EPSOM & EWELL TIMES
For the community, by the community. A not-for-profit service

22nd October 2026

ISSN 2753-2771

Epsom Firefighters making businesses safer

4 October 2022

Statistics for the UK show that 30 people die and 2,000 are injured each year as a result of fires in the workplace. The damage to businesses caused by fire costs the economy over £6 billion and 75% of businesses that have a fire within the first year never trade again.

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service aims to support businesses in reducing the risk and impact of a fire by offering free advice and guidance on fire safety.

Their **Business Safe and Well Visits** take just ten to fifteen minutes and cover aspects such as identifying the hazards, reducing the risk of a fire starting and steps to ensure the safety of staff and visitors.

Dean, a Fire Fighter on Green Watch at Epsom Fire Station, said “Our Business Safe and Well Visits are an effective way of educating businesses on fire safety and reducing the number of fires we have to attend”

If you would like a free Business Safe and Well Visit, please visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/businesssafety or simply scan the QR code below and complete the request form.

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
Email businesssafety.education@surreycc.gov.uk

Epsom’s Church Street Fire Station

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Council partnerships secure Surrey nature reserve

4 October 2022

Last week saw the official handover of **Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve** to **Surrey County Council**. This much-loved wildlife haven on the outskirts of Farnham saw its long-term future safeguarded when a partnership of six councils came together in December 2021 to purchase the site and protect it as a natural space.

Surrey County Council acquired the site from **Hanson UK** with funding support from Hampshire County Council, Guildford Borough Council, Waverley Borough Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and Farnham Town Council. The 55 hectare (137 acre) former quarry site which is fully restored as a nature reserve now forms part of the Surrey County Council countryside estate.

The official handover was not only an opportunity to celebrate and commemorate the long-term future of Tice's Meadow but also to understand the vital role the **Tice's Meadow Bird Group** play in the conservation of the site and the tireless work of local volunteers.

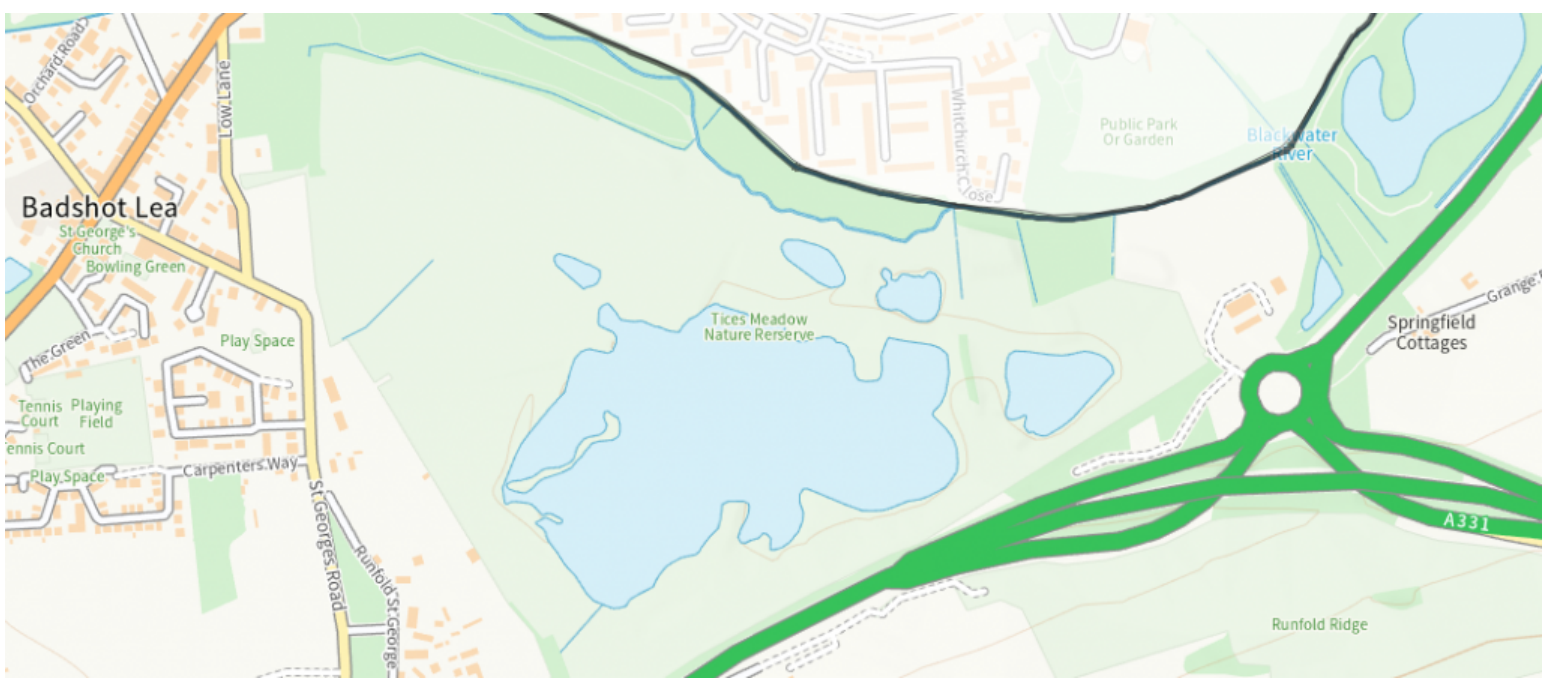
Tim Oliver, Leader of Surrey County Council said: "It is an honour to be a part of the successful partnership Surrey County Council has formed with five other councils, with our shared vision to protect and enhance the natural environment. It is our ambition to work collaboratively with partners to protect our environment and invest in climate change.

