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

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Spelthorne leaders play musical chairs in Council's dying days

24 October 2026



A Surrey district council has chosen to replace its council leader just months before the council's abolition next spring. Councillor Joanne Sexton (Independent Spelthorne Group: Ashford East) will now lead Spelthorne Borough Council until next April, when the authority is absorbed into the new West Surrey council.

It came after the now ex-leader, Greg Neall (Liberal Democrats: Ashford Town), faced a no-confidence motion, despite having led the council since May. The motion was tabled by another former council leader John Boughtflower (Conservative: Shepperton Town), who sought to return to the post following Councillor Neall's removal from office.

But the meeting quickly turned bitter and acrimonious as Councillor Neall fought to defend the record of his brief spell in the job. Opening the debate, Councillor Boughtflower said: "We voted in the current leadership with high hopes, but this has quickly faded."

The former council leader attacked the current executive over ongoing asset sales amid the authority's precarious financial picture, saying "we just don't have the confidence".

He added: "With some major challenges left, I'm not filled with any confidence. We need to get the last part of this council right before it moves to West Surrey."

Spelthorne is currently overseen by government-appointed commissioners, who were brought in last year to close the council's budget gaps after it amassed significant debts.

Deputy leader Councillor Chris Bateson (Liberal Democrats: Staines South) blasted the no-confidence motion as an "act of self-indulgence by the opposition".

Addressing Councillor Boughtflower's criticisms of asset sales, he said: "Let's not be under illusions when we talk about property. We are under government direction for asset sales.

"And behind the scenes we have our arguments with the commissioners, but at the end of the day they trump everything – and whoever sits in these seats will face the same issues and get the same answers."

Councillor Neall also stood up to back up his record and echo his deputy's sentiments about the motion.

"Contrary to the absence of evidence in this motion, there is plenty of evidence that my leadership has been successful," he said, citing housing targets, morale among service teams and the performance of planning officers as among his achievements.

"Anything less than voting against this motion is electing a leadership team who don't even know where their confidence lies from one month to the next.

"Whether I am leader of the council after this meeting or not, I will hold my head up high knowing that my leadership was successful and I have the evidence to prove it."

It comes as Spelthorne Borough Council enters its final few months of existence before the abolition of the current two-tier council structure in Surrey in favour of two new unitary councils in the West and East.

The current system has an overarching county council alongside several borough councils, both of which carry out different functions.

Under the incoming system, all local government services will be provided by each of the two new councils in their respective areas.

Accusations of "personal attacks" were frequently levied throughout the confidence debate, with the chair intervening on multiple occasions to insist that councillors refrain from "aggravation" and stick to the specifics of the motion.

Members ultimately voted to remove Councillor Neall from the leadership, with 12 votes in favour of a motion to declare no confidence, 9 against, and 12 abstentions. No one party has a majority on Spelthorne Borough Council, with the Conservatives being the largest group – holding 14 of the council's 39 seats.

The next step of the motion would have been a vote to install Councillor Boughtflower as council leader in his stead. However, Councillor John Turner (Liberal Democrats: Halliford and Sunbury West) interjected to table an amendment suggesting Councillor Sexton as the replacement leader. His amendment also proposed Councillor Bateson be brought back as deputy leader.

Councillor Turner said: "We had a successful partnership there for many months, and hopefully we can heal a few wounds tonight and get on with what we have to do."

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Spelthorne has seen a high turnover of council leaders over the past decade, with 10 different councillors having held the role since 2011.

James Moules Local Democracy Reporter

Image: Epsom and Ewell Times

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Remembrance and Armistice Day activities

24 October 2026



Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is proud to announce that Remembrance and Armistice Day services, parades and activities will take place across the borough to honour the fallen and give thanks to those who have served past and present in the armed forces.

Formal Acts of Remembrance will include the council's annual Garden of Remembrance at Bourne Hall Park on Wednesday 4 November, Remembrance Sunday wreath laying and procession on 8 November and an Armistice Day Service in Epsom market place on 11 November.

Garden of Remembrance:

Wednesday 4 November at Bourne Hall Park, Ewell

On Wednesday 4 November at 10.30am, the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell and local school children will officially open the Garden of Remembrance at Bourne Hall Park in Ewell. Children will perform songs and poems before placing poppy tokens at 11am to honour and remember all those who have died in the service of their country.

The Garden will be open to the public until 29 November, giving people the opportunity to visit, take time to reflect and pay their respects.

Remembrance wreath laying and procession:

Sunday 8 November in Epsom and Ewell

At 9.30am, the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell will lay two wreaths at the War Memorials in Ashley Road, Epsom. At 10.30am, the Remembrance Day procession will begin at the Army Reserve Centre, Welbeck Close, and proceed to St Mary's Church, Ewell. This will be followed by an Act of Remembrance, wreath laying and a church service. A Remembrance Day service will also take place at St Martin of Tours Church, Epsom, where a wreath will be laid by Councillor James Lawrence, representing College Ward.

Armistice Day Service 11.11.11:

Wednesday 11 November at the Clocktower in Epsom Market Place

Members of the public are invited to join a ceremony on Wednesday 11 November at the Clock Tower in Epsom Market Place alongside the Royal British Legion, armed forces personnel, veterans and local school children. The ceremony will begin shortly before 11am and will culminate in the nationwide two-minute silence at 11am, providing an opportunity for the community to come together in remembrance.

Jackie King, Chief Executive, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, said:

"Each year, our Remembrance and Armistice Day commemorations give us the opportunity to pause, reflect and remember. We honour all those who have served their country with courage and dedication, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I encourage residents to join us at these events as we come together to pay our respects and ensure that their service is not forgotten."

For more information on Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Remembrance Day activities – Remembrance in the borough of Epsom & Ewell | Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

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Epsom War Memorial Ashley Road Google Maps

Surrey to support nature activity for health

24 October 2026



A new countywide programme has been launched to help more Surrey residents improve their health and wellbeing through spending time in nature.

Surrey County Council has launched the Surrey Green Health and Wellbeing Programme in partnership with the Community Foundation for Surrey. Backed by a £170,000 investment, the programme will support voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations that provide nature-based activities and services across the county.

The programme which forms part of SCC's work to improve health and wellbeing, strengthen communities and help prevent poor health was officially launched on Wednesday 7 October at an event bringing together organisations from across Surrey to share ideas, make new connections and find out more about the support available through the programme.

Across Surrey, organisations already deliver activities such as community gardening, conservation volunteering, walking groups and outdoor wellbeing sessions. The new programme will help these organisations grow, work together and reach more people. More information on existing services is available on the Healthy Surrey website.

Mark Nuti, Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Health and Communities, said: "We know that spending time in nature can have a positive impact on both physical and mental wellbeing. Across Surrey, local organisations are already doing fantastic work to help people connect with nature and improve their health."

"This new programme will help strengthen those organisations, encourage greater collaboration and ensure more residents can access the benefits that Green Health can provide. By investing in community-led solutions, we're helping to create healthier communities and a stronger, more connected Green Health network across Surrey."

