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From paddock to housing at edge in Epsom?

16 November 2026



More than 60 new homes could soon be built under proposals to develop a paddock on the edge of a Surrey town.

Wates Developments Limited is seeking outline planning permission to install dozens of homes on the field by Burgh Heath Road in Epsom.

If approved by Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, it would pave the way for as many as 68 homes to be built on the 7.5 acre plot of land.

The developer's planning statement argues that Epsom is "the most suitable and sustainable location for growth in the borough".

"The settlement offers an excellent range of services, facilities, employment and public transport opportunities," the document reads.

"Direct rail connections into central London and out into Surrey and onwards to the south coast can be reached from Epsom railway station."

It adds: "The area is also well served in terms of healthcare and education along with green infrastructure in the form of a number of golf courses, Epsom Downs Racecourse and public access woodland and open space."

Of the 68 homes proposed in the development, up to 34 could be allocated as affordable housing, the planning statement says.

The developer believes the project could help address a "clear and demonstrable" need for housing within the borough.

While the site falls within the green belt, the developer has argued that exceptions allowing for these proposals to go ahead would apply.

They have made the case that the patch of land would qualify as a "grey belt" site, and that it meets the "golden rules" that would deem it not to be inappropriate green belt development.

The concept of grey belt is a recent addition to national planning guidelines that allows for lighter planning restrictions on sites that are not deemed to adequately contribute to green belt purposes.

"In overall terms the proposed development would result in landscape and visual effects in a landscape that is already influenced by built form and infrastructure associated with Epsom," the documents say.

"The proposed development would be viewed as infill development amongst existing development associated with Epsom to the north and south and would not substantially alter the character of the landscape."

James Moules Local Democracy Reporter

Epsom and Ewell Times will follow the application and report

Image: Burgh Heath Development (Credit: Wates Developments Limited)

Stoneleigh library giving away trees

16 November 2026



Surrey County Council is set to give 450 free trees to residents, at three Surrey library giveaway events.

The giveaway is part of the county council's tree strategy which launched in 2019 and saw the council pledge to facilitate

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the planting of 1.2 million trees, one for every resident in Surrey, by 2030. This will bring the total number of trees planted across Surrey to an impressive 885,172.

The following libraries are giving away trees on a first-come, first-served basis, on **Saturday 21 November 2026:**

- **Woking library** 9.30am to 12 noon*
    - **Ashford library** 9.30am to 12 noon*
    - **Stoneleigh library** 9.30am to 12 noon*

The trees are native, broad-leaved species and come with a stake and guard, ready for planting in your garden. A leaflet containing information on how to plant and care for the tree will be provided with every tree.

Marisa Heath, Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, said: "We have been running tree giveaway events since 2022 and know they are popular with residents. I'm pleased to give residents another opportunity to be part of a Surrey legacy while tackling the impact of climate change and improving biodiversity. We are well on our way to achieving our tree planting target, but couldn't have done this without the ongoing support from schools, communities, businesses and residents and volunteers."

Find out about the tree giveaway event and visit the website for details on the Surrey's Tree Strategy.

*The giveaway events will finish at 12 noon at the latest, this may be earlier if the trees have all been allocated.

Surrey County Council

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Related reports:

Free trees for Epsom and Ewell residents – 7 November 2025

Tree planting in Surrey overshoots – 10 October 2026

Surrey tree planting initiative surpasses halfway mark with 768,832 trees – 10 May 2025

Sustaining Epsom and Ewell's trees – 19 June 2023

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Gold scammer sentenced after Surrey Police investigation

16 November 2026



'All that glitters is not gold', fine words by non-other than William Shakespeare and in this case very apt, as the scammer that we're about to unmask tried to steal just that, gold.

Phone data, maybe not of interest to most but to us it can paint a vivid picture into someone's life. Phone data, along with data from ANPR played a big part in identifying this remorseless scammer in this courier fraud case.

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It’s time to rewind to the start of this year, March to be exact. A 94-year-old was contacted by a withheld number. In order to protect the victim’s identity, we’re going to call him Ben. The caller stated that they were from the police and asked Ben whether he knew a female with the same surname as his. They claimed that she had been arrested for cloning a debit card, but Ben informed the caller that he knew nobody of that name.

On Thursday, 12March, Ben was called again by a male purporting to be a police officer. In order to “assist the police” with an investigation into the staff at his local bank, Ben was asked to withdraw £6,000 in cash from his bank account. Ben was repeatedly told that he must not talk to anyone about this, and that he could not even tell his family. The caller had already prepared Ben with an answer for the bank staff when they asked him what the cash was for, advising that his “grandchildren were coming to stay”. The bank’s protocol meant that he was only able to withdraw £4,000.

Ben returned home and provided the so-called officer with the serial numbers of the bank notes. He was then told that most of these notes were counterfeit, so that they would need to be collected as part of the on-going investigation. A male then attended Ben’s address, provided his name as Detective Inspector (DI) Gary Nelson and collected the cash.

DI Gary Nelson was in actual fact, Harry Caen-Reilly; referred to as a courier. The person making the phone calls to our victim is known as a victim communicator.

Fast forward two days to Saturday, 14 March, when in the late morning Caen-Reilly attended Ben’s address this time with the intention of getting Ben to buy gold. Ben had been told on the phone calls that his money was at risk, and the case would collapse if he didn’t co-operate.

When Caen-Reilly attended the address, he told Ben that ‘the police had no spare cars, so will have to take yours’. The so-called DI drove Ben to London and took him to several jewellery shops, but the purchase of gold was unsuccessful.

Not arriving back home until gone 6pm, Ben stated that he was “emotionally and physically drained”. He had told Caen-Reilly earlier in the day, “if you don’t take me home, you’ll have a corpse on your hands.”

A few days later, after sharing this story with his relatives, Ben reported this matter to the police.

You may recall that we mentioned phone data and ANPR earlier on. Well, it is time to introduce the teams involved: the Economic Crime Unit (ECU), Serious & Organised Crime Unit and the Centurion team. These teams were able to overlay phone data and ANPR data to demonstrate that Ben’s vehicle and Caen-Reilly’s phone number had travelled together at the same time. Furthermore, Caen-Reilly’s phone was in the area of the victim’s home address at the time of the cash collection on 12 March.

Through these teams working together effectively, gathering hours’ worth of CCTV and reviewing a large amount of data, Harry Caen-Reilly, 33 (DOB: 18/02/1993) of no fixed address, was quickly identified and arrested. He has now been convicted of kidnap, fraud by false representation, driving with a revoked license and driving without insurance. He was sentenced at Chichester Crown Court on Thursday, 5 November to three years in prison for kidnap and fraud by false representation.

This might not meet your typical understanding of the offence of kidnap, but in fact it is to unlawfully move a person by force or by fraud – in this case, Ben would not have consented to being taken on this journey had he not believed that Caen-Reilly was a police officer.

Detective Sergeant Milly Cummins, from ECU said: “Sometimes in courier fraud cases we see couriers who aren’t aware that they’re being used to commit crime. However, that was far from the situation here, Caen-Reilly knew what he was doing when he prayed on a vulnerable member of the public.

It is important for everyone to be aware of this type of fraud; it can happen to anyone of any age. Sharing awareness of these cases can help the public to protect not only themselves, but their friends, family and neighbours. At Surrey Police we are very much victim lead, it’s important that victims know that it is not their fault if they fall victim to something like this and there is support available to them.”

