



Shock resignation of Council CEO: Top management in disarray?

5.30 pm 26th May 2022 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council announced the departure in July of its Chief Executive Officer, Kathryn Beldon, following her decision *"that this is the time for a new chapter in [my] life."* Ms Beldon joined the Council in 2014 as the Director of Finance and Resources before being appointed as the Chief Executive in April 2017.

Epsom and Ewell Times has seen evidence that in fact, the current CEO's last working day in office will be in just 11 days' time on June 6th and that the current Director of Corporate Services, Jackie King, will *"take on some of [the CEO's] responsibilities on an interim basis whilst the longer-term arrangements are determined."*

Councillor Hannah Dalton, Chair of the Residents' Association Majority Group said, "It is with regret that Kathryn will be leaving Epsom and Ewell Borough Council. As Chief Executive, Kathryn has led many initiatives including the development of the borough's Future 40 vision and more recently she has been pivotal in the borough council meeting the immense challenges presented by COVID-19".

"Kathryn has led the organisation to support our community and has worked with councillors and our partners to deliver plans to benefit residents and local businesses. She has risen to meet many challenges and leaves the organisation in a strong position for the future."

Ms Beldon said: *"It has been a privilege to work for Epsom and Ewell Borough Council. The last few years have been a period of exceptional challenge and I am deeply grateful for the commitment and dedication of colleagues who have worked so hard to support our residents and businesses during these unprecedented times. With a clear vision and plan for the future, I wish members and officers well as I move on to the next chapter."*

The loss of the CEO follows the departure of a number of Departmental Heads following re-organisations over the course of the last two years. Will the Council now be able to attract a dynamic Chief Executive and how long will the process take?

READ MORE: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: Meet Epsom & Ewell's new Mayor, Clive Woodbridge.

Epsom man jailed for sexual attacks on lone women

A man who preyed on lone women has been jailed for 10 years after pleading guilty to three sexual assaults, two common assaults and breaching his Sexual Risk Order (SRO).

Warren Morton 23, from, East Street, Epsom, was sentenced on Tuesday (24 May), at Guildford Crown Court. As well as the prison sentence, he was also given a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO), with prohibitions.

The most recent assault occurred on 30 June 2021 whilst Morton was on court bail for assaults he had committed in 2020. A woman in her 20s reported that she had been attacked in a wooded area on Epsom Common close to the Wells Estate. She was walking along a wooded pathway on the common when Morton attacked her from behind, causing her to fall backwards onto the floor.

The woman managed to fight back and free herself. She immediately contacted the police and flagged down a dog walker. Morton ran off out of the common and back towards Epsom town centre.

Morton also pleaded guilty to an assault on 16 September 2020, when he approached a woman walking along a street and grabbed her buttock from behind. The woman confronted Morton and he made off. A short time later, on the same day, Morton approached a girl under the age of 16. She challenged Morton's behaviour and he fled the location.

Morton also pleaded guilty to a further attack on 28 July 2020, when he followed a woman into an alleyway and grabbed her from behind, causing her to fall on her back, before kissing her and making off.



Warren Morton, 23, who has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Detective Constable Hollie Say, who investigated the incident, said: "The fact that Morton is behind bars for 10 years reflects the seriousness of his offending, which continued despite the fact that he had been given a Sexual Risk Order and was on bail for



previous similar offences. Knowing that he will be in prison for a significant length of time will hopefully allow the victims to begin moving on with their lives.

“This man’s predatory behaviour simply cannot be condoned and knowing that is off the streets will reassure the local community that his offending has been curtailed.”

If you have been the victim of a sexual assault and you would like advice, please go to Surrey Police’s web page here <https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/rsa/alpha-v1/advice/rape-sexual-assault-and-other-sexual-offences/>

GALLERY: Epsom wears its Royal pride as the Jubilee approaches

Epsom is gearing up for a big week. The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee approaches fast, and with the crowning jewel of the events taking place at Epsom Racecourse, it’s hardly surprising that Epsom is adorned with art, flags and murals commemorating the Queen’s long reign.

Epsom’s railway bridges are being prepared for Her Majesty with murals painted by local artists. The jubilee-themed artworks are meant to celebrate the Queen’s long reign and energise the local people, making sure everyone feels the buzz of the coming celebrations.

Local businesses are feeling the spirit too. When you walk through Epsom Town Centre, Union Jacks and images of the Queen’s likeness are everywhere.

We’ve gone around the town snapping photos of all the amazing decorations that local people and businesses are adorning our town with.