The Community Foundation for Surrey will manage the new Green Health and Wellbeing Grant Fund, providing financial support to eligible VCSE organisations. The programme will also create a Surrey-wide Community of Practice, bringing organisations together through workshops, networking and shared learning opportunities.

Beccy Bowden, Chief Executive of Community Foundation for Surrey, said: "We are delighted to launch this new fund in partnership with Surrey County Council, helping more people across Surrey benefit from the positive impact nature can have on health and wellbeing. Together, we want to support local organisations to extend this important work, helping more residents connect with nature and access the benefits of green and blue spaces."

"By working alongside Surrey County Council and community partners, we can help improve health and wellbeing while strengthening people's connection with the natural environment around them."

The programme includes:

- A dedicated Green Health and Wellbeing Grant Fund for eligible VCSE organisations
- A Surrey-wide Community of Practice for organisations working in green health
- Workshops, networking events and opportunities to share learning
- Collaboration with partners to help shape the future of green health in Surrey

Information about grant funding opportunities and how organisations can get involved will be shared through Surrey County Council and Community Foundation for Surrey channels.

Surrey County Council

SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Surrey Fesitival: Winnie-the-Pooh, refugee histories and music-making machines and more...

24 October 2026



How did a Surrey town help people fleeing the Nazis? What can Winnie-the-Pooh's woodland tell us all about belonging? And what does a mechanical piano teach us about music in the age of AI?

The University of Surrey is inviting the public to explore these questions through ten free events during the Being Human Festival, running from 5 to 14 November 2026. Held across Guildford, Dorking and Compton, its programme brings archives, performances and hands-on activities together under this year's theme, 'Crossroads'.

At Refugee Voices from World War II, visitors will discover how ordinary people in Dorking helped those escaping the Nazi regime. A pop-up exhibition at Dorking Museum on 7 November, 10am–4pm, draws on the Dorking Refugee Committee's archive from 1938–1949, documenting both the difficulties refugees faced and the support they received. Visitors can explore a new website developed by Surrey academics and speak with historians, curators and teachers about this local history of solidarity.

On 8 November, 11am–4pm, Into the Hundred Acre Wood: Queering Space in Children's Literature offers a different perspective on some of Britain's best-loved fictional landscapes. At the University's Library, Dr Amy Louise Morgan will explore how children's literary spaces open up possibilities for imagination and transformation through queer theory. Visitors will receive guided access to archive materials relating to E. H. Shepard, illustrator of Winnie-the-Pooh and The Wind in the Willows, before creating their own literary worlds in a workshop with award-winning author Ally Sherrick. The event is for ages 16 and over.

The relationship between human creativity and machines takes centre stage at The Evolution of Musical Creativity, at the Guildford Institute on 11 November, 7pm–8pm. Composer and music technologist Milton Mermikides will trace a history stretching from ninth-century programmable machines in Baghdad to today's AI-driven music. Historical demonstrations and musical examples will explore how technology has repeatedly changed the way people compose, perform and listen.

Dr Lucy Ella Rose, Lecturer in Victorian Literature and event lead at the University of Surrey said:

"These events show how stories from the past speak directly to questions we face today: how we welcome people seeking refuge, who feels a sense of belonging and what happens when machines become part of the creative process.

"We're inviting people to get close to the archives, meet the researchers and try things for themselves. Whether you come for Winnie-the-Pooh, wartime history or a live performance, there's an opportunity to discover something unexpected about Surrey and the wider world."

Elsewhere, families can explore Lewis Carroll's Surrey connections through immersive Alice in Wonderland storytelling, performance and 'imagination stations' at the Guildford Institute on 7 November. Dorking Museum will also host refugee-history zine-making workshops that day.

Music events include a live pianola concert with Rex Lawson on 5 November, an online player-piano exhibition throughout the festival and an interactive schools' session on 9 November.

Another event, Older LGBT+ Housing and Care at a Crossroads and Beyonde, explores how housing and care can better support LGBTQ+ people in later life. Taking place at the International Longevity Centre in London on 5 November, 5pm–7pm, the event combines a short animation, conversation and an interactive theatre workshop inspired by Surrey's Life House Project. Open to anyone aged 16 and over, no theatre experience is needed.

Creative writers can explore Turner's life and art at Watts Gallery on 13 November, while a family concert celebrating composer Richard Stoker at Guildford United Reformed Church on 14 November will bring together opera, literary song settings and music from Pirates of the Caribbean.

Explore the full programme and booking details. Advance booking is required for most events.

Surrey University

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Residents invited to help shape the future of East and West Surrey councils

24 October 2026



Residents across Surrey are being invited to have their say on the future priorities of the new East Surrey and West Surrey councils and help shape how services will be delivered from April 2027.

As preparations continue for the launch of the new councils on 1 April 2027, both organisations are developing their long-term plans for the future. These plans will guide the services they provide, the investment they make and the outcomes they want to achieve for local people and communities.

Residents, businesses, community groups and local organisations are being encouraged to share their views on the draft strategies and priorities, including what matters most in their local area, what is working well and where improvements are needed.

The new councils will be responsible for a wide range of services that support everyday life, from helping vulnerable children and adults, maintaining roads, supporting local businesses and communities, planning for new homes and infrastructure, protecting the environment and ensuring residents can access the services they need.

- People can take part through separate online surveys for East Surrey and West Surrey between Monday 19 October and midnight on Sunday 15 November.
- A programme of local drop-in events will also take place across Surrey, giving residents the opportunity to ask questions and speak directly with representatives from the new councils.

Further information can be found on the Future Surrey website.

East Surrey Council surreylgrhub.gov.uk/east-strategy

West Surrey Council surreylgrhub.gov.uk/west-strategy

At a time when councils across the country are facing increasing demand for services, rising costs and changes to government funding, feedback from residents will help ensure future resources are focused on the issues that matter most to local communities.

Councillor Steve Wotton, Leader of East Surrey Shadow Authority, said: “The creation of East Surrey Council gives us a unique opportunity for a fresh start and new ways of working that better meet the needs of local communities.

“Our vision is for East Surrey to be an inclusive place where people are heard and supported, communities are strong, people are proud of where they live and growth is sustainable. The decisions we make now will help turn that vision into reality.

“The strategy is built around three key priorities: people, place and council. That means helping people access the support, education, housing and opportunities they need, as well as improving the places where people live and work.

“We will be delivering this in a challenging financial environment, with reduced government funding and growing demand for services. That is why a clear and robust delivery plan is so important, helping us focus resources where they can make the biggest difference and ensuring East Surrey remains financially sustainable for the long term.

“Whether your priorities are stronger communities, better access to services, homes that meet local needs, supporting businesses, tackling climate change or improving local neighbourhoods, we want to hear from you. Your feedback will help shape our delivery plan for 2027 to 2032 and ensure East Surrey Council is ready to deliver from day one.”

Councillor Paul Follows, Leader of West Surrey Shadow Authority, said: “The creation of West Surrey Council is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a council around the needs of residents, communities and businesses.

“We want West Surrey to be a place where people thrive, communities flourish, opportunity is shared and residents can trust their council to deliver. As we develop the council’s vision and priorities, it is important they reflect what matters most to local people.