Detective Inspector Ashley Eyden, from ECU said: “I would like to thank all the teams involved who worked tirelessly to unmask Caen-Reilly. This case is a prime example of how as a Force we relentlessly pursue fraud offences and hold offenders to justice.”

A police officer would never:

- Ask for your bank details or PIN
- Ask you to transfer funds to another account
- Ask you to hand over cash or bank cards to a courier
- Ask you to pay a fine or fee over the phone or online
- Ask you to “assist” an investigation by moving money
- Suggest you are committing a crime by refusing.
- Tell you that you cannot tell anyone about what they are asking you to do

Surrey Police

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Again Sutton and Epsom Find a Way Away

16 November 2026

Old Elthamians 17 – Sutton & Epsom 20 14th November.

Regional 2 South East returned to action after a Saturday of recuperation, international rugby and the usual plethora of social activities. This was the first time Old Elthamians had hosted Sutton & Epsom since November 2011 when they triumphed 27-6. The men from Rugby Lane will always have a place in OE history as the Old Boys' first fixture on 27th January 1912 was against the Sutton & Epsom 'A' XV.

Fortunes have fluctuated since that historic day and this was only the third league meeting of the clubs. S&E arrived trailing the leaders Beckenham by a solitary point with only a singular loss to Medway. In contrast, the hosts, following a meteoric recent rise, had just a singular win over Hammersmith & Fulham on their early season record. If the casual observer of the league table thought that this was going to be one-way traffic, they were in for a shock as the Black & Whites scraped home 20-17.

Sutton & Epsom had three enforced changes, with Messrs Jones, O'Brien and Scott replaced by the triumvirate of Duey, McCormack and debutant Davies on the bench. The sides kicked off the second six-match block of the campaign that will take the league up to the festive break.

It was a dry and sunny afternoon as a sizeable crowd viewed the spectacle either from the well-appointed stand or enjoyed the ambience of the touchline. The opening minute was a microcosm of the first-quarter exchanges. Sutton & Epsom advanced through several phases with excellent continuity only to be terminated by the shrill blast of Mr Oliver Tyson's whistle for an infringement on the deck.

This scenario was repeated several times and without discrimination to whomsoever was attacking. Kudos to the defences and the spoiling back rows, but it was ultimately frustrating for coaches and crowd alike.

In the third minute, from one of these penalties, the hosts failed to find touch in the corner but picked off an interception as S&E attempted to run it from the 22. Sutton & Epsom were saved by excellent defence.

Sutton & Epsom opened the scoring in the eighth minute. Momentum from the catch and drive at the lineout put them on the front foot. Adam Bibby made the critical break and passed the ball to the inside, and Angus Findlay headed straight for the corner, outpacing the cover from 40 metres. Freddy Bunting added the extras with an excellent touchline conversion for a 7-0 lead.

Five minutes later the Sutton & Epsom pack excelled at the lineout. Taking the ball 20 metres out, they trundled remorselessly to what appeared to be an inevitable try for hooker Sam Lennie. However, they were denied at the key moment by staunch defence. From the OE scrum, number eight Reis Norman made one of his many impressive carries and the hosts cleared their lines.

At the end of the first quarter the game altered in complexion as Sutton & Epsom received the first of two yellow cards. Prop Tom Boaden departed after head contact at a ruck. S&E absorbed the initial numerical punishment and added to their account via a penalty from 40 metres from the Bunting boot.

Straight after going 10-0 up, Josh Glanville went down injured and, heaping Pelion onto Ossa, he was also issued a yellow card. For the Rugby Lane travelling cohort it was Medway revisited as their XV was now a XIII. Unsurprisingly Old Elthamians, greatly encouraged by Sutton & Epsom's indiscipline, began to dominate possession and territory. Impressively the Surrey men lasted until Boaden's return.

In the final minute of normal time in the first half, OEs were finally rewarded. Controlling several phases in the 22, they moved towards the uprights and the ball was passed to Reis Norman, who scored. It was a deserved reward for his excellent contribution in the first half. The conversion failed as OEs trailed 5-10.

Though Sutton & Epsom were now restored to their full complement, Old Elthamians monopolised the seven minutes of time added on. The Queen Mary's crowd were rewarded with the equalising score in the dying embers of the half. Matt Chick put the finishing touches on a wonderful passage of play for the hosts' second try.

The conversion was missed but the rampant Kent side went into the break level at 10-10. The Black & Whites had much to mull over during the interval. The momentum was definitely with the 11th-placed side in the table as the team one off the top were threatened with the prospect of the shock result of Round 7.

Second-half battle

Old Elthamians started the second period buoyed by their two tries at the end of the first half and looked odds-on to take the lead in the opening moments. The ball was hacked forward and two Old Boys led the chase, but a cruel bounce deceived the first, who knocked it on, thus nullifying the effort of the second.

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The hosts held the upper hand in the third quarter but the stalemate continued despite the bulldozing efforts of Reis Norman. Once more penalties hindered the progress of both sides as they slugged it out in the middle third of the paddock.

The game exploded into life in the final quarter. Sutton & Epsom debutant Alex Davies carried the ball into OE territory. Jack Howes burst forward from the breakdown and found the open spaces only to be felled by a tap tackle, but after a theatrical forward roll he continued his run.

The cover defence finally halted him in the 22 but the Sutton & Epsom support brought the ball under the posts. It was shipped wide and Josh Rea timed his arrival to perfection to crash over the whitewash for the try. Freddy Bunting added the conversion for 17-10.

If the Rugby Lane followers thought that this was the moment that turned the tide, they were proved premature a minute later. Replacement Sam Tilley, in the centres, hit the line with power and pace near halfway with devastating effect to run in under the posts untouched. Joe Leigh added the simplest of conversions and it was level, once more, at 17-17.

After two tries in as many minutes the game reverted to the industrious arm wrestle of before as both teams looked for that decisive moment of inspiration.

With five minutes left on the clock, with Sutton & Epsom on the attack, the Kent men conceded a penalty through a deliberate knock-on. It was within the scope of Freddy Bunting and adjacent to the posts. The kick for goal was chosen and no one watching was surprised when he bisected the uprights for 20-17.

The sands of time were running out for Old Elthamians as the match entered time added on. However, experienced watchers of the Black & Whites knew that there would inevitably be one moment of high anxiety.

The referee awarded a penalty but, in contrast to S&E, OEs opted for the kick to the corner as they sought victory from the final play of the game. The ball was arrowed into the corner. However, to the dismay of the home crowd, a scrappy lineout followed. As the ball hit the deck, desperate forwards foraged for possession. Referee Tyson spotted an infringement and ended the contest.

Another narrow victory

The volume of the Sutton & Epsom jubilation was a fair indication of the relief they felt in their narrow 20-17 win.

After the final whistle those with a Sutton & Epsom connection could reflect on Isaiah Berlin’s theory of ‘hedgehogs and foxes’, inspired by the writing of Grecian satirist Archilochos. The Black & Whites had found another different route to victory, indicating membership of the vulpine category rather than a one-dimensional prickly clan.

The fact that they had not reached the dizzying heights of the Horsham win was credit to Old Elthamians, who belied their lowly status in the table.