"I would like to recognise the valuable work of the Tice's Meadow Bird Group and local volunteers whose dedication ensure this site will continue to be a haven for wildlife, and a wonderful open space for everyone to enjoy recreationally."

Paul Williams, Head of Land and Mineral Resources at Hanson UK, said:

"Hanson UK are committed to conserving and enhancing nature before, during and after mineral extraction. Tice's Meadow – on the site of our former Farnham quarry – is an exemplar of the biodiversity uplift and community benefits that can be achieved through progressive restoration after quarrying has finished. Going forward we know it's in expert hands".

Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, **Marisa Heath** and Director of Environment **Carolyn McKenzie** planted a Bird Cherry tree (prunus padus) and unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion.



Location of Tice Meadow off the Farnham Road (A31) 137 acres.

Tice's Meadow is widely considered one of the best inland sites to watch birds in the southeast of England. As well as a

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circular ‘biodiversity’ trail within the site there are also footpath links to Tongham Pools and the Blackwater Valley giving the opportunity for visitors to explore wildlife and the natural environment.

For further information on Tice’s Meadow including volunteer opportunities visit their website Tice’s Meadow (ticesmeadow.org).

News from Surrey County Council

How to help “low-incomes” with your £400

4 October 2022

The **Epsom and Ewell Energy Support Scheme** is a plan to offer those running into difficulties immediate help with their bills, and then advice and financial support to improve energy efficiency or reduce energy consumption in their homes and so reduce bills going forward. This might include buying a more efficient appliance for them or helping with improved insulation. The scheme is supported by local MP **Chris Grayling**

To help support this programme they are asking local households who have less difficulty paying for these higher energy bills to donate their £400 support payments to the fund so that it can be used to help reduce the bills of those who are struggling. If you are able to do this, they would be very grateful, and all other donations are of course also very welcome.

The Scheme is being run jointly by the **Good Company**, which runs the local food bank, and **Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell** helped by local Churches. It will offer both advice sessions to help those who are not sure how to improve their energy efficiency as well as assistance paying for improvements.

To make a donation, please visit the donations page at **www.justgiving.com/campaign/epsom-ewell-energy-support-scheme**

£11.9m to help Surrey residents cut their energy bills

4 October 2022

Grants of up to £25,000 are now available for eligible Surrey residents to help make their homes warmer and more energy efficient.

People living in hard to heat homes and on lower incomes, could receive grants between £10,000 and £25,000 to improve insulation and install renewable technology – helping to save energy, reduce emissions and combat rising energy prices. Improvement measures include loft insulation, cavity and external wall insulation, underfloor insulation and renewables, such as solar electricity panels.

Residents can check if they are eligible by visiting the Action Surrey website – www.actionsurrey.org, or calling them on 0800 783 2503.

Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment at Surrey County Council said: “We know this is a challenging time for many and we’re really pleased to be offering this funding to our residents who need our support the most.

“Improving the energy efficiency of homes in Surrey will also help us achieve our goal to be a net zero county by 2050.

“I encourage residents to check if they are eligible as soon as possible.”

Funding totalling £11.9m has been awarded through central Government to Surrey County Council, leading on behalf of

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the local authorities across the county. The project will be delivered and managed by Action Surrey – an energy efficiency advice service set up in partnership with all Surrey local authorities.

Keep up to date on progress towards the target of making Surrey net zero by 2050 and find out what you can do to help. Sign up to the Greener Matters newsletter to get updates here: Climate change newsletter – Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)

News from Surrey County Council.

Epsom and Ewell pressed-on to Victory

4 October 2022

East Preston 1-3 Epsom & Ewell Southern Combination League – Division One. Saturday 1st October 2022
Report Source: www.eefconline.co.uk Reporter: Richard Lambert.