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"We're asking residents for their views on our draft ambitions for West Surrey: a place where people can access the homes, opportunities and support they need; where communities and businesses can thrive; and where a trusted, well-run council listens, delivers and makes the best use of residents' money.

"Like councils across the country, we will face significant financial challenges from day one. That makes it even more important that we understand local priorities and focus our resources where they can have the greatest impact. Whether you complete the survey online or attend one of our events, your views will help shape the future direction of the new council and the services it provides."

Surrey County Council

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Start-up loans heat up as sauna entrepreneur takes ambassador role

24 October 2026



A Government-backed loan scheme which has already helped more than 100 businesses in Epsom and Ewell has chosen a sauna entrepreneur as its new ambassador for the South East.

Amelia Sweeney, founder of Ojas Sauna, has been named the 2026/27 South East Ambassador for the British Business Bank's Start Up Loans programme.

Sweeney left an 11-year career in construction project management after turning what began as a weekend interest in saunas and cold-water swimming into a growing business.

She launched Ojas Sauna in 2024 after obtaining a £13,000 Start Up Loan, supplemented by her own savings. She initially continued working full-time while establishing the business before leaving her previous career as demand increased.

A second Start Up Loan, together with profits reinvested from the business, subsequently helped finance another venue. The company now offers communal and private sauna and cold-plunge sessions as well as a portable operation used for home hire, retreats and festivals. It employs eight flexible sauna hosts, while its established Buckinghamshire site can accommodate up to 50 customers a day at weekends.

The ambassador scheme is intended to put successful recipients of Start Up Loans in front of prospective entrepreneurs so they can pass on some of what they learned while establishing their businesses.

Sweeney said perseverance had been particularly important. Before securing a site she approached around 450 possible venues looking for somewhere from which to operate.

Her advice to would-be entrepreneurs was essentially not to be discouraged by rejection: eventually, she said, "one person will say yes".

£20 million lent in Surrey

The announcement has a more local relevance than the sauna business itself.

Figures published by Start Up Loans in July showed that more than £20 million had been lent to Surrey entrepreneurs since the programme began in 2012, through more than 1,500 loans.

Epsom and Ewell borough accounted for **116 loans**, equivalent to 126 loans for every 100,000 residents. Elmbridge topped the Surrey table with 241 loans.

Separate British Business Bank figures, calculated by parliamentary constituency rather than borough boundaries, record **145 Start Up Loans worth £1,702,161 in the Epsom and Ewell constituency** up to June 2026.

Across the South East as a whole, more than £150 million had already been lent to almost 14,000 entrepreneurs by March this year. Surrey was then among the three counties with the largest numbers of recipients, alongside Kent and Hampshire.

The latest ambassador announcement says the regional total has since passed **£170 million**.

Nationally the Start Up Loans programme has provided more than £1.4 billion in finance since its creation in 2012,

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according to the latest figures supplied with the announcement.

What is a Start Up Loan?

Despite its name, the scheme does not simply distribute Government grants.

It provides **personal loans for business purposes**, together with business-planning assistance and mentoring. First and second loans can be worth up to £25,000, and eligibility for a first loan has been extended to businesses which have already been trading for up to five years.

The programme is operated by the Start-Up Loans Company, a subsidiary of the Government-owned British Business Bank.

The Bank says repayments and interest received through the programme are recycled to help finance further businesses.

Sweeney is one of 14 entrepreneurs selected as ambassadors for 2026. They are expected to spend the coming year sharing their experiences with people considering starting or developing their own businesses.

Lionel Blackman

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Related Reports

- Epsom company among Surrey businesses backed by £20m Start Up Loans funding – 1 July 2026. EET reported on Epsom-registered craft distillery Silhouette Stills, which had received two Start Up Loans, and on the wider £20m lent to Surrey businesses through the scheme

Photo: Amelia Sweeney, founder of Ojas Sauna

Surrey seeks more families to open their homes to children in care

24 October 2026



Surrey residents are being urged not to rule themselves out as potential foster carers as the county seeks more local homes for children and young people who cannot live with their birth families.

Surrey Fostering Service says misconceptions about age, employment, income, home ownership and family circumstances can deter people who might otherwise make excellent foster carers.

The appeal comes as the Government launches a national drive intended to create 10,000 additional foster care places in England by the end of this Parliament. The campaign, launched at Downing Street on 13 October, is particularly seeking to reach adults in their 30s and 40s who may have the capacity to foster but have never seriously considered doing so.

Surrey County Council approached the Epsom and Ewell Times saying there was a “growing need for foster carers across Surrey”. It said many people who believe they might make good carers nevertheless eliminate themselves because of mistaken assumptions about who is eligible.

The council says fostering families can come from many different backgrounds and that what children most need is “stability, encouragement and care”.

Fewer fostering households

The need is borne out by Surrey’s own figures.

The number of fostering households in the county stood at 393 in March 2020. By March 2024 it had fallen to 331, before recovering only slightly to 335 in March 2025. The corresponding number of fostering places fell from 656 in 2020 to 574 in 2025.

Surrey’s 2025-28 sufficiency strategy acknowledges that the council has experienced a loss of its own foster carers, reflecting a national problem. In March 2024, 644 Surrey children in care – 66 per cent – were living in general or kinship fostering arrangements. But 43 per cent of those in foster care were living with independent fostering agencies rather

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than Surrey's own service.

The consequences of a shortage can extend beyond administrative inconvenience.

In January this year Surrey reported that 38 per cent of its 350 looked-after children were living more than 20 miles from their home address and outside the county. The council said it could not always find placements locally which met children's needs.

Being able to remain near school, friends, relatives and established support networks can be particularly important for children whose lives have already been disrupted.

From respite care to a permanent place in the family

Surrey has sought to put human stories behind those figures.

One of the foster carers highlighted to EET is Ben. He originally offered respite care – providing a child with somewhere to stay for shorter periods – but that relationship eventually developed into a long-term placement.

The young person remained part of Ben's household into adulthood and has recently passed their driving test. Surrey says Ben's story demonstrates how fostering can begin with a comparatively modest commitment to help and develop into a lasting relationship. Surrey Needs More Foster Carers Surrey Needs More Foster Carers

The council's current collection of fostering stories also includes foster carers from markedly different backgrounds and people offering different kinds of care. Its online material ranges from carers looking after teenagers and young refugees to short-break carers, kinship carers and households supporting neurodivergent young people. Linktree

One care-experienced young person, writing under the name "Thomas", described moving between four placements in six years and the importance of finally feeling that a foster home offered belonging as well as simply somewhere to live.

For Thomas, "home" was not merely a physical address but somewhere a young person felt safe, wanted and cared for. His account also describes the fear that can remain after repeated placement changes – even when a later placement is going well.

Another Surrey foster carer, Fatima, and her husband have spent almost a decade fostering young asylum seekers.

Their foster sons have included young people from Iran, Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia. One stayed with the family for nearly five years before moving into his own accommodation at 21; another is now married and remains in contact with the family.

Fatima describes the experience as enriching their own wider family as well as providing sanctuary for young people who have fled persecution and war.

Surrey's fostering service has also recently published the experience of a neurodivergent foster carer who describes using unconventional approaches to help young people overcome barriers. In one case, a child disengaged from conventional schooling but interested in carpentry was helped into a combination of school and practical carpentry training, with maths and English incorporated into the work.