Reis Norman excelled in a fine performance from their back row alongside Hans Laud-Anderson and Matt Chick. The front row trio of Widdowson, Noah and Trew provided the platform for Messrs Leigh and Robertson to excel in the backs.

For S&E it was a truly collective effort led by skipper Hegarty, with a timely reminder of the value of the Bunting boot.

League leaders next at Rugby Lane

S&E return to Rugby Lane next Saturday for the Clash of the Titans as the visitors are league leaders Beckenham.

Since Sutton & Epsom’s arrival in 2024-25 in Regional 2 South East, this fixture has had the most dramatic of conclusions, with all three meetings culminating in the last kick of the game.

First there was a minuscule miss from a touchline penalty from halfway, that was followed by a charged-down drop goal, and last season Tom Lennard’s penalty gave Sutton & Epsom a 20-17 win.

One would hope that current form and recent history translate into a bumper crowd at Rugby Lane.

John Croysdill

Team line-ups

Sutton & Epsom: Lennard, McCormack, Bibby, Maxwell, Findlay A, Bunting, Findlay E, Johnson, Lennie, Boaden, Duey, Glanville, Tame, Rea and Hegarty (captain).

Replacements: Howes, Davies A and Munford.

Old Elthamians: Leigh, Neicho, Coppard, Robertson (captain), Beadle, Day, Davies, Widdowson, Noah, Trew, Ryan, Ranson, Chick, Laud-Anderson and Norman.

Replacements: Sanger, Reed and Tilley.

Epsom Green Belt Housing Battle Now in

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Inspector’s Hands

16 November 2026



A Government-appointed Planning Inspector will now decide whether 110 homes can be built on Green Belt farmland beside Langley Vale, Epsom. The decision follows a six-day public inquiry at Epsom Town Hall, which closed Friday 13th November.

Developer Fairfax Aspire Ltd is appealing against Epsom & Ewell Borough Council’s refusal of outline planning permission for the 5.2-hectare site at Farm View, Langley Bottom Farm. The site is part of the countryside leading up to Epsom Downs. Councillors refused the application in February 2026, against the advice of their own planning officers.

Inspector Joanna Bowyer must weigh the scheme’s benefits, including 55 affordable homes, against objections on Green Belt harm, landscape, ecology, transport and the safety of racehorses.

From consultation to campaign

Fairfax unveiled its plans in June 2025. Residents saw them as a threat to the rural character of a village closely tied to Epsom Downs and the racing industry. Woodcote (Epsom) Residents’ Society helped villagers set up the Langley Vale Action Group (LVAG), chaired by John Mumford, under the banner of keeping the valley green. By February 2026 a petition had passed 2,000 signatures, and later fundraising paid for professional planning and highways consultants.

Councillors overrule officers

When the application reached the Planning Committee on 26 February 2026, officers recommended conditional approval. Approval would have depended on a legal agreement securing affordable housing and infrastructure contributions. Officers accepted some harm to the openness of the Green Belt and to landscape character. However, they judged the site to be “grey belt”, a national policy category that can include undeveloped countryside, depending on how much it contributes to Green Belt purposes. In their view the scheme met the national tests for such land. Even if it did not, they considered that its benefits could amount to the “very special circumstances” needed to justify permission.

Councillors disagreed. After hearing from residents and the racing industry, they refused permission on four grounds:

- the site’s unsustainable location and reliance on cars
- harm to the Green Belt
- harm to the landscape
- risks to horses and riders using the routes to Epsom’s training grounds

The developer’s case

Half of the homes would be affordable. That meets the higher requirement of the Green Belt “golden rules” in national policy and is a significant offer in a Borough under long-standing housing pressure.

Fairfax also proposes:

- biodiversity net gain of more than 10 per cent
- retention of mature trees and hedgerows
- a landscaped buffer next to nearby ancient woodland
- sustainable drainage
- public green space, a children’s play area and improved footpaths

To reduce car use, it offers cycle parking, electric vehicle charging, a car club and funding to extend the Surrey Connect on-demand bus service to Langley Vale. A new vehicle access would come off Langley Vale Road.

Fairfax argues that the field has limited biodiversity value and that new landscaping would improve it. Opponents reply that new planting cannot make up for the loss of an open field and the habitat it already provides.

The appeal covers only the principle of development and the access arrangements. If it succeeds, layout, appearance and landscaping would be decided through later applications.

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Roads, racehorses and remoteness

LVAG argues that Langley Vale is remote from shops, public transport and services. In its view, 110 more households would add car journeys to narrow roads that are already busy, whatever travel measures are promised.

Those roads also carry racehorses between stables and training grounds. The Jockey Club and local racing interests fear that more traffic will bring conflict with horses and riders. For opponents, the question is not whether a new junction can cope with the traffic, but whether an established and economically important local industry would suffer. Fairfax maintains that access and transport can be made acceptable.

Residents at the inquiry

LVAG secured “Rule 6 party” status, which allowed it to take part as a main party alongside the appellant and the Council. Its consultants gave evidence, and its representatives cross-examined the appellant’s witnesses.

Beyond transport and the site’s planning status, the group stressed three further points:

- the site lies within the Area of Great Landscape Value
- the development would take an arable field, still farmed by a tenant, from a rural corridor leading towards Epsom Downs
- the field supports wildlife including badgers, nesting skylarks and deer

John Mumford said:

“This was a splendid example of the local resident community coming together with the Jockey Club, a local trainer Pat Phelan and the CPRE to reject this housing proposal which was considered to be the wrong scheme in the wrong place. If this appeal were to be allowed it would undermine public confidence in the Local Plan process which had firmly rejected the release of this site from the Green Belt. Other more sustainable sites have been identified in the emerging Local Plan and these should be given priority in meeting the Borough’s outstanding housing needs.”

The Local Plan question

LVAG says the site was assessed while the emerging Local Plan was being prepared and was rejected for allocation as less sustainable than other Green Belt options. It argues that allowing the appeal would undermine that plan-led approach.

However, national policy does not require proposals to wait for a new Local Plan. Where a council cannot show enough housing land supply, schemes that help meet unmet need can carry greater weight. The Inspector must take the emerging plan into account without treating it as decisive.

What the decision could mean

If Fairfax wins, it will show that national housing policy can outweigh both local opposition and a council refusal on Green Belt farmland. If the appeal is dismissed, it will underline the weight given to transport sustainability, landscape and Epsom’s racing industry. Either way, each site is judged on its own merits, though the Inspector’s reasoning may influence later cases.

Campaigners expect a decision within the next few months.

Lionel Blackman

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Related reports:

Horses beat cars in Epsom’s Langley Vale housing development application – 28 February 2026

Keep our Valley Green say Langley Vale campaigners – 13 August 2025

110-home scheme at Langley Vale sparks Green Belt fears – 27 June 2025

Surrey’s ancient woods among England’s richest – at risk? 4 November 2026

Image: Langley Vale proposed development layout – Fairfax Homes

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Ten-man Fleet Town hold Epsom & Ewell to a draw

16 November 2026

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Epsom & Ewell 1–1 Fleet Town

Epsom & Ewell shared the points with Fleet Town in a dramatic 1-1 draw at Chalky Lane, Chessington, on Saturday 14th November 2026 in the Combined Counties Premier League South. Both sides scored from the penalty spot in a match featuring a first-half sending-off and plenty of late drama.