We won our second consecutive match by the score of 3-1 on Saturday at East Preston, but the two contests could hardly have been more different. On Tuesday at Godalming Town, we didn't play particularly well and relied on a late goal to clinch the points from an even match, so supporters came away fairly happy. On Saturday though, our first visit to the Lashmar was a much more impressive performance, and we arguably could have won by many more. However, a 93rd minute Alfie Moss goal for the home side spoilt the clean sheet that our boys deserved and left a slightly disappointing taste in the mouth.

There was originally just one change to the line up following the win at Godalming as Josh Owen came in for Jaevon Dyer, but then Johnny "Sonic" Akoto tweaked a hamstring in the warm up, so we needed to make a second change. Fortunately we had a more than able replacement in Gideon Acheampong ready to go. In terms of the substitutes, Dyer wasn't originally named on the five man list, but the non-appearance of Jubril Adamson meant that he was included just before kick off and he would also come on and score later! It was also interesting to see the return of Josh Alder in that group, having returned from a brief but very successful spell at Oakwood last month.

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Form
1	Selsey	9	7	1	1	20	7	13	22	
2	Epsom & Ewell	8	7	0	1	27	9	18	21	
3	Wick	9	6	0	3	18	14	4	18	
4	Dorking Wanderers B	10	5	2	3	20	13	7	17	
5	Godalming Town	9	5	1	3	21	12	9	16	
6	Shoreham	7	4	3	0	16	4	12	15	
7	Arundel	9	4	2	3	18	17	1	14	
8	Chessington & Hook	9	4	1	4	16	12	4	13	
9	East Preston	8	4	1	3	10	9	1	13	
10	Billingshurst	11	4	1	6	18	26	-8	13	
11	Mile Oak	9	4	0	5	16	16	0	12	
12	Worthing United	9	3	2	4	11	17	-6	11	
13	Seaford Town	9	2	4	3	14	15	-1	10	
14	Hailsham Town	8	2	2	4	8	13	-5	8	
15	Oakwood	9	2	2	5	11	18	-7	7	
16	Forest Row	9	1	0	8	10	28	-18	3	
17	Montpelier Villa	10	0	2	8	3	27	-24	2	

Southern Combination Football League

On a sunny day with a little shower now and then, we kicked off heading towards the remaining trees at the clubhouse end. When I had visited on a ground hop back in 2001 I thought there were more trees, but a club official pointed out that many had to be removed during the summer, which left the ground a lot more open to the sunlight, but lacking a little in character as a result. I hope they are able to replace them.

We started off well and just kept going. Ricardo Fernandes sent an early shot wide of the post before Nick Wilson and Athan-Smith Joseph both struck at goal only to provide comfortable saves for Maj Kason. Owen was a constant threat in

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this match and he set Fernandes through with a clever pass, but the shot went wide from a good position. The pair combined again as Owen flicked on a long throw to Fernandes, but he was unable to keep his header on target.

We continued to press. Kason had to punch away a dangerous delivery before a Ryan Smith corner to the far post was headed back across by Brad Peters only for Aaron Bogle to miss a straightforward header from five yards out, glancing it wide instead. Fortunately, we took the lead in the 35th minute after Smith received the ball just over twenty yards out and drilled it low into the keeper's left hand bottom corner. Fernandes also had another try but his equally powerful strike went wide of the post.

This had been an extremely one-sided first half against a team in the top half of the table and the only criticism you could level at our team was that we probably should have been in a position of greater dominance on the scoreboard. We had a slight delay to the second half as an Assistant was unable to continue, so a home official ran the line for the remainder of the match and he was very busy as almost all of the play would again be contained within the East Preston half.

Athan Smith-Joseph was unfortunate to strike just beyond the top corner from nearly twenty yards and his next delivery was palmed up into the air by Kason, but a defender was able to head clear before it reached Fernandes. The home side did get a shot blocked by a defender for a corner which, disappointingly for the home side, went straight out of play and we made them pay as a nice through ball set Smith-Joseph in on goal from a central position where he clipped the ball past the keeper before rolling the ball into the empty net with his left foot for our second goal in the 54th minute.

Chances kept coming. Owen struck just over the bar after beating two men and on the hour Fernandes intercepted a pass across the back and was through on goal, but telegraphed his shot and Kason saved low down to his left. Dyer came on for Smith-Joseph in the 63rd minute and he found the net nine minutes later, although much of the credit goes to Owen who did well on the right before sending the ball over from the left for Dyer to side foot home from eight yards. Kason nearly managed to keep it out, but there was just too much power in the shot and it was 3-0.