You do not have to fit a traditional mould

Government guidance confirms that potential carers do not have to own their home and may be able to continue working.

Applicants must be at least 18, although most fostering services require carers to be at least 21. They must be able to care for a child or young person and normally need a spare bedroom. Applicants undergo assessment and checks before approval.

The Department for Education says the number of approved foster carers in England has fallen by almost 12 per cent over the past decade while the number of children in care has increased.

It is specifically trying to dispel the assumption that foster carers must be married, own their homes or give up employment.

Surrey's recruitment performance has shown some improvement. During 2025/26 it received hundreds of initial enquiries and reported increased numbers progressing to home visits. Thirty fostering households had already been approved at the point of a council report earlier this year, with further applicants due before fostering panels.

But that recruitment has to compensate not only for additional demand but also for experienced foster carers retiring or leaving the service.

Surrey Fostering Service is therefore asking residents who have wondered whether they could foster to speak to the team rather than assuming that their circumstances exclude them.

As its message to potential carers puts it: "What if you are exactly what a Surrey child needs?" Surrey Needs More Foster Carers

More information about fostering and making an enquiry is available through Surrey County Council's fostering service. The recruitment team can also be contacted on **01372 832929**.

Surrey seeks more families to open their homes to children in care

Surrey residents are being urged not to rule themselves out as potential foster carers as the county seeks more local homes for children and young people who cannot live with their birth families.

Surrey Fostering Service says misconceptions about age, employment, income, home ownership and family circumstances

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It is specifically trying to dispel the assumption that foster carers must be married, own their homes or give up employment.

Surrey's recruitment performance has shown some improvement. During 2025/26 it received hundreds of initial enquiries and reported increased numbers progressing to home visits. Thirty fostering households had already been approved at the point of a council report earlier this year, with further applicants due before fostering panels.

But that recruitment has to compensate not only for additional demand but also for experienced foster carers retiring or leaving the service.

Surrey Fostering Service is therefore asking residents who have wondered whether they could foster to speak to the team rather than assuming that their circumstances exclude them.

As its message to potential carers puts it: "What if you are exactly what a Surrey child needs?" Surrey Needs More Foster Carers

More information about fostering and making an enquiry is available through Surrey County Council's fostering service. The recruitment team can also be contacted on **01372 832929**.

Lionel Blackman

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Related reports:

- Surrey needs more foster carers – 7 November 2024. EET's earlier report on Surrey's recruitment campaign, when the county said it had more than 1,000 children in care but fewer than 400 foster families. Epsom and Ewell Times
- More Surrey children in care to be cared for in Surrey – 28 February 2024. Surrey's investment in new children's homes, intended to reduce the number of children placed outside the county. Epsom and Ewell Times
- Surrey's children services improve – 16 May 2025. Ofsted rated Surrey's children's services "Good" following a seven-year improvement programme. Epsom and Ewell Times
- Now regulated, Epsom and Ewell greenlights children home – 31 January 2026. Epsom and Ewell approved plans for a regulated children's home for up to three vulnerable young people.

'Ardley a goal's difference between them: Epsom and Ewell lose out on penalties

24 October 2026



Saturday 17 October 2026 | Nolan Oils Ground, Ardley | Combined Counties Premier Challenge Cup, First Round | Ardley 2 Epsom & Ewell 2 (Ardley won 6-5 on penalties)

After a heavily delayed journey up the M40 following an incident on the M25, Epsom & Ewell received a warm welcome at Ardley, although the biting chill soon became the overriding feature of the evening.

Despite concerns over squad selection the night before, manager Max assembled a side that produced a highly creditable performance against opponents sitting third in the Northern Division.

Winning the toss, Toby wisely elected to play down the slope, with Epsom adopting a disciplined 4-4-2 formation.

Following a cagey opening five minutes, the Salts broke the deadlock.

Frankie delivered a free-kick that was cleared for a corner, which he took himself. The ball came back to him just inside the penalty area and he struck beautifully with the outside of his right boot through a crowd of players, leaving the goalkeeper rooted to the spot.

It was an excellent first goal for the club.

Ardley equalised in the 24th minute after being awarded a free-kick just outside the box.

Tom Moore curled an impressive left-footed strike over Epsom's four-man wall and into the top right-hand corner.

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The award of the free-kick was strongly questioned by the Epsom bench, with Harry Murphy receiving a yellow card during the protests.

The Salts had opportunities to regain the lead, including a Djazton effort cleared off the line, but it was Ardley who struck again before the interval.

Another free-kick was taken quickly and a sharp one-two opened up the Epsom defence, allowing Declan to finish across Ben Grummitt and give the hosts a 2-1 half-time lead.

The second half was a tighter affair, with clear-cut chances at a premium.

Following an injury to Kionte, the Epsom management reshuffled the side, moving Callum Wilson into central midfield and Djazton back to left-back.

The change paid off in the 79th minute.

Toby's throw-in was headed by Oba into the path of Frankie, who slipped a precise pass through to the advancing Djazton.

He kept his composure to finish neatly and register his first goal for the club, earning Epsom a deserved equaliser.

The closing stages were frantic.

Ardley struck both the crossbar and a post, but Epsom held firm and the score remained 2-2 at the final whistle, sending the tie to penalties.

After five spot-kicks apiece the sides remained level.

Naz struck the bar before Ardley's number 16 hit the post. Leo then saw his effort saved by Hillier, only for Grummitt to respond by denying Ardley's number 12.

Harry converted his penalty and Ardley's number six replied.

Frankie, one of Epsom's standout performers on the night, then saw his penalty saved, allowing Ardley's number 15 to convert the decisive kick and secure a 6-5 shootout victory.

It was an agonising end for the Salts after a spirited and hard-fought performance against strong opposition on the road.

Epsom and Ewell FC Media

Hat-trick hero Lennie inspires Sutton and Epsom success

24 October 2026



Bromley 31 Sutton & Epsom 40. Saturday 17th October.

Sutton & Epsom survived a remarkable second-half Bromley fightback before hooker Sam Lennie completed a hat-trick to inspire the Black & Whites to a thrilling 40-31 victory on the road.

Last season Sutton & Epsom opened their campaign at Bromley on a gloriously sunny afternoon more suited to cricket than rugby, with Hayes CC 2nd XI versus Chislehurst CC 2nd XI providing the genteel backdrop to the physical combat.

Sutton and Epsom won that encounter 49-19, although the result was skewed by the absence of several Bromley first-team players lured away by a golf weekend. At the end of the season Bromley gained revenge with a thrilling 34-30 win at Rugby Lane, a result more reflective of two sides who ultimately finished only four points apart in the league table.

This time Bromley entered the match unbeaten following victories over Battersea Ironsides, Dartfordians and Hammersmith & Fulham. Sutton had also beaten the Ironsides and Hammersmith & Fulham, so a close encounter was anticipated.

Those at the Warman Sports Club were not disappointed.

Tom Lennard and Ben Tame returned to the Sutton and Epsom squad after the previous weekend's delayed start to the season had disrupted their plans. Lennard moved to full-back in the continuing absence of Gareth O'Brien.