Fleet Town controlled the opening stages, enjoying plenty of possession as the Salts looked to settle into the game. A free kick near the corner flag caused problems for the hosts, with the delivery creating a scramble inside the box before a Fleet Town player dragged his effort wide. Tyler Robinson was next to threaten for the visitors, taking the ball past two defenders before forcing a low shot towards goal, which was comfortably saved by Ben Grummitt.

Epsom began to create opportunities of their own. Joe Dandy's attempted clearance was blocked by Jason Bloor before Courtney Levi Swaby carried the ball out wide. His resulting shot was blocked, with the rebound falling to Brendan Murphy-McVey, whose volley flew narrowly wide.

The game took a significant turn when Fleet Town's Connor Holland was shown a straight red card following an exchange with the referee. Tensions began to rise following the dismissal, with Fleet Town briefly threatening from a header that went over the bar, although the effort was ruled offside. Epsom looked to take advantage of their extra man. Murphy-McVey delivered a free kick into the box, which was cleared before Callum McAllister picked up the loose ball and fired high and wide.

Harry Grant then slipped in possession, allowing Robinson to take control, but Toby Young recovered the ball well to prevent further danger. Blessing Hombessa produced a promising run forward before being brought down by a rough challenge from Billy Oram, who received a yellow card. Jason Bloor was also booked for dissent as the game continued to become increasingly heated.

Fleet Town were forced into a substitution after Joe Dandy suffered an injury, with Ollie Burke coming on in his place. The visitors came close to opening the scoring following a foul by Murphy-McVey. The free kick was whipped into the box, where Aaron Burchett's header forced an excellent save from Grummitt, who managed to keep the effort out of the top corner.

Angel Montes was then shown a yellow card following a late challenge. Tensions continued to rise, with an off-the-ball incident involving Montes going unpunished. Fleet Town threatened again with a low effort from the edge of the box, but Grummitt made a comfortable save to keep the scores level heading into the break.

Half-time: Epsom & Ewell 0–0 Fleet Town.

Montes was replaced by Kionte Waul at half-time as Epsom prepared for the second half. Fleet Town got things back underway, looking to overcome their numerical disadvantage as the game progressed.

Elliot Legg received a yellow card for obstruction after kicking the ball away to prevent Epsom from taking a quick free kick. Fleet Town were also involved in a controversial moment when a challenge on Courtney Swaby resulted in a yellow card. Jason Bloor came close to breaking the deadlock with a powerful volley, but his effort was struck straight at the goalkeeper. Another Epsom free kick was delivered into the box, where Toby Young attempted an ambitious bicycle kick. However, he caught an opponent in the face and was shown a yellow card.

Fleet Town eventually broke the deadlock in the 63rd minute. Robinson made a dangerous run forward before being brought down inside the penalty area. Alex MacAllister stepped up and confidently converted from the spot to give the visitors a 1-0 lead.

The Salts responded almost immediately. With Bloor replaced by Obasanjo Akinniranye, Hombessa chased a ball forward before being brought down inside the penalty area to win Epsom a penalty of their own. Hombessa took responsibility from the spot and made no mistake, sending the goalkeeper the wrong way to bring Epsom level at 1-1 in the 66th minute.

The drama continued when Grummitt suffered an injury, forcing Toby Young to take over in goal while Charlie Miller came on as a substitute. Akinniranye was then shown a yellow card following a poor challenge as Fleet Town looked to regain their advantage. A dangerous free kick followed, but the resulting effort sailed over the crossbar.

Epsom made another change, with Alex Foord replacing Murphy-McVey, as both sides continued to search for a winner. Luke Miller came close with a powerful, low strike, but the Fleet Town goalkeeper produced a good save to deny him. The closing stages saw some tense, end-to-end football, with neither side able to find a decisive breakthrough as the points were shared.

Despite playing against ten men for much of the match, the Salts had to show resilience to come from behind and secure a point. Hombessa's second-half penalty ensured the hosts avoided defeat in a dramatic encounter that had no shortage of talking points.

Full-time: Epsom & Ewell 1–1 Fleet Town.

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Report by Sean Edwards.

Epsom and Ewell FC Media

King’s Award for Age Concern Epsom & Ewell volunteers

16 November 2026



A former borough mayor who has made more than 3,000 trips as a volunteer driver is among the people whose work has earned Age Concern Epsom & Ewell the King’s Award for Voluntary Service.

The independent local charity is one of five Surrey groups to receive the award in 2026. Equivalent to an MBE, it is the highest honour a local voluntary group can receive in the UK. More than 180 volunteers help the charity provide services ranging from lifts to medical appointments and home visits to befriending, information and advice, monthly Sunday Teas and a Men’s Club.

Alan Carlson, a former teacher and Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, has made more than 3,000 trips helping older people get to medical appointments. For him, the conversations along the way are part of what makes the work worthwhile.

“After each drive I feel like I have made their life a little bit better just by listening to them,” he said.

An hour or two can make a difference

In 2023, the charity used the Epsom & Ewell Times to appeal for volunteer befrienders who could spare an hour or two a week to visit an older person who might otherwise have little company. It offered training and ongoing support and asked for qualities that anyone could bring to the role, including reliability, a willingness to listen and a sense of humour.

Manjit, one of the charity’s volunteer befrienders, described what she gets from the visits. “The time I spend with them feels so rewarding. We share stories, laugh together, and it’s like we’re all learning something from each other.”

At the monthly Sunday Teas, volunteers serve tea and cake and put on entertainment. For some guests, the charity says, it is one of their few chances to get out of the house and spend an afternoon with others.

The charity’s work has also left a public mark on Epsom. In June 2025 it opened the In Memory Woodland in Long Grove Park, a place for residents to remember loved ones or spend time quietly. The Epsom & Ewell Tree Advisory Board designed the woodland and oversaw planting, Surrey County Council helped fund the project through Your Fund Surrey and the borough council provided the land.

Recognition for the volunteers

The award comes as chief officer Dorah May Hancock prepares to retire after more than eleven years in the role. As the Epsom & Ewell Times reported, she has worked with volunteers, community groups and local businesses to set up activities, build partnerships and raise funds.

“Volunteers are at the heart of Age Concern Epsom & Ewell, and this award is a wonderful recognition of all they give,” she said. “They bring an extraordinary range of skills, experience and kindness, freely giving their time to make a difference to people around them.”

County Councillor Eber Kington, who nominated the charity, said the volunteers’ dedication, skills and enjoyment of their work were evident to the people who use its services. Surrey’s Lord-Lieutenant, Neelam Devesher MBE, also welcomed the award and paid tribute to the volunteers’ hard work.

The Lord-Lieutenant is due to present the charity with its award crystal and certificate in early 2027. Two representatives will also be invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May.

Lionel Blackman.

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West Surrey's financial mess

16 November 2026



West Surrey "will operate in a very challenging financial environment, with significant budgetary pressures and limited financial resources" after its constituent councils reported a £4.92million annual shortfall in their accounts.

The new authority is set to take over services from six boroughs on April 1 and early Q1 figures suggest huge overspends in Spelthorne £3.97m, Guildford £1.06m, Runnymede £0.79m, and Surrey Heath £0.536m, will need to be balanced.

It will also inherit it's share from the county council with the upper tier reporting a £12.19m shortfall – although this is against a budget of more than five times the combined boroughs and will be split with East Surrey Council.