A mural being created under the East Street Bridge



Flags adorning the entrance to the Ashley Centre



Outside seating area at the Assembly Rooms



Flags waving above the main entrance to the Ashley Centre



Huge Union Jacks hanging from the ceiling of the Ashley Centre



The Assembly Rooms feeling the pride



Quest in the Ashley Centre, a lovely decoration

We take our hats off to these businesses and people who have shown their pride in our Queen, and look forward to seeing even more decoration as the Jubilee approaches ever faster.

Have a photo of some nice Jubilee decorations? Have you decorated your house in a Jubilee theme? Let us know on Twitter @EpsomandET or via email admin@epsomandewelltimes.com

Grace Jones - Horton Cemetery Stories

One of 9000 forgotten and buried patients in Epsom's Horton Cemetery, Grace Jones went into the workhouse aged about 13 and after transfer to Long Grove Hospital in Epsom died aged just 19. That even the expert research of The Friends of Horton Cemetery Charity reveals so little about her tells its own tragic story.

Grace's parents

Grace Ethel Primrose Jones was born on 19th April 1899. She was the eldest child of Frederick Albert Jones (1874 - 1927), a stationer's packer, and Ada Rebecca née Byford (1878 - 1983). The couple had married in 1898 in St George, Hanover Square. In the 1901 Census, the family is living at 10, Southwark Bridge Road in Southwark. Grace and her younger brother, Frederick, (born 1st February 1904) were both baptised on 8th March 1904 at St Matthias' Church, Earls Court.



The 1900s

Grace was admitted to Millbank School on 11th March 1904 but later moved to the Convent, according to the school records. At this time the family was living at 2, Rosetta Buildings in Southwark. Grace was still attending school in 1911 when her father – described in the census of that year as a wholesale newsagent and bookseller – was living with his wife and two children at 43, Jessel House, Page Street in Westminster.

Admission to the workhouse

Grace was admitted to the Fulham Road Workhouse on 8th September 1913 and then transferred to Tooting Bec Asylum on the 19th November 1913. No reason is given in the register for her admission.

Long Grove - illness and death

We do not know when Grace was admitted to Long Grove but she sadly died there on 22nd July 1918 from Lobar Pneumonia of 22 days duration. There was no Post Mortem. Her death was registered by David Ogilvy the Medical Superintendent of Long Grove. Grace was buried in Horton Cemetery in plot 490b.

READ MORE: Emily Elizabeth Campbell - Horton Cemetery Stories

Teenagers charged over Epsom burglary

Two 16-year-old boys have been charged after taking part in a burglary in Epsom

The incident took place on Saturday 14th May.

Sergeant Adam Staplehurst said: *"Our residents' safety is our priority, and we are committed to investigating reports of crime within the Epsom and Ewell area."*

A spokesperson for Surrey Police said: *"Two 16-year-old boys have been charged after a burglary in Epsom on Saturday, 14 May. The two boys, one from Epsom and one from Carshalton, have both been charged with burglary and aggravated vehicle taking."*

"They are next due to appear in court on 1 June 2022."

READ MORE: Teenager from Epsom to spend 18 years in prison after stabbing acquaintance in the chest

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: Meet Epsom & Ewell's new Mayor, Clive Woodbridge.

On a rainy, downcast day, Epsom & Ewell Times' Tom Luckham has had the pleasure of sitting down with Clive, Epsom and Ewell's new Mayor.

Epsom might not be too familiar with its new Mayor yet. Clive Woodbridge is a former Journalist who is now Epsom and Ewell's First Citizen. He's dedicated to raising awareness for multiple charities and good causes. He loves a curry and he has a dog named after England legend Geoff Hurst.

Clive took office on Tuesday after the official Mayor-Making ceremony on Monday evening, replacing previous Mayor Peter O'Donovan.

Mayor of Epsom & Ewell being an annual position, Clive will serve in this role for a year.

After a short(ish) discussion about our shared love of West Ham United, we got into the questions that I had prepared.

Tom: The main thing I wanted to discuss was charities, I see that you are championing seven charities in your first



Mayoral year, could you expand upon why you chose those particular charities?

Clive: *They're all charities that mean something to me and Mary (The Mayoress) and our family. While Epsom and Ewell is an affluent area there are people who are struggling and I think Epsom & Ewell Foodbank are doing tremendous work. They're working with the Council to set up Epsom & Ewell Pantry. The Foodbank celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, so I thought it was an excellent time to make people aware of what they've done, and the new things that they're doing.*

Shine Cancer Support, sadly, my son passed away at the end of March after a battle with cancer, my wife and I sat down and thought that we'd like to support a cancer charity. I wanted to choose a small charity, and Shine focuses on people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s who have received a diagnosis. They're small, so if I can give them something it'll mean something to them.