Alder joined the fray and sent one powerful strike at goal but Kason did well to block the shot, then Alder set up Wilson who struck powerfully enough, but it went just over the bar from only ten yards.

Seven minutes from the end of normal time we saw the return of Steve Springett after his nasty injury at Worthing United back in August and he did well to head a rare home attack away, but unfortunately we were caught out ten minutes later with a looping header that dropped over Matt Walton and into the net. It was an unfortunate way to end the match from an Epsom point of view, but it shouldn't be forgotten that this was still our seventh League win in a row and with leaders Selsey being held to a draw by Seaford, we closed the gap at the top to a point and hold a game in hand. Despite the late drama it was a good day in terms of the bigger picture.

Epsom & Ewell: Matt Walton, Gideon Acheampong, Zach Powell, Ryan 'Butch' Smith, Brad Peters (c), Aaron Bogle, Nick Wilson, Gavin Quintyne, Athan Smith-Joseph, Ricardo Fernandes, Josh Owen

Subs: Jaevon Dyer for Smith-Joseph (63), Josh Alder for Owen (73) Steve Springett for Powell (83), Lewis Jupp for Acheampong (88)

Family Notices

4 October 2022

Births, birthdays, engagements, marriages, anniversaries and in memoriam.

Submit new notices HERE

Official Notices

4 October 2022

Planning, AGMs, Highways etc.

Submit your new Notice HERE

CAB: Vice Chair of Trustees and Company Secretary vacancies

Vice Chair of Trustees and Company Secretary vacancies Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell are advertising for a Vice Chair of Trustees and a company secretary (both volunteer roles) to join/support our Board of Trustees. These are very rewarding roles and will be critical in furthering the work of CAEE particularly as we support local people through the cost of living crisis. Further information and application packs are available on our website. For an informal chat about the roles, contact our Chair of Trustees via the website. Closing date for applications is 14 November.

We also have a number of other volunteer roles available including reception and admin supporters, fundraisers, research & campaigns volunteers.

Please visit our website caee.org.uk/volunteer/ for more details.

Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell
21 October 2022

Good Company Seek Trustees

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Sutton and Epsom Rugby Just Fall Short

4 October 2022

BOURNEMOUTH 28 SUTTON & EPSOM 25: Sat. 1st Oct. Sutton & Epsom travelled to Chapel Gate with confidence following their opening win of the season against Brighton the week before. The revolving door of selection was again in evidence as the Black & Whites lost influential fly half Gareth O'Brien and Ben Tame to injuries sustained at training on Thursday night but Messrs Craig, Glanville and Clemett returned from the sick list.

Freddy Bunting kicked off in bright sunshine playing against the significant wind and up the slight slope. From the outset both teams were keen to spread the ball wide and a thoroughly entertaining contest had begun. The host's early dominance was assisted by S&E conceding far too many penalties. It was from one of these infringements that Grant Hancox opened the scoring after five minutes for a 3-0 lead. Moments later they had the chance to extend the lead but opted to kick the penalty into the corner for the attacking 5-metre line out. The Sutton defence repelled the first couple of strikes before the ball was spun wide for Brad Law to score. Grant Hancox added the extras from the flank to lead by ten points in as many minutes.

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Oxford Harlequins	5	5	0	0	144	97	47	2	0	**22**
2	Wimbledon	5	4	0	1	216	88	128	4	1	**21**
3	Maidenhead	5	4	0	1	193	106	87	5	0	**21**
4	Havant	5	4	0	1	147	96	51	4	1	**21**
5	Camberley	5	4	0	1	151	83	68	3	0	**19**
6	Bracknell	5	3	0	2	123	117	6	3	0	**15**
7	Bournemouth	5	2	0	3	109	136	-27	1	0	**9**
8	Brighton	5	1	0	4	128	182	-54	3	2	**9**
9	Sutton & Epsom	5	1	0	4	124	155	-31	1	2	**7**
10	London Welsh	5	1	0	4	105	159	-54	0	1	**5**
11	Banbury	5	1	0	4	105	171	-66	1	0	**5**
12	Royal Wootton Bassett	5	0	0	5	48	203	-155	0	0	**0**

https://www.englandrugby.com/home

Emboldened by their fine start the Lions ran the restart from the 22 and only an errant pass prevented Josh Wickens from the opportunity to make a telling contribution. In fact the ball was recovered by Freddy Bunting and the Black & Whites had their first attack. Once more the visitors were thwarted by conceding a penalty and were soon on the back foot in defence. Following sustained pressure a long pass was thrown out to Jordie Wayman who was hugging the touchline. The bounce favoured the Chapel Gate team and the wing touched down in the corner. The challenging conversion failed but Bournemouth had a significant 15-0 lead in the first quarter.