Council staff say the biggest drivers to this are from its children's, families and lifelong learning service at £8.4 million and adult social care at £3 million.

The long-term picture presents further challenges with the six-legacy boroughs lumping significant debt onto West Surrey's balance sheet.

Combined Woking, Spelthorne, Runnymede, Surrey Heath, Guildford and Waverley are £3.98 billion in debt having borrowed more than £4billion in a series of investment and regeneration projects that brought mixed returns.

"The borrowing position is significantly influenced by Woking's debt of £2.19 billion, which is subject to government support, Spelthorne £719 million debt, and Runnymede £587 million debt", papers presented to West Surrey's shadow council read.

In all it leaves the councils forking out about £18.07m this quarter in interest repayments -and only taking in about £2.8m in investment income, with the largest returns reported by Waverley £0.9m and Guildford £0.67m.

Surrey County Council has borrowed about £1.87 billion and is forecast to pay £45.1m this year in interest – partially offset by £23.5 million in returns.

The report read: "The Quarter 1 monitoring position highlights a number of emerging financial pressures across the sovereign councils.

"The most significant relate to demand-led services, income shortfalls, inflationary pressures, treasury volatility and the continuing implementation of Local Government Reorganisation.

"West Surrey will operate in a very challenging financial environment, with significant budgetary pressures and limited financial resources from Vesting Day, coupled with increasing demand and costs of services, and reducing government funding.

"West Surrey Council will be increasingly reliant on council tax as the primary source of income and decisions made by the sovereign councils in West Surrey and the West Surrey Shadow Authority will need to consider the ongoing financial impact and ensure that expenditure does not exceed the resources available.

"It is vital that significant importance is placed on effective financial management and medium-term financial sustainability to deliver a balanced budget going forwards and protect service delivery."

Officers told the meeting: "These are forecasts based on positions at the time it was calculated but I would expect the position to come out more favourable.

"That's generally the trend."

Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Follows added that Q1 figures "need to be taken with a pinch of salt but needs to be monitored."

He said: "If we were at Q2 the year after that is probably the first set of numbers that I'm going to go 'that is legitimately West Surrey's position'.

"I think everything here is an indication, it's information, I don't think it's going to be everything we might need."

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Chris Caulfield Local Democracy Reporter

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Surrey County Council celebrates 138 years – but is this the time for a farewell party?

16 November 2026



Surrey County Council is preparing to celebrate its 138-year history with a programme of exhibitions, events and archive displays, just as it enters the final 138 days of its existence.

The coincidence of 138 years and 138 remaining days, starting tomorrow, has provided the inspiration for a campaign entitled *Celebrating Surrey County Council*, launched ahead of the authority’s abolition on 1 April 2027.

But while few would dispute the importance of preserving Surrey’s local government history, the initiative raises a question of priorities. With the County Council facing the substantial task of transferring its responsibilities to two new authorities, and continuing pressure on public services and finances, is this the moment to devote staff time and public resources to celebrating an anniversary that is hardly a conventional milestone?

Unlike a silver, golden or diamond jubilee, a 138th anniversary would not ordinarily be a cause for special celebration. The significance of the number lies not in the anniversary itself but in the approaching disappearance of the institution.

For Surrey County Council, however, the campaign offers an opportunity to remind residents of its achievements before it passes into history.

A travelling exhibition

The centrepiece will be an exhibition developed in collaboration with the Surrey History Centre, featuring photographs, documents and stories drawn from the council’s archives.

The exhibition will explore how the authority has responded to changing social needs and challenges since its establishment in 1889, including developments in education, public health, transport, social care and environmental protection.

It will be launched at Guildford Library on Thursday 3 December 2026, between 2pm and 3pm, before touring libraries across Surrey until March 2027.

The Council also promises a programme of events and historical material highlighting the contribution of generations of councillors, employees and partner organisations.

For local historians, the exercise may be especially worthwhile. The archives of a county council spanning nearly a century and a half offer a record of changing communities, public expectations and the development of services now taken for granted.

Preserving and sharing that material is a legitimate public function, particularly when the institution responsible for creating it is about to disappear.

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A legacy to be proud of?

Surrey County Council Leader Tim Oliver said:

“Surrey County Council has a record to be proud of. Since its establishment in 1889, the council has played a central role in shaping the county, helping to improve education and public health, develop transport networks, support vulnerable residents, protect our countryside and preserve Surrey’s rich heritage. Generations of councillors, staff and partners have worked together to make a lasting difference to communities across Surrey.

“As we prepare for local government reorganisation, this campaign gives us an opportunity to reflect on those achievements and celebrate the people behind them.”

Cllr Oliver also pointed to what he described as the Council’s strong legacy, including balanced finances, improved inspections of adult and children’s services, investment through Your Fund Surrey and improvements to infrastructure.

He said:

“Importantly, we are passing on a strong legacy. In recent years we have transformed the council’s finances to deliver a stable, balanced budget, achieved ‘Good’ ratings for both Adults’ and Children’s Services, invested tens of millions of pounds in local communities through Your Fund Surrey, and continued to improve infrastructure and services for residents. We have strong foundations, a talented workforce and high-performing services that will help ensure a positive future for local government in Surrey.”

Those achievements will form part of the Council’s own assessment of its place in history. Whether future historians and residents arrive at quite the same verdict is another matter.

A balanced historical account might also examine the difficulties, controversies and shortcomings encountered during 138 years of public administration, as well as the successes.

A curious moment for celebration

The timing is particularly striking because Surrey County Council is not preparing for another chapter in its own institutional history. It is preparing for its dissolution.

Under the Surrey (Structural Changes) Order 2026, the County Council and Surrey’s 11 borough and district councils will be abolished on 1 April 2027. Their functions will pass to East Surrey Council and West Surrey Council.

Epsom and Ewell will become part of East Surrey, alongside Elmbridge, Mole Valley, Reigate and Banstead and Tandridge.

The new councils were elected in May 2026 and are already undertaking the considerable work required to assume responsibility for education, highways, social care, waste services, planning and the other functions currently divided between county and district authorities.

Against that background, even a relatively modest commemorative programme invites scrutiny of the resources involved.

The Council’s announcement does not specify a budget for the campaign, the costs of preparing and touring the exhibition, or the amount of officer time being devoted to it. That does not establish that the expenditure is substantial or unreasonable. Much of the work may be undertaken using existing archives, exhibition facilities and staff resources.

Sam Jones – Reporter



Epsom shops targeted in Surrey crackdown on illegal goods

16 November 2026



Shops in Epsom were among premises targeted in a county-wide crackdown on illegal trading and suspected money laundering which resulted in the seizure of goods valued at £55,500.

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The October operation involved Surrey Trading Standards, Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and Home Office Immigration Enforcement, working together as part of a national campaign against organised crime operating through apparently legitimate high street businesses.

The goods seized across Surrey included illicit cigarettes, tobacco, vapes, vaping liquids, counterfeit products and hormone replacement therapy (HRT) products. Officers also used specialist tobacco detection dogs trained to locate illicit goods hidden in concealed storage compartments.

The operation, known as Operation Machinize, took place in Epsom, Elmbridge, Guildford, Reigate, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath and Woking.