Onto JDRF, that's a diabetes research charity, both my son's fiancée and my best friend from university have type 1 diabetes, so I've seen how it can be an inconvenient illness at best and a life-threatening one at worst. JDRF does a lot of good research for type 1, there are others that focus on both but I wanted to raise awareness for JDRF.

Cardiac Risk in the Young: My children went to Glyn school and we lived just around the corner. It is a charity that the School supported since some Glyn students went to sports camp and unfortunately died due to heart issues. The statistics show that many young people die from this, but if awareness is raised and they're all scanned and have those medical checks, we can potentially save lives.

Epsom Sports Club: I'm interested in sports, they do a fantastic job, they support people of all ages, they do a wide range of sports for people of all ages, the Council has always been a supporter of the Surrey Youth Games. They're trying to raise funds for a Pavillion at the moment, I'd like to raise awareness of that fundraising effort.

Racing Welfare: Well, we're a racing town and I'm an Epsom and Walton Downs conservator myself. It seems a very glitzy business but some people involved have quite hard lives, so Racing Welfare does a lot of pastoral care and financial support for those people.

Last but not least, Bliss: My wife was a midwife. She has seen the good work that Bliss does. A few parents started it up. This charity provides support for parents whose children are born very ill and have to go into intensive care.

As you can probably tell, there's no particular theme that runs through these charities, it would be nice to make money for them, but that's not my primary aim, it's about awareness so that at the end of the year, hopefully, I can give them a platform and more people can be aware of them.

Tom: Next question I wanted to ask was what are your priorities for your year in office?

Clive: *That's a good question, Epsom and Ewell is a wonderful place, we've got fantastic people who give up their time to help people, we've got fantastic companies who are innovating and creating new things, we're a wonderful place physically in terms of the Downs and Epsom Common, so I just want to put the spotlight on what's good about Epsom and Ewell and let those things speak for themselves. Also the diversity of our community. On Sunday there's the Hindu chariots event in Stoneleigh. I've never been to it, but I'm looking forward to going. They raise funds for charity. I think it's about celebrating our diversity. Really, it's about meeting as many people as I can, saying well done to them for their efforts and perhaps sprinkling a bit of magic mayoral dust on them.*

Tom: On the other side, what do you think could be improved about the Borough?

Clive: *I think one of the things the Council is quite keen on is volunteering because Councils and the government can't fix everything. Increasingly we rely on the goodwill and efforts of people who might go out and pick up litter or look after people and provide that sort of support. I don't think there are any specific things wrong, but perhaps there are some things that our society needs that I can help promote.*

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

Clive: *That's a good question, I'm looking forward to being the First Citizen. Epsom and Ewell is a place I love. I'm not someone who is naturally in the spotlight. In my political career, I've tried to stay out of it. I suppose that's something I'm not looking forward to but will have to get used to "laughs". I am very much looking forward to taking part in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The Queen has done a fantastic job, she's a role model for anyone in public service, and I know Epsom and Ewell will make her proud. The Derby is one of her official events, so I really do hope she does come. Really, I'm just looking forward to meeting people and taking the time out of my working life to do these things. One of the things about being Mayor is that it's not an easy thing, it's a voluntary role. I'm very lucky, as we're entering more normal times post COVID-19,*

Tom: I read that you're a head judge at the British Curry Awards, what was the best curry you've ever had and who made it?



Clive: *Le Raj organises the British Curry Awards. They're my favourite outside-of-London curry house anyway, I've always really enjoyed their Chicken Biryani, so I'd probably say that. The other curry restaurant I like going to is the Cinnamon Club in London. It's very interesting, it's in the old parliamentary library that was converted, the food is fantastic and the ambience is brilliant, you're sitting there in this old library eating a curry.*

Tom: **If you were just named West Ham's manager, who is the first player you would sign?**

Clive: *Oh that's very difficult, anyone I want? I'll tell you what, this might be controversial, but I loved seeing Dimitri Payet play when he was there, he's doing so well at Marseille at the moment, look at his assists! If I could get him back for one year, we need a player like him. The Brentford centre-forward Ivan Toney is very impressive, he'd certainly be somewhere up there. But do you know what, if Gareth Bale, at his best, was available and willing to play for West Ham then I think I would take him? If not, I'd try and find a good young player from the lower leagues. I mean, my son's dog is called Paulo (Paulo Di Canio), my late dog was called Bobby (Moore) and I now have a Geoffrey (Hurst), so if I live long enough there'll have to be a Martin down the line.*

Platinum Jubilee: Hats 'Fit for a Queen' created to raise funds for brain tumour research

Image: *Local Models showcasing a selection of the hats in question. The models included Lisa Connell and Anne McEntee(fifth and sixth from left) who represented Brain Tumour Research.*

Some of the UK's leading milliners have created a one-off collection of hats inspired by the seven decades of The Queen's reign to be auctioned in aid of Brain Tumour Research, it has been announced today.