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Joe Lovatt, despite breaking his nose in the previous round, was named among the replacements, with his fiancée presumably hoping he would not resemble a Picasso portrait by the final whistle.

Bromley's squad contained plenty of experience, including first-team centurions Robbie Brown, George Hawkins, Jonathon Griffiths, James Powell and the Scott brothers.

The Bromley pitch has a significant slope and Sutton played downhill during the opening half, while the hosts had the breeze in their favour.

It took only a minute for the visitors to open the scoring.

Lennard impressively caught a clearance before kicking into open space. The full-back then gathered his own kick and, three passes later, Adam Bibby was sauntering beneath the posts.

Freddy Bunting converted for an early 7-0 lead.

Helped by a flurry of penalties, Bromley applied pressure but twice failed to make the most of five-metre lineouts. Their frustration increased on the quarter-hour when Sutton scored from a lineout inside the 22.

Excellent control by the pack advanced the ball before Sam Lennie burst from the melee to score. Bunting again added the extras to make it 14-0.

Bromley then opted for a penalty attempt but the kick slid past the upright.

Sutton and Epsom immediately travelled back down the slope and scored again. Another attacking lineout supplied the platform before scrum-half Euan Findlay darted over.

Bunting landed an excellent touchline conversion and suddenly Sutton led 21-0.

Considering their share of possession and territory, Bromley were overdue a response. It came through an impressive move initiated by Harvey Young and finished in style by George Hawkins.

Jonathon Griffiths converted to reduce the deficit to 21-7.

From the restart Sutton and Epsom looked certain to score again when Bunting burst through and charged deep into the 22, only for his pass to be intercepted.

The visitors did not have long to wait for their bonus-point try.

A Bromley counterattack ended in a penalty near halfway. Sutton and Epsom kicked to the corner and, after one lineout was pulled down, kicked another penalty to within five metres.

For the third time the catch-and-drive produced a score and once again Lennie was the beneficiary.

Bunting missed the conversion but Sutton held an imposing 26-7 lead at the interval.

The question whenever rugby is played on such a distinctive slope is how many points the downhill advantage is worth.

Sutton and Epsom were complete novices on the Warman Sports Club's main pitch and, if the visitors believed a 19-point half-time lead represented a winning position, they were about to be corrected.

Bromley levelled the scores in 12 chaotic minutes.

An early home try came after excellent continuity between forwards and backs, with James Powell eventually applying the finishing touch. Griffiths converted and it was 26-14.

Only a few minutes later Bromley struck again.

The dangerous Hawkins initially fumbled the ball backwards but recovered to create the opportunity. Hooker Harry Milne gathered possession with plenty still to do and powered over with defenders hanging from him.

The touchline conversion failed but suddenly the deficit was only five points at 26-19.

Then came the equalising score — and one that Sutton supporters will not remember fondly.

Bromley opted for a kick at goal. It missed, bounced loose and flanker Tom Scott reacted quickest, catching the ball and falling across the line.

Whether viewed as opportunism, superb awareness, comedy or calamity depended largely on one's allegiance.

Griffiths converted and, astonishingly, it was 26-26.

The sizeable Warman crowd was now in full voice, anticipating a continuation of the Bromley onslaught.

Sutton steadied themselves, with prop Dan Johnson leading the way through a couple of powerful carries. His second ended with blood pouring from his nose and Eric Duey entering the action.

Once more Sutton and Epsom punished a Bromley penalty by kicking into the corner.

The resulting drive was disrupted and Bromley hacked clear, apparently denying Lennie the opportunity of completing his hat-trick.

Perhaps the hooker took that personally.

Following Tipene Maxwell's initial break, Lennie carried on the attack and simply refused to be stopped, powering over near the posts for his third try.

Bunting converted and Sutton and Epsom were back in front at 33-26.

Soon afterwards Bromley were reduced to 14 men and, with 15 minutes remaining, the heavens opened.

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Momentum had swung back towards the visitors and the inspired Lennie again swept all before him as he rampaged towards the line in search of a fourth try.

He was denied, but Sutton earned a penalty and turned down the kick at goal in favour of exploiting their lineout superiority.

Bromley resisted the first attempt but conceded another penalty. Sutton opted for the scrum and, a couple of phases later, Josh Rea selected a devastating line to cross from close range.

Bunting added the simple conversion and the Black & Whites had restored a substantial 40-26 advantage.

Those accustomed to supporting Sutton & Epsom, however, were not counting their chickens with ten minutes still to play.

Their caution was justified when Bromley scored a fifth try shortly after returning to 15 men.

A sweeping move ended with centre Griffiths crossing in the corner. His conversion attempt into the blustery breeze fell short, leaving Sutton 40-31 ahead.

There was still time for further drama.

Tom Boaden departed with cramp and the bloodied but unbowed Johnson returned to the pitch. Sutton replacement Ben Tame was then shown a yellow card as the visitors dug in to defend their advantage.

For all Bromley's late endeavour, however, the hosts could not fashion another scoring opportunity and Sutton & Epsom held on for an absorbing 40-31 victory.

For spectators there are few greater thrills than watching sweeping attacks and backs finishing flowing moves.

The aficionado, however, can revel equally in rugby's more physical contest — the route-one attack confronted by a defiant "they shall not pass" defence.

For a period early in the second half Sutton appeared to have run up the white flag as Bromley erased their 19-point advantage.

Nobody, however, had told Sam Lennie.

The hooker grabbed the contest by the scruff of the neck and took the battle back to Bromley, dragging his teammates with him.

It was a stunning performance encapsulating some of rugby's oldest qualities.

Next Saturday Sutton's tour of Kent continues when they travel to Rectory Field to face Gravesend, who sit second in the table with three wins from four matches.

Sutton & Epsom are fourth, one point behind, also with three victories.

Beckenham are now the division's only unbeaten club after defeating Medway and top the table with the maximum 20 points.

John Croysdill

Sutton & Epsom: Lennard, Scott, Bibby, Maxwell, A Findlay, Bunting, E Findlay, Johnson, Lennie, Boaden, McTaggart, Glanville, Rea, Jones, Hegarty (c).

Replacements: Duey, Tame, Lovatt.

Bromley: Hawkins, Powell, Weekes, Griffiths, Lovell, Young, Friday, McFarland, Milne, Hosie, Brown, Elliott, T Scott, Gray, Child-May.

Replacements: Carroll, Harding, G Scott.

Photo credit Iain Frazer

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24 October 2026



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

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Surrey Police to crack down on illegal e-scooters

24 October 2026



Surrey Police has launched a county-wide crackdown on illegal e-bikes and e-scooters, with seized machines set to be destroyed under a tougher enforcement policy from next month.

The new operation, called Operation Scramble, will see roads policing officers working alongside local Safer Neighbourhood Teams to stop riders suspected of using illegal or dangerously modified machines, or riding in an antisocial or reckless manner.

Police say they have already seized 136 e-bikes and e-scooters in Surrey during 2026, compared with 127 during the whole of last year.

Where the age of riders has been established, Surrey Police says 36 per cent have been children or teenagers.