However, although Surrey County Council has confirmed that Epsom was among the locations targeted, its announcement does not identify the Epsom businesses visited, the number of premises inspected locally, or the value and nature of any goods seized specifically in the town.

Nor does the announcement establish whether any Epsom traders were arrested, charged or referred for prosecution. The £55,500 figure relates to seizures across the participating Surrey areas, not to Epsom alone.

Criminal money on the high street

Operation Machinize is coordinated nationally by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and targets businesses suspected of providing a means for organised criminals to launder money.

Cash-intensive businesses can be exploited to disguise the proceeds of crime as legitimate sales. The operation also targets offences involving counterfeit goods, illegal tobacco, drugs, tax evasion and immigration law.

The NCA estimates that at least £1 billion in criminal cash is laundered annually through cash-intensive high street businesses, including some vape shops and barbers. It stresses that the campaign is directed at criminal exploitation of businesses, rather than legitimate traders generally.

Figures released by the NCA on 11 November show the scale of the latest nationwide operation. During October, officers and enforcement agencies visited or raided 3,029 premises across the UK, making 349 arrests and seizing £2.2 million in cash.

Further results included £3.7 million in account freezing orders and £6.8 million worth of criminal commodities seized, including approximately 49,300 illegal vapes, 1,645 kilograms of illicit tobacco and 6.3 million illegal cigarettes. These are national figures and are separate from Surrey’s reported £55,500 seizure total. National Crime Agency

Surrey Police involvement

Surrey Police has separately confirmed enforcement activity under Operation Machinize on 21 October. In a neighbourhood policing update published the following day, officers reported working alongside partner agencies to tackle money laundering and the criminal use of cash-intensive high street businesses in Elmbridge.

The police said its neighbourhood teams had carried out proactive enforcement and engagement work. Surrey Police+1

The county council says the Surrey operation demonstrated the effectiveness of cooperation between different enforcement authorities, with specialist tobacco detection dogs helping officers find concealed products.

Council pledges protection for residents and legitimate traders

Kevin Deanus, Surrey County Council’s Cabinet Member for Fire and Rescue, and Resilience, said:

“We are here to protect our residents from harm, and we take that responsibility incredibly seriously.

“The success of Operation Machinize is testament to the fact that we will not tolerate illegal activities on our streets and will always protect our residents from any potentially unsafe goods.

“Not only that, we also have a duty to protect both legitimate businesses on our high streets and their vital contribution to the local economy.

“As always, I’d like to thank the Trading Standards team involved with this operation for their invaluable work in keeping residents safe.”

Residents with information about illegal tobacco, cigarettes or vaping products can report concerns anonymously on 0300 999 6 999 or through the Stop Illegal Tobacco website at www.stop-illegal-tobacco.co.uk.

Earlier Epsom operation

Epsom also featured in the previous phase of Operation Machinize in October 2025, when Trading Standards organised public engagement events in the town and elsewhere in Surrey.

A report to the Surrey and Buckinghamshire Joint Trading Standards Service Committee in May 2026 recorded that more than 800 people attended the combined events in Epsom, Runnymede and Surrey Heath. The events included demonstrations involving tobacco detection dogs and advice from police, public health representatives and Crimestoppers.

During that earlier operation, Trading Standards and partner agencies visited 20 businesses across Surrey and Buckinghamshire and seized approximately £68,000 worth of illegal tobacco, vapes and counterfeit products from 11

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premises. The report did not specify how much of that total related to Epsom. Surrey County Council+1

Editorial note — further Epsom enquiries

I found no independently verified identification of Epsom premises involved in the October 2026 operation in the publicly accessible Surrey Police reports and neighbourhood updates checked.

The most useful follow-up would be to ask Surrey Police and Trading Standards for the number and locations of Epsom inspections, the goods seized locally, whether arrests or prosecutions followed, and whether any businesses were ordered to close.

I would retain the opening headline and paragraphs above, and insert the earlier Epsom operation section immediately before the council's reaction. It gives the report some documented local history without suggesting that the businesses inspected in 2025 were necessarily involved in October 2026.

Sam Jones – Reporter



4 goal victory brings smiles to Epsom and Ewell FC

16 November 2026



Knaphill 0–4 Epsom & Ewell FC. Tuesday 10th November 2026. Redding Way, Knaphill. Combined Counties Premier League South.

Epsom & Ewell produced a superb all-round display to dismantle league leaders Knaphill 4-0 on a wet Tuesday evening and record one of their most impressive victories of the season.

There was just one change from Saturday's win, with Kionte Waul returning at full-back for his 100th appearance for the club, replacing the injured Angel Montes.

The Salts made the perfect start in the rain. A poor back-pass was intercepted by Blessing Hombessa, whose pressure caused the ball to bounce off the home goalkeeper. Keeping his composure, Hombessa rounded the keeper and slotted home from a tight angle to give Epsom an early lead.

Knaphill struggled to cope with the pace and movement of the visitors throughout the first half, and Epsom doubled their advantage from a corner when defender Aiden King turned the ball into his own net.

The Salts continued to dominate and nearly added a third before the break when captain Brendan Murphy-McVey crashed a powerful effort against the crossbar. At the other end, Ben Grummitt was called into action, producing a fine save to tip a shot over the bar.

An unusual incident followed when the referee was unable to continue, forcing one of the assistant referees to take charge in the middle, while a Knaphill official stepped in to run the line.

The Salts went into half-time holding a deserved 2-0 lead.

Knaphill threw everything forward after the restart, but Epsom's defence stood firm. Even when Grummitt spilled the ball on a couple of occasions, Harry Grant was on hand to make crucial clearances and preserve the clean sheet.

The Salts continued to threaten on the counterattack and made their first change in the 62nd minute, with Alex Foord replacing Jason Bloor. Antonios Nazareth was shown a yellow card in the 76th minute before being replaced by Charlie Miller six minutes later.

The game was effectively sealed in the 81st minute. Hombessa produced a dazzling run, beating three defenders before delivering an excellent cross for Courtney Swaby, who finished confidently to make it 3-0.

Further substitutions saw Niall Stillwell replace Murphy-McVey in the 85th minute before Epsom added a fourth a minute later. Hombessa capped a magnificent individual display by scoring his second goal of the evening, sparking jubilant celebrations among the travelling supporters.

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Oba replaced the two-goal Hombessa in the 87th minute, while Frankie Lynn came on late for Swaby to complete the evening's changes.

This was a complete team performance from Epsom & Ewell. Every player worked tirelessly, defended resolutely and attacked with confidence as the Salts produced some outstanding football to claim a memorable victory against the league leaders.

Epsom and Ewell FC Media

East Surrey by-election before it assumes power

16 November 2026



History has been made after the first ever by-election for the newly created East Surrey Council was called – five months before it officially takes over services.

On April 1, 2027, Surrey's existing councils will cease to be – with their functions split between two new bodies – East and West Surrey.

In May this year, people went to the polls to elect those who will serve on the new bodies during a shadow year, before it takes full control of the reins on what is being called Vesting Day.

Residents across the two councils voted large Liberal Democrat majorities that will see the party take control of the highest level of Surrey government for the first time.

Since its inception in 1889 it had either been under Conservative or no-overall control.

Under devolution rules, any councillor who stands down from the outgoing councils will not be replaced within the final six months.

However at East Surrey Dorking Rural Councillor Jo Farrar-Astrop has had to prioritise her health and has decided to step aside, sparking next month's by-election for her vacant seat.