The collection of 15, which is entitled "Hats Fit For A Queen" and includes pieces by Royal milliners Stephen Jones OBE and Rachel Trevor-Morgan, is being auctioned online until midnight on Sunday 12th June.

The hats will be displayed in the Queen's Stand at Epsom Downs Racecourse for both days of The Cazoo Derby on Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th June.

This year's Derby takes place across the central weekend of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations when Her Majesty The Queen is set to attend Derby Day for the 73rd time, her first since 2019.

The project forms part of Go Epsom's wider Jubilee festivities across the Borough of Epsom and Ewell, which celebrate the Queen's lasting association with hats and their continued importance as a quintessential piece of race day style.

More information about the initiative can be found here which is a new collaboration between Go Epsom, The British Hat Guild, Brain Tumour Research and Epsom Downs Racecourse and will be promoted via the hashtag #HatsFitForAQueen.

Karen Pengelly, Bid Manager for Go Epsom said: *"We chose hats as a theme because it ticks every box: hats and style are synonymous with horseracing, Her Majesty is the world's most famous hat wearer and Epsom is home to the University of Creative Arts and some of the brightest young designers. Hats are fun, stylish, visual and colourful, perfectly matching the excitement and ambience of Epsom over the first weekend in June. In addition to this great initiative, our local schools and charities are busy designing and embellishing their own headpieces and we look forward to seeing all of the hats being proudly shown off over the Jubilee weekend!"*

Carol Robertson, National Events Manager of Brain Tumour Research comments: *"We are proud and delighted to be involved in this project, and it was wonderful to see Lisa Connell model one of the hats at Epsom a few weeks ago. The British Hat Guild's generous contribution of these regal hats for the Derby will raise crucial awareness and fund vital research that can improve the lives of those living with brain tumours across the country".*

Speaking on behalf of The British Hat Guild, **Edwina Ibbotson** said: *"It has been a pleasure to have been involved in this wonderful project which has created 15 'Hats Fit for a Queen. Each hat has been expertly crafted in celebration of one of the seven decades Her Majesty has been on the throne and it is inspiring to know that the funds raised will support this vital charity. We hope to raise as much money as possible for such a worthy cause".*

Simon Durrant, General Manager at Epsom Downs Racecourse said: *"This year's Cazoo Derby at Epsom Downs is set to be a spectacular celebration across the Platinum Jubilee weekend, and we cannot wait to welcome Her Majesty and tens of thousands of racegoers back after the last two years. We're delighted to be working closely with Go Epsom, The British Hat Guild*



and Brain Tumour Research in what we hope will be a lasting collaboration. We want to play our part by utilising the profile of this year's event to celebrate the very best in raceday style across The Queen's reign and raise important funds, and I would urge everyone to donate to the auction if they are able to."

READ MORE: Platinum Jubilee: Flypast to go over Epsom

Teenager from Epsom to spend 18 years in prison after stabbing acquaintance in the chest

A man who tried to murder his acquaintance and was only scared off from continuing his attack after passers-by stopped to help his victim, has been sentenced to time behind bars.

On the morning of 23 September back in 2021, Vadim Scintei, 19, stabbed his victim in the chest after a minor verbal argument on Blenheim Road, Epsom. After the victim staggered away covered in his own blood, Scintei followed and circled him on his bike until members of the public, including a doctor, stopped to help. He was then spooked and fled the scene.

Scintei, of Malden Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, appeared at Guildford Crown Court on Thursday 19 May, where despite initially claiming he had been set up, he pleaded guilty to attempted murder and possession of a bladed article, and was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

The sentencing on Thursday, 19 May, concludes a comprehensive investigation by Surrey Police's Criminal Investigation Department.

Detective Sergeant Betchley, who lead the investigation said,

"This was a violent and unprovoked attack that the victim was extremely lucky to survive. Thanks to the quick thinking and bravery of members of the public, the victim was able to make a full recovery but understandably has been left traumatised by this attack.

"The investigation team worked quickly to ascertain what had happened and only a few days after the incident on 25 September, Vadim Scintei was charged with attempted murder and possession of a bladed article. Scintei will now spend a long time behind bars where he belongs."

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank - Items they're short of this week

Image: Epsom & Ewell Foodbank

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank is a vital public service for the borough, providing assistance to people and families who are in need of help. With the current cost of living crisis, Epsom is being hit as hard as the rest of the country, and our foodbanks are unfortunately more vital than ever. Many local residents take the time to donate items to Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, not just food, but toiletries and baby-related items.