George Drye, relishing in the role of captaincy, led the riposte that saw the visitors have a line out deep in their opponent's 22. Unfortunately Mr Long spotted an infringement and Sutton's hopes of getting on the scoreboard were thwarted by a careless technical error. However, five minutes later it was a case of 'Action: Take 2'. Great control by S&E was matched by superb defence until Bournemouth conceded a penalty near the uprights. The visitors opted for a scrum, the ball went wide and after a powerful carry by Archie Fitzgerald the ball was transferred to Kyren Ghumra who squeezed home in the corner. Freddy Bunting's touchline conversion went agonisingly close as Sutton trailed by 5-15. With the interval fast approaching the next score went to the hosts as Grant Hancox chipped over a drop goal as the Dorset side stretched their advantage to 18-5 with the elements.

The hosts pressed hard to add to their account and secure a sizeable buffer before they faced the strong wind. Dogged Sutton defence repelled a 5-metre line out that was followed by the Lions conceding a penalty at the scrum. Freddy Bunting cleared to halfway as the clock ran down. But on the final play of the half the alert scrum half Harry Warr intercepted and raced away to score. With Grant Hancox successful conversion the whistle blew with Bournemouth leading 25-5. The home team had dominated the breakdown and had been on the front foot for the majority of the contest and were worthy of their 20-point advantage. The Sutton cause had not been helped by the early departures of Ciaran Mohr and Dan Jones who were replaced by Sam Hurley and Luke Halford but many of their wounds were self-inflicted with the penalty count far too high.

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The question on the lips of the crowd was whether a 20-point cushion was enough to counter the wind in the second period. Obviously the Black & Whites needed an improvement in quality and an early score. Having hardly made a mistake in the first half Bournemouth knocked on Ross Parsons clearance kick on halfway. An emboldened S&E spun the ball out to Kyren Ghumra who punished a weak tackle and ran in to score from
distance. Freddy Bunting added the conversion and Sutton grasped the lifeline to now trail 12-25 and were back in the contest. The Lions looked for an immediate reply but the Sutton defence held firm before a penalty enabled them to clear. From a perfect catch and drive George Drye secured the ball and the pack marched to the line and Alex Mount added the finishing touches. Freddy Bunting did the necessary for 19-25 and the match was now very much in the balance with 25 minutes still to play.

The Surrey men were playing with confidence and in their next sortie Owen Clemett broke into the 22 but the scrambling home defence intercepted his inside pass that would have resulted in a try. As the game entered the final quarter S&E lost their hooker, James Craig, and the front row was re-organised with Alex Mount taking over throwing duties as Will Lloyd returned to the fray. Both teams looked more than capable of adding to the score. An error by the hosts, kicking the ball out on the full, gave the visitors a prime attacking position. Kyren Ghumra charged into the 22 with his hat trick in the offing but he was brought down by a superb tackle. Sutton had the consolation of a penalty and Freddy Bunting cut the deficit to three points as the Lions led 25-22. Within five minutes the Sutton centre had levelled the scores at 25 apiece with another calmly executed penalty. Trailing by 20 points at the break Sutton had overcome the significant deficit with ten minutes to play.

Bournemouth stormed back desperate to turn the tide. They were rewarded with a penalty of their own and Grant Hancox made no mistake to retake the lead 28-25. The Rugby Lane men threw everything at their opponents in search of another score. Rob Hegarty was prominent in the loose linking well with the ubiquitous George draw. Robbie Martey with intelligent angled runs threatened to make the telling strike. But the home defence was superb and once they got possession they managed the clock and closed out the game. A thrilling contest finished with Bournemouth recording their first victory of the campaign since the opening weekend of the season.

The 28-25 score reflected the closeness of a contest that could have gone either way or ended honours even. Bournemouth's defence was of the highest quality and they started the contest magnificently and bullied Sutton at the breakdown. However, S&E's response after the break was exceptional to level the scores. Owen Clemett playing out of position at 10 led the line with aplomb. George Drye was outstanding, securing the ball at the line out, leading his team and being at the heart of all Sutton's best moments. The returning Kyren Ghumra with a brace of tries was a potent threat. Once again the Sutton fitness shone through in the last quarter and Rob Hegarty was tireless. Ultimately the Lions shaded the contest with cool heads and fine match management in the final stages of a game that had the crowd on the edge of their seats.

Next Saturday the league goes into abeyance and the players can have a deserved weekend of rest and recuperation. Hostilities resume on Saturday 15th October with, perhaps, the highlight of the season being the visit of the historic London Welsh RFC. The Exiles have been making a rapid ascent of the league pyramid following the financial difficulties that led to an enforced reset in the lower leagues. The kickoff will be 3pm at
Rugby Lane and it might be wise to arrive in good time as a sizeable crowd is anticipated.