She said: "I would love to have carried on, but I need to put my health first. It has been a privilege to represent Dorking Rural, and I'm grateful to everyone who has supported me."

Cllr Astrop, who also chairs Mole Valley District Council's development management committee will continue in her role until that authority is dissolved next year.

Those wishing to stand in the vacant seat will need to submit their nomination papers by 4pm on Friday November 13.

Details of those candidates standing will be published no later than 4pm on Monday November 16.

The election will take place on Thursday, December 10.

The elected councillor would then sit as a member of the East Surrey Shadow Council before it converts to a full body.

The Liberal Democrats won 40 seats at the May 2026 elections with the Conservatives forming the official opposition after finishing in second with 10.

The remaining seats were won by the Green Party, eight, Reform UK, five, with resident groups and independents taking the remaining nine.

In Dorking Rural the Lib Dems won both seats with Cllr Farrar-Astrop receiving 2,115 votes and Cllr Dineke van den Bogerd picking up 1,969.

Reform UK's candidate's finished third and fifth with the Conservative pair coming in at fourth and sixth.

Voter registration closes at midnight on Tuesday November 24.

Adam Chalmers, returning officer for East Surrey Council, said: "This by-election gives Dorking Rural residents the opportunity to choose who will represent their community on the new East Surrey Council.

"I'd encourage everyone who is eligible to vote to make sure they are registered and know how they plan to vote before the deadlines.

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“Whether you vote in person, by post or by proxy, taking a few minutes now to check you are ready will help make sure you can have your say on December 10.”

Chris Caulfield Local Democracy Reporter

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Surrey Mayor? Not so fast, says East Surrey leader

16 November 2026



The incoming East Surrey council’s leader has said there is still “a lot of detail” to iron out before Surrey gets its own elected mayor.

Councillor Steve Wotton (Liberal Democrats: Horley West, Salfords & Sidlow) said Surrey’s two new unitary councils would look at next steps towards adopting a county mayor once the proposed details are clearer.

At last month’s Budget, it was revealed the government is in the “final stages” of creating a regional mayor for Surrey, similar to those seen in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands.

But speaking at a meeting of East Surrey’s cabinet, Councillor Wotton said: “There is still quite a lot of detail to work through – particularly around the funding and the powers.

“We will be engaging with the government to explore the potential of a mayor for Surrey once we have further detailed proposals.”

Elected regional mayors have varying powers across England depending on specific devolution deals each area strikes with central government.

They will typically oversee big strategic issues across council boundaries such as economic development, transport and policing.

“A mayor of Surrey could help secure strategic leadership and investment in Surrey, including opportunities around transport and infrastructure, skills and economic growth,” Councillor Wotton added.

“There are good examples elsewhere in the UK of mayors helping improve public services and driving economic growth.

“But obviously we would need to understand what that would change in Surrey and how it will improve lives for the people we represent.”

The Budget also outlined further fiscal devolution measures including giving regional government a greater share of business rates income and allowing mayors to charge a tourism tax.

East and West Surrey councils will replace Surrey County Council and the 11 district councils from April 2027, a move that is aimed at streamlining and simplifying local government structure.

Once established, the two new councils plan to combine forces on some major issues through a framework called a Foundation Strategic Authority (FSA).

Councillor Wotton said that setting up FSA “could be the first step” towards creating a mayor of Surrey.

The outgoing Surrey County Council leader Tim Oliver (Conservative: Weybridge) has championed the creation of a mayor for Surrey.

He previously said: “Surrey needs to grab this opportunity with both hands to unlock the funding, infrastructure investments, and local decision-making powers that our residents deserve.”

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James Moules Local Democracy Reporter

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Steve Wotton speaks at the meeting (Credit: East Surrey Council)

Polish precursor to Turing’s code cracking gets Surrey plaque

16 November 2026



Henryk Zygalski (1908–1978), a Polish mathematician who helped break the Enigma cipher before the Second World War, laying the foundations for Alan Turing’s work at Bletchley Park, has been honoured with a commemorative plaque at the University of Surrey. After the war, he taught mathematics at Battersea Polytechnic and the University of Surrey for 17 years without his colleagues learning what he had done.

Zygalski was a mathematician at the Polish Cipher Bureau, with Marian Rejewski and Jerzy Różycki, who worked out how to read messages sent on Germany’s Enigma machine in the 1930s. In 1938, he devised the Zygalski sheets – large, perforated cards that, when stacked on a light table, showed codebreakers how the machine had been set up.

In 1939, weeks before Germany invaded Poland to start the Second World War, the Polish team shared everything they knew about Enigma with British and French intelligence. Their work laid the foundations for Alan Turing and his colleagues at Bletchley Park.

The plaque was revealed today (Wednesday 11 November), Poland’s National Independence Day, by Professor Stephen Jarvis, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey, and Rafał Wiśniewski, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London.

Members of Zygalski’s family, representatives of the Polish community and historians, including from Bletchley Park, attended.

Professor Stephen Jarvis, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey, said:

“There is something rather wonderful about knowing that one of the people who helped change the course of the Second World War subsequently spent his days teaching mathematics to students at Surrey, with little indication of the extraordinary life he had led.

“I am delighted that his contribution is now being recognised, and that future generations of students and colleagues walking past the plaque might pause for a moment and wonder about the remarkable life of Henryk Zygalski, mathematics lecturer at the University of Surrey.”

When Poland fell in September 1939, Zygalski escaped through Romania to France, where the Polish codebreakers kept working on Enigma. After Germany occupied the south of France in 1942, he crossed into Spain, where he was arrested,

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then reached Portugal. A British naval vessel took him to Britain in 1943, where he joined the Polish Signals Battalion.

Unwilling to return to a Poland under Soviet control, he stayed in Britain. He taught mathematics at the Polish University College in London from its founding in 1947. When Battersea Polytechnic took over the college in 1951, he was one of only eight staff offered posts. The polytechnic was the forerunner of the University of Surrey, established in 1966.

Those who worked with him at Battersea and Surrey never knew about his part in the war, according to a biography by J J O'Connor and E F Robertson of the University of St Andrews. His nephew, Dr Jeremy Russell, has said Zygalski "never talked about it spontaneously".

Surrey University

Glyn School's 'forgotten' servicemen commemorated 80 years after war

16 November 2026



Six former pupils of Glyn School in Ewell who lost their lives in the Second World War are to have their names added to the school's war memorial more than 80 years after their deaths.

The names were discovered through research undertaken by history teacher Alex Summers for a book marking the school's centenary. The six men had been omitted from the original memorial, either because they had moved away after leaving school or because their parents had lost contact with the school.

A special ceremony will be held at Glyn School at 10am on Friday 13th November to commemorate the six former pupils and add their names to the roll of honour.

The service will be attended by Headteacher Jo Garrod, Helen Maguire MP for Epsom and Ewell, a former Captain in the Royal Military Police, Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Councillor Lucie McIntyre, Reverend Sue Ayling from St Mary's Church in Ewell, staff, pupils and relatives of those commemorated.

The six former pupils

Michael Daniell was killed in action on 22nd February 1941, aged 23, when his aircraft crashed while on patrol over the Atlantic. His family lived on Epsom High Street, where they worked as newsagents.

