenge for many, but as a council it is our absolute priority to ensure no one is left behind, and that includes our staff. This offer reflects that.

"It is also in recognition of the excellent services staff continued to provide under difficult conditions during the pandemic, which we are all grateful for."

Farnham Town 3-2 Epsom & Ewell

Pre-season Friendly Saturday 2nd July 2022. Report Source: www.eefconline.co.uk. Reporter: Richard Lambert

New era kicks off with narrow defeat. The artificial surface at Kings College in Guildford was the place to be to witness the opening match of the Anthony Jupp and Liam Giles era, although rather disappointingly out of our regular supporters, only two Committee members, plus myself and my boy Nathan were there to witness it in an attendance of 15.

Pre-season friendlies are not for everyone though and of course many players take the field who will never make the first team squad, so maybe some supporters aren't that concerned! Obviously, due to the time of the season with many players not signed up and the recent departures of Luke Miller and Tommy Smith, I won't be releasing any names here, except to say that many players were away this week and that out of the twenty-two players present, of whom twenty had a run out, there were only three players on the field who finished the season with us. There were also two former Epsom players on show.

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The half time whistle blew immediately after the restart, and both teams changed a number of personnel and in our case, the formation too. This bore fruit within 35 seconds as a smart strike from the left about fifteen yards out put us back on level terms. We then hit the face of the bar with a shot from the left before another shot took a slight deflection and came back off the Farnham post.

Unfortunately a foul just inside the penalty area gave our opponents a spot kick which was converted in the 73rd minute and then two minutes after we had hit the post once again in the 87th minute, Farnham scored a third goal with a fine finish into the top corner from just inside the box.

This third goal was a little harsh on our team, but in the 91st minute we did get a second of our own when our earlier scorer latched on to a fine pass, held off his man and steered the ball under the keeper from an angle about ten yards out for his second of the match. It was the least we deserved, having also hit their woodwork on three occasions during that period!

As always at this stage of the season the performance is more important than the result, but with so many players absent it is



hard to say much more than the scoreline was about fair, largely due to Farnham holding a greater balance of play in the first half. Suffice to say our new Management seemed happy enough with the way things went and that's all that really matters at this point. We move on to meet another Step Five team when we visit Hassocks next Saturday.

Mental Health services in Epsom and Ewell

Freya Lawrence writes: The amount of sufferers with mental illness has increased immensely in recent years. With a global pandemic, increased living expenses and varying demographic changes, it is certainly easy to understand how and why. The resources available for those suffering are also on the rise. Disorders such as anxiety and depression can interfere with everyday life, with physical health and overall emotional wellbeing evidently being affected directly by mental illness. With 1 in 4 individuals in the UK suffering from a mental health problem each year, it is vital to us that the resources available in the local area are more accessible.

Starting the conversation about mental health within the borough is also important to us because of the stigma surrounding mental health disorders. Stigma has the potential to make mental health issues worse – causing delay or prevention of treatment for some sufferers. Social attitudes have always played an important role in the diagnoses and treatment of mental illnesses. The list of reasons for the stigmatisation is long and somewhat endless.

The mental health history of Epsom is worth noting due to the psychiatric institutions that once lived in the Horton area of the town, which in itself has created stigma.

With the globalisation of media, ideas about certain groups of individuals can be easily accessed. It is evident that the media portray links between mental illness with dangerous and/or criminal behaviour- a huge misconception. There is a genuine lack of awareness and education when it comes to these illnesses, and I would advise many to check out the list of disorders and their symptoms via the following link <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/types-of-mental-health-problems/>

Trying to find resources for mental health recovery or crises can not only be daunting, but time consuming and arduous- in the matter of finding the correct resources. Accordingly, **The Epsom and Ewell Times** felt it necessary to provide some information regarding the mental health resources that exist within the area that can hopefully benefit those suffering, and/or those seeking help for those around them. Our objective is to lay out an inclusive, easily accessible list. Below is a compiled list of several of the available services within the borough. It is worth noting the following list is not comprehensive. The aim is to provide an avenue for those suffering and looking for help.

Love Me Love My Mind -

Love Me Love My Mind is a small registered grassroots charity based in Epsom. The charities aim is to promote better understanding of mental health, and to provide support to individuals suffering.

Love Me Love My Mind have drop in services every Monday from 16:00pm-19:00pm at St Barnabas church, situated on Temple road. The drop in service is a brilliant idea for those isolated by their mental health issues – with refreshments, activities and a home cooked meal provided. For more information visit <https://www.lovemelovemymind.org.uk>

Horizon

Horizon is a mental health, specialist and learning disabilities community service hub, which opened in July 2021. Horizon is currently working from the following address : 28 Upper High Street, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 4QJ

Teams specialising in the following have moved into the hub:

- Early Intervention in Psychosis (EIIP)
- Mind Matters
- Community Mental Health Recovery Service (CMHRS) – Epsom
- Community Mental Health team for Older People (CMHTOP) – Mid Surrey



- i-access: East
- Perinatal Mental Health Service: South West
- ASD and ADHD Service: Surrey

Mary Frances Trust -

Since 1994, the Mary Frances Trust have specialised in mental health support for Surrey residents. The non profit organisation is located at 23 The Crescent, Leatherhead. The services provided by Mary Frances trust are extensive, from one-to-one support and crisis support to wellbeing courses and physical activities.