Sutton & Epsom
Ciaran Mohr, Robbie Martey, Archie Fitzgerald, Freddy Bunting, Kyren Ghumra, Owen Clemett, Ross Parsons, Tom Boaden, James Craig, Will Lloyd, Matt Harwood, Josh Glanville, Dan Jones, Rob Hegarty, George Drye ©.
Replacements: (all used)
Alex Mount, Luke Halford & Sam Hurley

Bournemouth
Antony Fitch, Jordie Wayman, Brad Law, Grant Hancox, Josh Wickens, Mike Pope, Harry Warr, Tom Napier, Conrad Carkreet, Alan Manning ©, Matt Warwick, Joe Desmond, Ben Kimber, Ciaran Smyth, Jake Guildford.
Replacements
Luca Firetto, Connor McCaffery & Jack Young.

"Frackin'-hell!" – in Surrey?

4 October 2022

Epsom and Ewell has so far escaped the grant of licences for shale-gas exploration. Other Boroughs in Surrey are targeted. 25th September Business and Energy Secretary **Jacob Rees-Mogg** announced: "In light of Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine and weaponisation of energy, strengthening our energy security is an absolute priority, and – as the Prime Minister said – we are going to ensure the UK is a net energy exporter by 2040. To get there we will need to explore all avenues available to us through solar, wind, oil and gas production – so it's right that we've lifted the pause to

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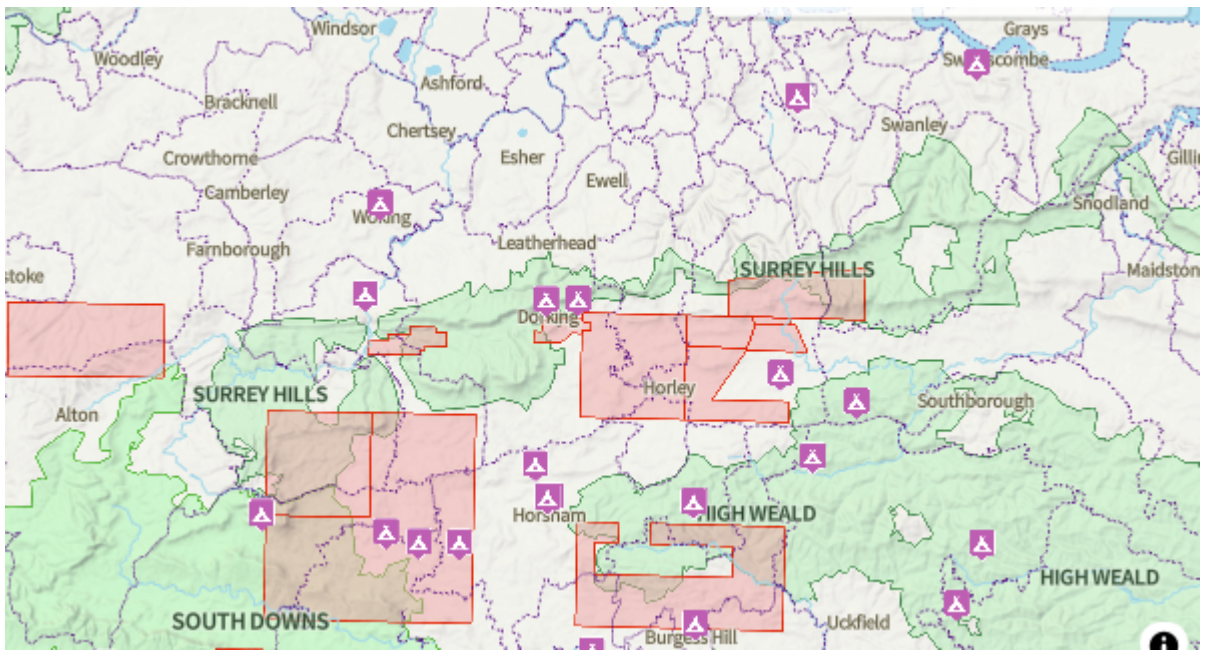
ISSN 2753-2771

realise any potential sources of domestic gas." Including through new oil and gas licences and shale gas extraction.



Red blocks are areas licensed for shale-gas exploration. Purple triangles are local anti-fracking protest groups

Friends of the Earth has provided a map and statistics showing the areas and licences for shale-gas exploration in Surrey.