Henry Whitticks was killed in action on 24th November 1943, aged 29, while returning from a bombing raid on Berlin. His father was a police officer, and Henry also joined the police after leaving school. He had been an editor of the school's first newsletter.

James Sherriff was killed in action following an aircraft crash on 18th June 1942, aged 24. He is buried in Epsom Cemetery. He came second in his form in 1928, and his family lived on Worple Road, Epsom.

Bernard Preece died as a prisoner of war in Japan on 12th December 1942, aged 25. He attended Glyn for two years. His father worked as a musical instrument manufacturer.

John Bury was killed in action in Greece on 26th April 1941. He attended Glyn for four years, and his family lived on Ferndale Road, Banstead.

Peter Poulten was killed in action in Italy on 11th December 1943, aged 22, while serving with the Parachute Regiment. He attended Glyn for eighteen months. His mother contributed towards silver trophies for House Cross Country and Cricket.

Remembering Glyn's wartime generation

In all, 38 former Glyn pupils lost their lives during the Second World War. Around one in five pupils who started at the school between 1931 and 1933 died in the conflict.

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More than 200 former pupils and staff served in the armed forces during the Second World War, while at least three members of staff also fought in the First World War.

Former pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community have contributed donations to fund the new memorial.

George Howard, history and politics teacher at Glyn School, said:

“Over 200 former students and staff served in the military in the Second World War and at least three members of staff fought in the First World War as well. The school’s war memorial is a permanent reminder of their courage and sacrifice and, thanks to the dedicated research into the school’s one hundred-year history, the names of another six former pupils will be forever remembered as we add them to that roll of honour with a sense of deep pride.”

Helen Maguire MP, Member of Parliament for Epsom and Ewell, said:

“As someone who has served their country, I understand what it means to put on the uniform knowing what it may cost. These six young men from our community made the ultimate sacrifice, and they deserve to be remembered alongside their schoolmates. I am very glad that Glyn School is making sure their names are never lost again.”

The addition of the six names will ensure that their sacrifice is recognised alongside that of their fellow pupils, correcting an omission that has endured for more than eight decades.

Will Middlesex get in Surrey West’s title after all?

16 November 2026



West Surrey should just “crack on” with changing its name to include South Middlesex, the secretary of state for devolution has said. The new authority is set to take over all services from Spelthorne, Runnymede, Guildford, Surrey Heath, Waverley and Woking councils from next April – as well as take on its share from the dissolved county.

In what was one of its first orders of business the authority, which will inherit around £4billion in debt, was to approve a petition to rename itself West Surrey and South Middlesex Council. It argued the new name, better reflected the entire community and recaptured an identity lost since Middlesex, which was featured in the Doomsday book, ceased to be a local authority in 1965.

Spelthorne itself was named after one of the administrative ‘hundreds’ of Middlesex in 1086 when it was called Speletorne. The campaign to call on the government to resurrect Middlesex was then approved – with a deadline set for October to allow time to rebadge ahead of launch, only to be told it was the council’s, not the government’s decision, to do so – leaving the whole renaming process in limbo.

Pressing the matter was the MP for Spelthorne Lincoln Jopp who took to the House of Commons floor on Monday, November 2. He said: “West Surrey unitary authority wrote to the Secretary of State asking her to change the name of that authority to West Surrey and South Middlesex, a move that I thoroughly support.

“The local government minister wrote back to them and said, ‘It’s nothing to do with me; just change your name yourself’. Will the minister confirm what his spokesman said to the BBC, which was that, ‘West Surrey Council has the power to change its own name to include Middlesex if it chooses to do so, and we’ve set this out in a letter to them’?

Jim McMahon, minister for local government, devolution and regional growth replied: “As explained in the letter, it is not for the secretary of state to determine the names of local authorities; local authorities have the legal right and ability to change them themselves. My advice is to crack on with it.”

The new council is currently seeking legal advice to best understand government’s position. A spokesperson for West Surrey said: “We appreciate there are questions about the name of the new West Surrey council after full council voted for the name change.

“We are seeking legal advice so that we can fully understand the government’s position. We will provide a further update as soon as we are able.”

Chris Caulfield Local Democracy Reporter

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Related reports

Epsom’s Cllr McCormick gives Middlesex revival the irregular iambic treatment
Surrey County Council backs the proposed name “West Surrey and South Middlesex”, prompting a reply in verse from an

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Epsom councillor. epsomandewelltimes.com

“What’s in a name?” Not “Middlesex”
The Government turns down the shadow council’s request to change its official name after councillors backed the move in July. epsomandewelltimes.com

East Surrey is still going ahead – so what happens next?
How Surrey’s two new councils are preparing to take over on 1 April 2027, and what the change means for Epsom & Ewell. so what happens next?

Cllr Harry Boparai with fellow councillors (image Harry Boparai) with Middlesex flag

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Epsom Chamber Choir’s stirring debut under new conductor

16 November 2026



Concert review by Lynfa Landauer – 9th November 2026

The stirring opening chords of Epsom Chamber Choir’s concert at St Martin’s, Epsom, set the bar firmly for a wonderful evening under new conductor Patrick Allies. The a cappella programme, *My Heart’s Desire*, was based on the theme of love, with sacred pieces taking their inspiration from poetry of love and longing, including the Old Testament’s Song of Solomon.

Taverner’s Mass *The Western Wynde*, based on a 16th-century song, was the central work, its movements interspersed with music across the centuries, from Taverner’s near contemporaries Tallis, Victoria and Clemens non Papa through to living composers, including the choir’s own published composer, Helen Williams.

Allies commented that he had programmed *The Western Wynde* for his first concert because it was his favourite setting of the Mass, but added that it was also possibly the most difficult setting (a few wry smiles amongst the choir seemed to confirm this). I wondered whether he had chosen it partly to test his new choir, but if so, they passed with flying colours. The full choir, quartet, octet and soloists seamlessly negotiated any technical difficulties to give us an assured performance of this intriguing work.

A full and impressive sound

The choir has an impressive, full sound which we heard to great effect, most especially in the later anthems. Bairstow’s well-loved *I Sat Down Under His Shadow*, Kerensa Briggs’ *Ubi Caritas*, Howard Skempton’s *Rise Up My Love*, and settings of *Set Me As a Seal Upon Thine Heart* by both William Walton and Eleanor Daley were all performed with great warmth and commitment. Helen Williams’ composition *Beloved*, a setting of *Rise Up and Come Away* from the Song of Solomon, enthralled both the audience and choir.

Perhaps my favourite part of the concert, though, was, ironically, the closing piece, Clemens non Papa’s *Ego Flos Campi* (I Am the Flower of the Field). With the choir gathered more closely together around the conductor, they gave a wonderfully ethereal performance.

The musical programme was nicely punctuated with a couple of poetry readings on the theme of love, also reaching across the centuries. Sir Philip Sidney’s *My True Love Hath My Heart*, written in 1593, was accompanied by the less

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familiar *Not Love Perhaps* by A. S. J. Tessimond (1902–1962).

Looking ahead to Christmas and spring

We can look forward to more inspiring concerts from the choir, with its Christmas concert, *Peace on Earth*, on Saturday 12th December, and its spring concert on 13th March, both at St Martin's Church, Epsom. I, for one, will be keeping an eye on their website for more details!

Lynfa Landauer

Photograph (credit Ralph Baylis)

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