"Anyone over the age of 16 living in the Mole Valley, Epsom & Ewell, Banstead, Elmbridge areas of Surrey and experiencing any form of mental or emotional health issues can access our services."

The website has more information in regard to their services -

<https://www.maryfrancetrust.org.uk>

Safe Haven: Epsom

The safe haven, located at 44 Waterloo road, KT19 8EX, is a drop in service for those experiencing a mental health crisis and those who are looking for general mental health support. For the former, the centre is open from 18:00pm-23:00pm 365 days a year. Those looking for the latter can drop in between 18:00pm-19:00pm daily. There is also a virtual safe haven offering crisis support that can be accessed between 18:00pm-23:00pm via this link - <https://nhs.uk/sabp/safe-haven-Epsom> "We offer a supportive environment for any adult in crisis during a time of need and when there may be no-one else around to provide it."

The services provided by the Epsom Safe Haven are self referral. The safe haven will be moving to the brickfield centre in May 2022 - at Brickfield Centre, Portland Place, Epsom, KT17 1DL.

For more information in regard to the Epsom safe haven visit: <https://www.sabp.nhs.uk/our-services/mental-health/safe-havens>

Alcoholics anonymous (AA) intergroup:

For those struggling with alcohol addiction, there are several AA sessions throughout the week in and around Epsom and Ewell. Below are many of the sessions offered - it is worth noting that many of the below sessions work at a first come, first served basis, and the duration of the sessions vary from 1 hour - 1 and 1/2 hours.

Monday at 20:00pm - St Joseph's Catholic Church, St Margaret's Drive, KT18 7JQ

Friday at 13:00pm - St Martin's Church Hall, Church St, KT17 4PX

Friday at 18:30pm - All Saints Church meeting room, KT19 9QZ

Saturday at 20:00pm - St Martin's Church, Church St, KT17 4PX

Saturday at 10:00am - Epsom Methodist Church, 11-13 Ashley Rd, KT18 5AQ

Mindworks Surrey -

Mindworks is a Surrey based service specialising in children and young peoples emotional wellbeing and mental health. The services offered by Mindworks are extensive, delivered by many

alliance partners. Alongside this, Mindworks support and work alongside various organisations and groups who work with children and young people. The Mindworks website is not only accessible for a parent or carer, but also children and young adults.

<https://www.mindworks-surrey.org>

In a different way The Friends of Horton Cemetery are de-stigmatizing mental illness through their project revealing the lives of 9000 patients buried between 1899 and 1955 in the abandoned Cemetery in Epsom. See www.hortoncemetery.org

Author: **Freya Lawrence**

River "Bogsmill" blights Borough

The **River Hogsmill and the Green Lanes Stream** are becoming no go areas for dogs and humans. Residents are calling for private utility company **Thames Water** to act on sewage polluted water courses in the heart of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. Local **activist Mark Todd** states: "Thames Water should not be using the Green Lanes Stream and the Hogsmill River in Epsom



& Ewell and Kingston Boroughs, as open sewers. The Hogsmill is one of only 200 chalk streams in the world and used to be teeming with wildlife, yet it is now so polluted barely any fish live in it."



"The rivers are delicate streams and cannot accommodate sewage overflows. The pollution affects Epsom, Ewell, Tolworth, Surbiton and Kingston. It then enters the Thames affecting London and the Thames Estuary. The sewage is killing the rivers: destroying wildlife, poisoning animals, and makes it unsafe for kids or animals to play in them. Some local residents who live by the river say it now stinks. In 2021, the South East Rivers Trust calculated that a total of 159 hours of sewage went into the rivers across 47 incidents. That is one incident per week. The causes of the discharges are faulty sensors by Green Lanes Stream; insufficiently large sewage tanks at Manor Rd, Ewell; and comms failures at the outdated Hogsmill A Waste-water Works in Kingston."

Mark has established a petition to put more pressure on Thames Water to stop the issues at source by investing some of its profits in upgrading the sewage infrastructure in the area. See Petition [HERE](#)

In response to **Epsom and Ewell Times**, a **Thames Water spokesperson** said: "Our aim will always be to try and do the right thing for our rivers and for the communities who love and value them. We regard all discharges of untreated sewage as unacceptable and will work with the government, Ofwat and the Environment Agency to accelerate work to stop them being necessary and are determined to be transparent. We recently launched our river health commitments which includes a 50% reduction in the total annual duration of spills across London and the Thames Valley by 2030, and within that an 80% reduction in sensitive catchments.

"In addition, the Thames Tideway Tunnel, which is the third phase of a comprehensive environmental improvement programme of the tidal Thames for our customers and river users, is due for completion in 2024. The tunnel is a total investment of more than £4 billion that will deliver a huge reduction in the discharges to the tidal River Thames in London, and further improve overall health of the river.

"We have a long way to go - and we certainly can't do it on our own - but the ambition is clear."