Chief Superintendent Graham Barnett, head of Surrey and Sussex Police's operations and protective security command, said illegal use had become a growing problem.

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“The illegal use of e-bikes and e-scooters is a growing problem in Surrey, and we will tirelessly pursue riders who are causing fear and nuisance in our county,” he said.

“Many of the reports of illegal e-bikes relate to criminal activity.”

He added that the force would combine enforcement with education, particularly because of the number of younger riders involved.

From next month Surrey Police says its policy will be for illegal e-bikes and e-scooters seized by officers to be sent for destruction.

The distinction between an ordinary legal e-bike and an illegal machine can sometimes be misunderstood.

A road-legal electrically assisted pedal cycle, or EAPC, must have pedals capable of propelling it, an electric motor with a maximum continuous rated output of no more than 250 watts and electrical assistance which cuts out once the bicycle reaches 15.5mph.

Riders must be at least 14 years old. A compliant EAPC can be used without a driving licence, vehicle registration, road tax or motor insurance and is generally treated in law in the same way as an ordinary bicycle.

However, a machine capable of being powered electrically beyond 15.5mph, or fitted with a motor exceeding the permitted continuous rating, does not qualify simply because it looks like a bicycle.

It is instead treated as a motor vehicle and, for lawful road use, would need the appropriate registration, insurance and driving licence requirements to be met. An approved motorcycle helmet may also be required.

The Government considered increasing the normal e-bike power limit from 250 watts to 500 watts in 2024, together with relaxing rules governing throttle-controlled “twist and go” bikes. The proposals were abandoned in January 2025 after most of the main stakeholder organisations responding to the consultation opposed them and the Department for Transport concluded there was insufficient evidence to justify the change. The 250-watt limit therefore remains.

The position for privately owned e-scooters is more restrictive.

They are legally classed as motor vehicles and cannot ordinarily be used on public roads, pavements or other public places. Special regulations allow e-scooters hired as part of authorised Government trials to be used in participating areas, but there is no such rental trial operating in Surrey.

Official casualty figures suggest the issue is not confined to nuisance complaints.

Department for Transport statistics published in July show there were 1,377 reported collisions involving e-scooters in Great Britain during 2025, resulting in 1,477 casualties. Ten people were killed, all of them e-scooter riders, while an estimated 484 people were seriously injured.

Thirteen casualties from e-scooter collisions were recorded within the Surrey Police area during 2025.

Surrey Police says that since October 2025 there have also been two collisions resulting in serious injury in the county involving e-scooters and three road traffic collisions involving e-bikes.

Concern about illegal powered bikes and scooters has already featured in local policing priorities elsewhere in Surrey. Earlier this month Surrey Police identified illegal use of e-scooters and bikes around Frimley Green Recreation Ground as an antisocial behaviour priority, saying officers could use powers including vehicle seizure as well as traffic offence reports.

There is a separate safety concern surrounding poorly manufactured or modified electric bikes.

In March 2025 Surrey County Council reported that an unsafe battery fitted to a converted e-bike had caused a fire at a Surrey home while being charged. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and Trading Standards subsequently secured the removal of the particular battery from sale on Amazon.

Government safety advice warns that counterfeit, damaged or badly modified batteries and incompatible chargers can increase the risk of lithium-ion battery fires.

Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner Lisa Townsend said complaints about e-bikes and e-scooters had repeatedly been raised during her office’s Policing Your Community roadshow over the summer.

“They told us loud and clear they have had enough and we have listened to those concerns,” she said.

“The result is this operation which aims to crackdown on illegal riding and take these often-dangerous machines off our streets for good. We know that their use can often be linked to wider criminal activity and the message is clear – we want to make Surrey an illegal e-bike and e-scooter free county.”

Chief Superintendent Barnett said: “From next month our policy is clear: all illegal e-bikes and e-scooters we seize will be sent for destruction.

“I hope this provides direct reassurance to Surrey residents that we are listening to your concerns around illegal and reckless riding and taking decisive action.”

Sam Jones – Reporter



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- January crime and safety round-up – 4 June 2026. Surrey Police identified antisocial use of motorbikes and e-bikes as a local policing priority in Epsom and Ewell. epsomandewelltimes.com
- The New Year view from Westminster – 2 February 2026. Helen Maguire highlighted constituents' concerns about illegal and unsafe e-scooter use and called for a more coordinated response. epsomandewelltimes.com
- Surrey services get fire e-bike removed from Amazon – 13 March 2025. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and Trading Standards acted after an unsafe e-bike battery caused a house fire. epsomandewelltimes.com

Image: "idealised" e-bike and e-scooter in Epsom High Street (Google street view)

Bull Hill scheme defended as lifeline for Leatherhead

24 October 2026



A controversial 400 home development, that has faced huge backlash from the community, is the best way to save Leatherhead from 'dying', councillors have said.

It came after an opposition motion calling on Mole Valley District Council to seek guarantees on the financial benefits and improvements to the Swan Centre as part of the Bull Hill regeneration scheme was shot down.

First by the large numbers of the ruling Liberal Democrat group who walked out of the debate claiming it could prejudice them against any future planning decisions.

Then by Councillor Keira Vyvyan-Robinson (Liberal Democrat: North Leaherhead) who quickly pushed through an amended and softened down motion that called on the council to continue working with developers Keir Partnership to secure the financial benefits and improvements.

The unamended motion was originally been put forward by Cllr Gerry Sevenoaks (Independent: Ashtead Park).

He said: "Bull Hill would literally change Leatherhead as a town. "The question is for better or for worse?

"There is no doubt that this is a controversial project that will impact the town , with increased traffic congestion and building works for the construction of over a number of years. It will look like carnage".

"Crucially it does not have the full support of residents as demonstrated in the public campaign against the development and negative feedback from the so-called consultation. At its inception the Keir Partnership provided all sorts of wonderful benefits to the residents of Leathehead."

"Affordable housing, social housing, refurbished Swan centre, cinema, financial profit for investment in the town. Sadly and predictably these financial and community benefits have diminished and materialised. The profit share is down from £22m to £14m, reduced car parking, and no cinema or leisure facilities, and we see there is no social housing."

"How has this been allowed to happen?

He added: "Having already given up £4million worth of land, Mole Valley council could be left with no profit to invest in community benefits for Leatherhead town centre. The result being that Leatherhead will look like Croydon-on-Sea and with a continued rundown town centre with no investment. What have the people on Leatherhead done to deserve such municipal vandalism?"

Councillors defending the amended softened motion said there was a strong silent majority in favour of the project, and that the redevelopment had not been an issue for residents on doorsteps at the recent May elections.

Cllr Claire Malcomson (Liberal Democrats: Holmwoods and Beare Green) said: "Whatever happens it will improve Leatherhead because Leatherhead, as mentioned, is a dying town, and it needs improvement.

"It needs more housing to feed the shops, and entertainment, and the theatre, and that is the whole point of it.

"Yes, some things have had to be cut back because the climate has changed, but I do think ultimately Leatherhead will

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benefit from this."