Constituency	Number of licences	Licences total area (sq m)	Proportion of constituency under licence
Guildford	2	54,008,711	28.6%
East Surrey	5	122,524,280	47.2%
Mole Valley	3	59,441,785	16.1%
South West Surrey	3	94,052,391	36.7%
Reigate	3	35,937,442	32.1%

Between now and 2040 will Epsom and Ewell's natural resources have to play their part in energy self-sufficiency?

Let us know your views.

Housing plan flying in the face of opposition

4 October 2022

Wisley Airfield town plan: We report on a Surrey housing application that illuminates issues all local boroughs face today [Ed.] : To paraphrase from a popular TV show: "Wrong location, wrong location, wrong location." That's the message from campaigners against plans for 1,700 homes on the former Wisley Airfield. They say traffic concerns, an abundance of wildlife and trying to fit an urban development in a rural area are all reasons for the plans not to go ahead.

The former airfield is located alongside the A3 and is just over a mile from junction 10 with the M25, where another set of controversial works started this month. It was allocated as a new settlement in **Guildford Borough Council's** local plan for around 2,000 homes, shops and offices. An outline planning application was submitted to the borough council by **Taylor Wimpey** for the first 1,700 in the summer, and residents have until Monday (October 3) to comment on the plans.

There are so far 168 objections to the outline plans on the borough council's planning portal and comments received after the deadline will ordinarily also be considered. On a walk around the current site, which was used as an airfield from 1942 until 1972 and still has a tarmac landing strip in the middle, campaigner **Chris Campbell**, from Villages against Wisley New Town, told the LDRS he did not believe a new town should be built there. "Wrong location, wrong location, wrong location," he said. "Location is everything and as you can see, this is not the location for a town."

Around the old runway, the site is used as farmland, with two tractors out on the fields on the day of our visit.
We also see several kites in the air, and pass "Snakes Field", so-called, the campaigners tell me, because there are grass snakes, slow worms and amphibians living there. They've also seen badgers and owls on and around the site, and Mr Campbell raises concerns particularly about the impact of an increase in the number of dogs walking through woodland, a special protection area, between the site and the A3.

He said the "last thing" that's needed for the ground nesting birds on the site, including the Dartford warbler, night jar and woodlark, would be the additional 400 dogs that could come with the new homes.

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ISSN 2753-2771

A suitable alternative natural green space (**SANG**) will be allocated on the site to “avoid adverse effects on the integrity” of the special protection area according to the borough council’s local plan. Taylor Wimpey documents state that the SANG provision is a “bespoke provision agreed with **Natural England**” and that more than half of the site will be accessible open space, as well as a 20 per cent biodiversity net gain on the site.

Frances Porter, chair of Ockham and Hatchford Residents’ Association, walks across the former airfield every day with her dogs. She claimed she was told at a meeting with Taylor Wimpey representatives that traffic calming measures around the new town were designed to “frustrate” motorists out of their cars. But she doesn’t think that people living in the town will be pushed out of their cars. “People haven’t got anywhere else to go,” she said. “You’re going to need a car; you can’t get the bus.”

The borough council’s local plan identifies requirements for the site including a “significant bus network” going to Effingham Junction and/or Horsley stations, as well as Guildford and Cobham. It would also require a cycle network to key destinations including stations, Ripley and Byfleet “to a level that would be attractive and safe for the average cyclist”.

Frances Porter, Imogen Jamieson And Chris Campbell of Villages Against Wisley New Town. Credit Emily Coady-Stemp

Imogen Jamieson, vice chair of Ockham Parish Council, does not think the narrow roads surrounding the site can support the additional traffic, and isn’t convinced cycle lanes would be used anyway. She said: “You’re not going to pack your three children onto the back of bikes and cycle them to Horsley to get to school in the pouring rain.” The parish councillor also said she believes it’s a “myth” that so many new homes are needed, though she does acknowledge that there is a need for places for people to live. She said the environmental impacts of building new homes are far greater than re-purposing and retrofitting existing buildings, which can be done in towns and urban areas.

On top of the plans for the airfield, a further 1,500 new homes are planned in a three-mile radius of the site, but Mrs Jamieson said homes would be better built in areas where there are already transport links, employment opportunities and facilities such as doctors and schools. She said: “Here you’re entirely reliant on a car. It’s positioned right by the strategic road network. So it’s going to mean that people are constantly in their cars trying to access everything.” She claimed there was an over-allocation of homes in the local plan, which came to light when the census released in June showed the figures used to draw up the plan were too high. “I’m still trying to understand the way housing is delivered in the country,” she said. “I think it’s a bit of a myth that we need homes in the way that we’re constantly told we do.”