Blooming Ewell

Ewell Village has entered Britain in Bloom - a national competition which seeks to use flowers and greenery to transform communities. Judges will visit the village on the morning of Tuesday 5th July 2022.

This competition entry is part of a broader effort to rejuvenate the village. Making Ewell high street and surrounding areas more attractive through flowers and planting is just one thing that the community, businesses, groups, organisations and community leaders have been working on to improve our local area.



For Ewell Village in Bloom, volunteers have been working on:

- revitalising the memorial garden outside Sainsbury's
- getting The Grove cleared up and grass re-seeded
- cleaning up the High Street and Bourne Hall park - with monthly volunteers meeting at 10am on the 4th Sunday of every month
- planting in Bourne Hall park
- getting ready for a yarn bomb attack of crochet flowers in the village for judging day!

Everyone in the Ewell are can take part! The big idea is that if everyone did something small to take a bare area of their property frontage to make it more beautiful, then collectively we can make a big difference. This may be as simple as putting a pot on your doorstep, adding a hanging basket or putting a summer wreath on your front door.



Once one person in the road does it, other people copy, and the momentum starts to build. They would love people to send their before and after photos to Ewellvillage@outlook.com. The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Cllr Clive Woodridge will judge the best road overall.

For more information, please contact **Alison Price** at Ewellvillage@outlook.com.

Council Meetings in the Dark?

Monday 4th July 2022 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council will deliberate in secret on the recruitment of a new Chief Executive. This follows the sudden departure earlier this month of Kathryn Beldon from the top local government post, reported by Epsom and Ewell Times.

Firstly, the powerful Strategy and Resources Committee will meet, followed by the full Council. Both will vote on a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meetings. The resolutions infer that it would not be in the public interest for the public to know information "relating to an individual" or "relating to the finances" (of the Council).

Epsom and Ewell Times assume that press and public will be excluded from the debates on the resolutions to exclude them!

UK's 2022 Top Jazz Award nominees to play in Epsom

Jo Harrop is one of 4 nominees for the prestigious annual Parliamentary jazz award for vocalist of the year 2022.

Epsom's own **Nigel Price**, the UK's foremost guitarist and founder of the UK wide jazz club supporting Grassroots Jazz, has been nominated for the annual award for services to jazz.

The winners will be announced at PizzaExpress Live, Holborn, London on Tuesday 5th July.

Both nominees will play in Epsom on **Thursday 7th July at 7.30pm** at the **Epsom Jazz Club** in The Oaks Room in the



Conservative Club, Church Street, Epsom.

You can book your tickets for Epsom Jazz Club 7th July for a great evening of jazz.

Recognise this alleged burglar?

Surrey Police are appealing for help to identify this man, who they believe may be able to help with their investigation into a residential burglary in Epsom on Sunday, 26 June.

The burglary took place on Linden Place in Epsom at around 12:50am. During the burglary, a coat was stolen.

Surrey Police believe the man seen in these CCTV images may be able to help with their investigation.

If you recognise him, or have any other information that could assist with their enquiries, please contact Surrey Police quoting PR/ 45220067795 via:

- Webchat on <https://surrey.police.uk/>
- Online <https://www.surrey.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/cor/tell-us-about-existing-case-report/>
- Calling 101

If you do not wish to leave your name, please call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 11

How Epsom and Ewell Times improves the community....

Some key findings of the Public Interest News Foundation include:

- Most independent news publishers cover a broad range of news topics within a tightly defined local place. The smaller the area covered, the smaller the revenue.
- The staff at independent publishers are not yet representative of the UK population, with women and ethnic minorities underrepresented. More than half of publishers say they're making efforts to serve diverse audiences.
- Independent publishers make a big difference to the communities they serve – and to democracy. Publishers say they increase civic engagement, increase public debate and inspire more people to be involved in public life, among other things.
- Publishers face significant challenges around revenue, staffing, costs and the social media giants.

Amid rising demand for high quality local news, publishers have high hopes for the future. They see opportunities to build trust with communities that feel far from economic or political power.

Click [HERE](#) to read the FULL REPORT

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Epsom Choral works 100 years

Epsom Choral Society (ECS), which is celebrating its Centenary this year, put on a spirited performance at its **"Songs from the Shows"** concert on Saturday 25th June at St Andrews Church in Cheam.



The choir has traditionally concentrated on lighter repertoire for its summer concert and this year it caught the mood with a programme of medleys from famous musicals such as *Porgy and Bess*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Oklahoma!* *Les Misérables* received particularly enthusiastic applause. The evening was enhanced by two soloists from the Epsom Light Opera Company: Lian Downes, who performed 'Meadowlark' from *The Baker's Wife* and James Turnbull, who sang 'Empty Chairs at Empty Tables' from *Les Misérables*. The evening came together under the expert baton of Musical Director Julian Collings with a band which, despite being much reduced by the rail strike, provided all the rhythm and colour needed for a great evening.

The final concert in the choir's Centenary Season will be **Handel's Messiah at Epsom Playhouse** on Saturday 3rd December, and ECS would love to see you there. What better way to celebrate 100 years of singing? Visit their website [HERE](#)