Chris Caulfield Local Democracy Reporter

Image: Plans for Bull Hill Leatherhead (image Leret Group_

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- Epsom's neighbour cracks on with its Local Plan – 23 October 2024; includes Bull Hill as Leatherhead's proposed "Urban Quarter" and the wider allocation of housing to the town. epsomandewelltimes.com

Lots of Lieutenants light upon Epsom's NESCOT

24 October 2026



His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey visited Nescot in Epsom with a large delegation of Deputy Lieutenants and community leaders to hear directly from students about their experiences, concerns and ambitions.

Mrs Neelam Dharni Devesher MBE toured the college yesterday, meeting students across subjects ranging from hair and beauty and bricklaying to robotics, motorsport, performing arts and catering.

The visit also gave students the opportunity to raise issues affecting young people in Surrey, including the cost of living and difficulties travelling around the county by public transport.

A panel discussion entitled "Being a Youth in Surrey" formed a central part of the visit. Students spoke about their experiences and aspirations, with their views intended to help inform the Lord-Lieutenant's work during her term of office.

One student told the delegation: "It's really important for young people to have opportunities to speak up like this about the things that affect us.

"Transport is a big issue for me. Getting to college can be expensive and it isn't always easy to get around Surrey using public transport.

"The cost of living is another concern, because when you're studying, everyday things like travelling to college and getting a good meal can really add up."

Mrs Devesher said one of the most rewarding parts of her role was meeting young people and hearing about their lives and ambitions.

She said: "I was hugely impressed by the students at Nescot, whose enthusiasm, talent and aspiration was evident throughout.

"The visit gave us the chance to listen to what matters to young people today and to understand how we can help reflect that in the work we do across Surrey."

The Lord-Lieutenant and her delegation also toured Nescot's teaching facilities, including its immersive classroom and Institute of Technology.

Visitors were greeted by "Nes bot", the college robot, which presented them with their visitor lanyards.

Performing arts students provided entertainment, Nescot's motorsport team displayed its vehicle and catering students prepared food for the visitors. Public services students also took part in a parade and flag-raising ceremony.

The delegation was hosted by Nescot Principal and CEO Julie Kapsalis MBE and members of the college's leadership team.

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Ms Kapsalis said: “It was an honour to welcome the Lord-Lieutenant and her delegation to Nescot.

“With such a large group, we got to showcase the extraordinary breadth of learning that takes place across our campus, from advanced technology and construction trades to performing arts, hospitality and childcare.

“Most importantly, it gave our students the chance to share their views and experiences directly with civic leaders.”

The Lord-Lieutenant is the King’s personal representative in Surrey. The unpaid and politically neutral role includes supporting community organisations, arranging and attending Royal visits, presenting honours and promoting voluntary, business and military organisations across the county.

Nescot, the North East Surrey College of Technology, offers vocational and technical courses for school leavers and adults from its campus in Ewell.

Courses include motor vehicle studies, animal care, hair and beauty, computing and IT, performing arts, childcare, health and social care and construction.

Further information is available at www.nescot.ac.uk.

Lionel Blackman

Guests accompanying the Lord-Lieutenant included:

Emma O’Donnell, Deputy Clerk to the Surrey Lieutenancy

Jacqui Archer, PA to His Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey

Andrew Canale MVO, Deputy Lieutenant

Dr Beccy Bowden, Chief Executive, Community Foundation for Surrey

Bridget Biddell MBE, Co-Director, Hampton Estate and former High Sheriff of Surrey

Carol Magras, Magistrate

Sir Denis O’Connor CBE QPM, former Chief Constable of Surrey and lecturer at Cambridge University

Giles Verity, Deputy Lieutenant

James Babbington OBE, Deputy Lieutenant

John Machin, Deputy Lieutenant

Jonathan Freeman MBE, CEO, Charity for Civil Servants

Joosje Hamilton, High Sheriff of Surrey

Kristina Murrin, Deputy Lieutenant

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Mary Zoeller, Deputy Lieutenant

Dr Michael Kelly JP, Under Sheriff of Surrey

Nick Brooks, Deputy Lieutenant

Shaded Azeem, Deputy Lieutenant

Timothy Wates, Deputy Lieutenant

Peter Lee, Vice-President, Surrey Clubs for Young People

Michael Hayman MBE, Lieutenancy Business Group and Lieutenancy Communications Group

Reverend Clare Marren, Chaplain to the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey

Dr Vanessa Lawrence CB, Location International

“What’s in a name?” Not “Middlesex”

24 October 2026

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

19th November 2026

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Middlesex campaigners said they were ‘gutted’ after the government pulled the rug on efforts to bring back the historic county’s name – but critics said the council should have checked the legality first.

In July, the new shadow authority passed a motion to rebrand itself as West Surrey and South Middlesex, in time for October when official branding was due to be released.

Last week, however, the minister for housing communities and local government wrote to the leader of West Surrey saying their request had been denied but said it could take legal advice on whether it was possible to use a more widely accepted name without the formal legal change.

The news was met with dismay by campaigners who said they had hoped the government would have ‘done the right thing for once’.

Critics however said the name change should have been put to residents, while the minister’s decision also raised serious questions over why it was advanced before the legal basis was known.

Middlesex was abolished as a local authority on April 1, 1965, and campaigners, including astrologer Russell Grant, have been fighting for its return ever since.

Councillor Harry Boparai, the Liberal Democrat councillor for Sunbury Common & Ashford Common put forward the original motion.

He said: “It’s really sad. South Middlesex is one sixth of the new authority. We are part of the family, we don’t want to be the dysfunctional cousins on the side.

“We’re not trying to be different, we’re just trying to be who we are. Get on a train to Reigate, get on a train to Guildford, get on a train to Spelthorne and you’ll see the difference, years of neglect.

“Going forward we want a level playing field.”

At the October 12, West Surrey shadow executive, its leader, Councillor Paul Follows, said they would look at ways of bringing the matter back to a future consideration but that the council would carry on as West Surrey in the meantime.

Cllr Boparai added: “We will still get there. I was confident they would just rubber stamp it but they didn’t.

“In 1972, the government assisted councils to change their names and considering we’re now the only unitary going forward, you would think they would have helped us because we have all this debt to deal with. I’m determined to get this over the line.”

Councillor Jane Austin, leader of the Conservative opposition group, said: “The Lib Dem Leader may well be relieved by the minister’s response, as while we recognise this is an important issue for some residents in the Spelthorne area, many people across the other five boroughs have struggled to understand why the Lib Dem administration was pursuing a name change in the first place – and why this was being prioritised over tackling council debt and ensuring the successful transfer of vital public services.

“The minister’s letter raises serious questions about why the proposal was advanced before establishing the legal basis for doing so, and without giving residents a proper opportunity to have their say.

“West Surrey Conservatives maintain that any decision affecting the identity of West Surrey must be based on clear legal advice, proper scrutiny, a full understanding of the costs and meaningful public consultation.”

Chris Caulfield Local Democracy Reporter

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

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Epsom and Ewell FC’s going downhill win!

24 October 2026



Epsom & Ewell 4-0 Molesey. Southern Combination Challenge Cup Second Round – Monday 13th October 2026 – Chalky Lane, Chessington – Attendance: 87

The Salts progressed comfortably into the next round of the Southern Combination Challenge Cup with a convincing 4-0 victory over Molesey.