According to Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, there has been an increase in demand this month, and they fed more than 550 people in April. The foodbank has released a list of things that they're either running low on or have run out of on their website. If you find yourself with any of these items that you can spare, please make your way to one of their donation points, which are listed at the bottom of this article.

They have completely run out of:

Powdered milk
Washing-up liquid
Sweets and treats for children (freddo, buttons, mini cookies, hairdo etc.)
Chocolate treats for adults



Instant mash
Honey
Peanut butter
Long-life sponge puddings
Pump soap
Washing powder, pods & tablets (bio & non-bio)

They urgently need:

Packet soup
Tinned fish
Tinned fruit
Coffee Sugar (500g) Meat pies
Powdered milk
Long-life sponge puddings
Biscuits
Tinned vegetables
Squash
Long-life UHT milk (semi-skimmed and full fat only)
Long-life fruit juice
Spaghetti in sauce
Pasta sauce
Shaving foam
Deodorant - all kinds
Shampoo & conditioner Adult toothbrushes

They are fully stocked with:

Pulses, pasta, rice and beans.

Their donation points are located at:

Leeds Building Society, 13 High Street, Epsom, Surrey, KT19 8DA
Epsom Methodist Church, Ashley Road, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5AQ
Budgens, 65 The Broadway Stoneleigh, Epsom KT17 2HP
Sainsbury's, Kiln Lane, Epsom, KT17 1EQ
Sainsbury's parking garage, Leatherhead
Tesco, Oxshott Road, Leatherhead, KT22 0EF
Asda - Burgh Heath

The donation drop-off times are: Monday to Friday 9 am - 2 pm. They are closed on Bank Holidays.

The Foodbank's contact details are:

Email - foodbank@generation.org.uk

Phone - 0208 786 8221

READ MORE: Is this Epsom Couple getting their heating for free?



Cllr Gulland: Insulate & Generate - two key aspects to include in the Local Plan for Epsom & Ewell

Joining us for the other side of the coin regarding our articles on heating and insulation, Councillor David Gulland (College Ward - Liberal Democrat) goes over some topics regarding the Local Plan for Epsom & Ewell

Two of the many crises facing our residents are the dramatically increased costs of energy, which disproportionately hits those less well off, and the continued climate emergency. A third, more local, one is the slow evolution of the required Local Plan that sets out the long-term strategy and requirements for new homes in the Borough.

Why is the Local Plan important?

This document forms the basis for assessing building applications and without it, the Council has limited ability to challenge inappropriate development. A Local Plan also sets out how the local authority intends to meet, or why it cannot meet, the centrally set target for new houses. The Local Plan recently published by Mole Valley demonstrates how these centrally set targets can be robustly challenged, with the Plan now out for consultation proposing 353 new homes each year rather than the government's target of 456. Our local Council recently approved a new timetable for producing our Local Plan, which means a full draft will not be ready for public consultation until September 2023 (although some initial consultation is expected to start in October this year). It will be interesting to see whether the ruling RA Party will accept the government's basic target for Epsom & Ewell of 579 homes each year, or will provide a robust explanation of why the target is inappropriate and unachievable.

The win-win of setting high energy efficiency standards.

Well-insulated homes can save £671 a year in heating costs – even before the recent price increases. In the winter of 2018-19, 17,000 lives were lost due to cold housing conditions, the highest since 1976. A greater quantity than the cumulative deaths from breast and brain cancers in the same period. The UK has the second-worst cold weather mortality rate of 30 European countries, and when balanced for wealth, ranks amongst the worst in the world. However current national standards for energy efficiency are not good enough, and the government has recently canned the scheme to help households with the costs of insulation. The Local Plan for Epsom & Ewell should therefore impose higher requirements than the minimum, following the lead of Mole Valley.

Tackling the climate emergency - one home at a time.

Energy usage in our homes accounts for 14% of UK emissions. To tackle the climate emergency, we know that we must urgently reduce our carbon footprint. The phrase 'activism starts at home' could not be truer. It shouldn't cost the earth to live in a healthy, comfortable dwelling. So as well as concentrating on insulation, the expectation should be that our Local Plan should require all new builds to do as much as possible to generate their own source of power and heating, through PV panels and air or ground-source heat pumps. Indeed, could our Borough show some innovative thinking and propose ideas such as solar panel structures over the surface car parks at Upper High Street, and micro-wind turbines on all buildings?

If this topic interested you, please read an Epsom resident's experience with insulation and heating by clicking [here](#).

Image Unsplash