A Taylor Wimpey spokesperson said: “The former Wisley Airfield is allocated for development in the Guildford Borough Council local plan and our proposals have been carefully considered following close engagement with key stakeholders and the local community. We understand the concerns of local residents regarding traffic and our proposals include a number of measures to encourage the use of sustainable transport options, including new bus services and cycle routes. The design and layout of the development has been considered with the surrounding area in mind and we will continue to consult with residents on this as our plans progress.”

Guildford Borough Council was contacted for comment.

Local plan documents: https://www.guildford.gov.uk/localplan/2015-2034
Wisley Airfield development page: https://www.wisleyairfield.com/

Image: Wisley Airfield plans. Credit Taylor Wimpey and Vivid

Stretching Resources?

4 October 2022

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ISSN 2753-2771

Both "**The Horton**" (Arts Centre) and The **Horton Cemetery** featured on the agenda of the **Epsom and Ewell** Borough Council's **Strategy and Resources** committee Thursday 29th September. For the second time this year discussion on a request to the Council to exercise Compulsory Purchase Order powers over the neglected 9000 body 5-acre cemetery on Hook Road, Epsom, was withdrawn.

Hon Alderman Alan Carlson by the memorial to the 9000 buried in Horton Cemetery. Image Stan Kujawa

As previously reported HERE the bone of contention, between the charity, **The Friends of Horton Cemetery** and a report to Councillors, concerns the valuation basis for compensation to the property speculator, to whom the intact Cemetery was incongruously sold by the NHS in 1983. Trustee of the Charity **Hon. Alderman Alan Carlson** stated "We are grateful our request has not been determined by the Strategy and Resources Committee. Our own independent expert and affordable valuations have not been enough to persuade the Council. We will now obtain more. We are also grateful to the many supporters who on short notice of the matter mounted an effective email campaign to Councillors in protest". He further added: "This 5-acre Cemetery is sacred to a growing number of relatives of the dead. It is a **white elephant** in the possession of **Michael Heighes of Marque Securities,** who cannot in a thousand years develop it at all. This is why he has totally neglected the site for 40 years".

Chairman of the Committee, Councillor **Neil Dallen** (RA Town Ward), responded to the supporters' campaign stating the Council will meet the Charity as "aspects of the Council Report have been misunderstood by the Trust".

The Horton

Just one week after an opening event at **The Horton** arts and heritage centre, the venue appeared on the agenda of the same meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee. However, without challenge from any of the 10 Councillors present, the Committee went into secret session to discuss the item. The committee stating that the item concerned the finances of a "third party" and it was not "in the public interest" for them to be disclosed publicly.

Other items:

The committee approved investment in a new gas boiler for the Council's **Community and Wellbeing Centre on Longmead, Epsom**. The Council has investigated the efficacy of ground and air heat-pump systems, but the building is not well enough insulated for them to be effective. This prompted Cllr **David Gulland** (LibDem College Ward) to query whether insulation should be invested in. The officer responded that the Council was reviewing insulation across the Council's entire estate.

Following the sudden departure of **Kathryn Beldon** from the top Council post of Chief Executive (reported HERE) the committee agreed to extend the employment of **Jackie King** as interim Chief Executive pending a permanent posting. The meeting also noted a requirement for the appointment of a chief legal officer. **Cllr Kate Chinn** (Labour Court Ward) joked she had asked a previous Council law officer **Simon Young** to return from The Falklands where he had migrated to be the islands' lead attorney.

The chief IT officer had been lost recently so an Information Technology strategy review was withdrawn from the meeting.

The committee approved the business plan being put this Autumn to a vote of business rate payers in the central Epsom area. This would allow **Epsom Bid Ltd** (known as **Go Epsom**) to continue for another 5 years to make improvements to the business zone, funded by an additional levy to business rates. Cllr **Eber Kington** (RA Ewell Court Ward) expressed

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enthusiastic support for the recent work of **Epsom Bid** in the changes and activities it has initiated.

Ring-tails are heads for Harriers

4 October 2022

Epsom and Ewell Harriers sang “God Save The King” and then won some races on Ashtead Common. Sunday 25th September. **Lauren Johnson** triumphing in the 10K fun run and her son **William** in the 2K. A week later than originally planned, due to the passing of Her Majesty, the **17th Ashtead 10k and 2k fun run** took place on Ashtead Common. Right after singing the Club’s first ever rendition of “God save the King” the 2k race was off. A tight sprint finish led to **William Johnson** taking pole position, putting the pressure on his mum in the 10k. Lauren didn’t disappoint, coming in first for the ladies in a time of 43:40, and securing first place for the **Epsom & Ewell Harriers**. That wasn’t the only good news for the local Harriers, snatching 2nd and 3rd place too, with **Sophie Lomas** coming in 2nd at 44:18 and **Sophie Glencross** 3rd at 44:54.

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