Epsom & Ewell, playing up the slope in the first half, created the game’s first opening but fired over the crossbar.

The Salts took the lead after 14 minutes. Following a goalmouth scramble, Antonios Nazareth reacted quickest at the far post to poke the ball home and give Epsom the advantage.

The match took a significant turn four minutes before the break when Molesey’s Elvis Kwashie was shown a straight red card following a reckless challenge on Jason Bloor. Bloor required several minutes of treatment before continuing.

There was further controversy just before half-time when a Molesey defender appeared to handle the ball while playing it back towards his goalkeeper, but the referee waved away Epsom’s appeals.

The hosts nevertheless went into the interval holding a deserved 1-0 lead.

Epsom & Ewell started the second half somewhat sluggishly, with Blessing Hombessa collecting a yellow card on 50 minutes. Further cautions followed for Alex Foord and Angel Montes as the game became increasingly competitive.

Hombessa’s evening was cut short on 58 minutes after a heavy knock, with Oba introduced in his place.

The Salts made further changes shortly afterwards as Niall Stilwell and Charlie Miller entered the action, while Courtney Swaby and Kionte Waul were also introduced as Epsom & Ewell looked to make their numerical advantage count.

The sides were reduced to ten men apiece on 69 minutes when Montes received his second yellow card of the evening and was dismissed.

Despite that setback, the Salts soon doubled their lead.

On 75 minutes, substitute Oba broke clear, drove towards goal and finished confidently to make it 2-0. A minute later, the Molesey goalkeeper produced an excellent diving save to prevent a third.

The hosts continued to press. Swaby struck the upright after beating his defender on 80 minutes, before Waul embarked on a surging run from inside his own half, only to see his effort saved by the goalkeeper.

Epsom & Ewell’s third goal arrived five minutes from time when Oba completed his brace with another determined run and composed finish. Swaby again threatened moments later but fired narrowly wide.

There was still time for one final flourish.

On 90 minutes, Harry Grant powered home a towering header from a corner to score his first goal for the club and complete an emphatic 4-0 victory.

The win sends Epsom & Ewell into the next round, where they will face either Kingstonian or Balham away.

Epsom and Ewell FC Media

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Your memories can help tell Epsom and Ewell's 90-year story

24 October 2026



Epsom and Ewell residents are being invited to delve into family albums and memories as the borough prepares to celebrate its 90th anniversary next year.

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is asking people to contribute photographs, personal recollections and stories spanning the nine decades since the borough was created in 1937.

The anniversary comes at a particularly significant moment in local history. The celebrations will coincide with the final year of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council before local government reorganisation sees its functions pass to the new East Surrey Council.

The Council says it is developing a programme of events and activities intended to celebrate the borough's heritage, achievements and community spirit. Residents' contributions will help build a record of local people, places, events and everyday life through the decades. 90th

Council Leader Cllr **Hannah Dalton** (RA Stoneleigh) said the authority wanted to celebrate "the people, places and moments that have shaped Epsom and Ewell over the last 90 years", adding that family photographs, memories of community events and accounts of how the borough has changed could all help tell its story.

Contributions to the Council can be sent to **ninety@epsom-ewell.gov.uk**.

The Epsom and Ewell Times would also be delighted to hear from readers who have photographs, recollections or stories they would like to share with the wider community.

This is intended to complement, rather than duplicate, the Council's anniversary project. Material sent to Epsom and Ewell Times may, where suitable and with the contributor's agreement, form the basis of articles or features during the anniversary year.

There is an additional reason why readers may wish to share their memories with the Times. Each weekly edition of the Epsom and Ewell Times is legally required to be deposited with the **British Library**, creating a permanent historical record of the newspaper and the local life it reports.

That means a photograph, recollection or family story published by Epsom and Ewell Times would not only be shared with today's readers, but become part of an archived record available to future generations.

We would particularly welcome memories which capture ordinary life as well as major events: schools and workplaces, shops that have disappeared, sporting clubs, neighbourhood celebrations, wartime and post-war memories, changing streets and buildings, local characters, community organisations and photographs showing how familiar parts of Epsom and Ewell once looked.

Readers are encouraged to contribute to the Council's own 90th anniversary collection. Those who would also like Epsom and Ewell Times to consider their material for publication can send it to **admin@epsomandewelltimes.com**, ideally with names, dates and locations where known, together with a few words explaining the story behind any photograph.

As the borough enters its 90th year — and the final chapter of the Borough Council itself — there may never be a better moment to gather these memories while those who can tell their stories are still able to do so.

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has applied to the UK Government to create a body of "Charter Trustees" which would continue the mayoral and other civic traditions of the Borough beyond April 2027. The Charter Trustees would be the Councillors elected in the Epsom and Ewell districts to the new East Surrey Council.

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“What’s in a logo?” That which we call East Surrey

24 October 2026

The new East Surrey council’s logo has been unveiled to the public in the latest big step towards the authority’s creation next spring.

With just under six months to go until Surrey County Council and the county’s 11 district councils are abolished, the two new unitary authorities that will replace them are beginning to take shape.

The East Surrey logo, which will accompany all official documents and communications for the new council, was crafted following a consultation with residents about what makes the area special.

It features five shapes that are designed to represent the five boroughs merging to form the new council – which are Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge.

“The logo tells the story of East Surrey,” council leader Steve Wotton (Liberal Democrats: Horley West, Salfords & Sidlow) explained.

“The five interconnected shapes represent the five areas coming together to create one new council, while reflecting the rivers, countryside and landscapes that connect our communities.

“Just as importantly, it symbolises the relationships between people, places and services that will help make East Surrey Council a strong and connected organisation.”

An East Surrey spokesperson stressed that the logo was designed in-house at no additional cost to taxpayers.

The consultation that led to the design drew more than 2,000 responses among residents, with community, countryside, waterways, and heritage emerging as the strongest themes defining East Surrey.

It was the area’s landscape, rivers and countryside that inspired the colour palette featured on the logo.

Councillor Wotton added: “I would like to thank everyone who took the time to share their views and ideas.

“This new identity has been shaped by the people and communities it will serve and reflects the pride people feel in East Surrey.

“My thanks also to our talented in-house designers who have created the new brand using their skills, creativity and local knowledge, making best use of existing resources, without additional cost to taxpayers.”

East Surrey shadow authority’s cabinet has agreed to a phased introduction of the new brand, meaning that existing signage and vehicles bearing the old county and district council logos will not immediately be replaced or repainted.

Instead, they will only be changed to feature the new East Surrey logo as and when they need to be renovated in a bid to save on unnecessary costs.

The logo for the new West Surrey council will be decided in the coming weeks, the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS) understands.

East and West Surrey councils will formally take over the reins of local government from April 2027, at which point they will be responsible for all services in their respective areas.

Under the current system, this responsibility is split between the county council and various district councils, with Surrey County Council managing services such as education and highways while the districts take care of council tax and planning applications.

Although the government has paused local government restructure for many other similar “two-tier” councils across England, it is still going ahead in Surrey as the process is too far down the line.

James Moules Local Democracy Reporter

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