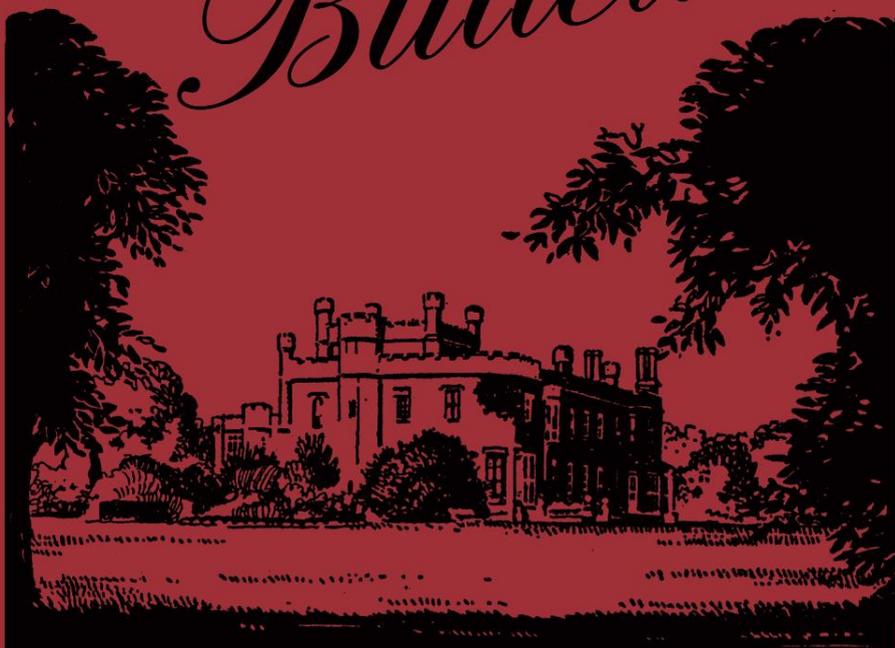


**NONSUCH
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

Bulletin



SPRING 2025

Best F t Forward



Mobile & Clinic
Appointments



Accredited
Professionals



Great Prices &
Availability

General foot MOT and maintenance
Cut, file and maintain toenails
Thickened nails
Callus and dry skin
Corns and cracked heels
Athlete's foot
Fungal nail infection
Verruca
Diabetic foot care
Ingrown toenails



Clinic Appointments (Worcester Park)
07805 437 468



Mobile Appointments (Home Visits)
07467 532 259



bestfootforward2019@yahoo.com



www.bestfootforward.live

OFFICERS



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find us at [facebook.com/NonsuchRA](https://www.facebook.com/NonsuchRA)

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Chairman's Report – David Triggs

Welcome to our Spring edition of the "Bulletin" ahead of our Annual General Meeting which is due to be held on Thursday 17th April (details within). It comes as radical changes to the management of local public services and infrastructure are being planned. Implementation of the government's proposals to reform local government will see the abolition of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and the breakup of Surrey County Council. These changes, alongside the impact that the government's massive housebuilding targets, represent the biggest threat to the environmental quality of our area most of us have ever seen. Our county and borough councillors provide some information and opinion on these matters in the pages below. I hope you will join us at the AGM to hear the latest on these and other issues that affect the enjoyment, management, use, protection and care of the area where we live, to question our speakers and to share your own views.

An associated land use problem is housing affordability because the government's proposed house building numbers are based on a house price to earnings ratio. In Epsom and Ewell this is exceptionally high and, for familial cohesion and late and post millennial generations of Nonsuch residents seeking a home of their own, the affordability problem is serious. Our local estate agent's article showing that the majority of homes sold in our area are bought by buyers from London and elsewhere illustrates this.

Local housing affordability is but one example of how the control, use, care and value of land impacts the lives of people and communities throughout the world - the wars in Gaza, Ukraine and elsewhere are tragic worldwide examples of the importance of this matter and I take this opportunity to share a related principle.

In the science of political economy that I follow "Land" is of primary importance. It stands alongside "Labour" and "Conditions where Land and Labour Interact" as the "Primary Factors of Production." The term "Land" refers to all that nature, or 'God' provides - other than Man

himself. It includes space, the electromagnetic spectrum, air, water and earth. Mark Twain said of land "... they ain't making it any more" and while human beings cannot and never could make "Land" they cannot exist without it. In order to produce or acquire the things it needs to survive and thrive, humanity is obliged to interact with "Land" (in one or more of its various forms) using its ability to "Labour" - physically, mentally and artistically. The key "Conditions where Land and Labour Interact" refers to the degree of freedom society members enjoy: how people relate to each other and to "Land" i.e. the extent to which people are permitted to own people (slavery), and own "Land" (enclosure).

A plot of land (in the most common case of terra-firma) only acquires a rental value when two or more people compete to hold or use it at the same time. It increases as the wealth/capacity of the bidders increases with specialisation and development. This rental value or "Land Rent" thus arises naturally as demand grows and communities grow and prosper. The Mark Twain quote above was incomplete, he really said "Buy land; they're not making it any more" and therein lies the root of our economic woes. While land naturally acquires a rental value, it only acquires a capital value or selling price if it is "privatised!" In our case this started with the 'Conquest' and with the Conqueror sharing land with his partners in crime. It continued through King John, The Magna Carta, the enclosures of Henry VIII and later by parliamentary enclosures where all parliamentarians were landowners. Thus arose the need for public revenue to be raised by taxing labour, employment, trade, added value and people for producing goods and providing services for each other.

Interestingly the Bible warns: "The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land." Leviticus 25:23-24.

Collect Land Rent not Taxes as public revenue!

David Triggs

Treasurer's Report – Innes Tarran

As mentioned in the Autumn Bulletin, 2024 has seen a significant turnaround in the finances of the Association, with a surplus for the year of £1,459 resulting mainly from:

1. A 68% (£2,000) reduction in printing costs following the change of printer and the absence of a “special” bulletin in 2024
2. No Election Expenses (2023 = £630) being required in 2024
3. A small increase in subscriptions following the introduction of electronic payment options through Direct Debit / One-Off Payments, as well as some members very kindly paying more than the £3 minimum subscription

As a result, we are pleased to confirm that the annual subscription will remain at £3 for the foreseeable future.

Please can I ask you to renew your membership of the Association for 2025, or become a member if you are not one already, by one of the below methods:

- By putting your £3 subscription in the envelope provided and returning it to your Area Representative or a nearby Rep if your road is currently showing as a “vacancy”.
- By signing up to paying your subscriptions by Direct Debit (or one-off instant payment if you prefer) using the below QR Code or by going to the “Membership” section of our website at www.nonsuchra.org
- If you are already set up to pay by Direct Debit, this will continue for 2025. As mentioned in the Membership section of our website, the aim is to collect subsequent payments at the end of March each year. As this involves a change in the payment date (from the date of your first payment), I believe you will receive two emails in early March, the first cancelling the original payment date and the second confirming the new one. If you have any queries or would like to cancel your direct debit, please email us at payments@nonsuchra.org

Thank you in advance for supporting your Residents' Association and your councillors.

If you are unable to deliver your subs to your Area Rep, your road is currently without an Area Representative or you would prefer to pay electronically, please sign up to paying your subscriptions by Direct Debit (or one-off instant payment if you prefer) using the QR Code or by going to the “Membership” section of our website at www.nonsuchra.org



Nonsuch Residents' Association
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Income and Expenditure Account

2023 £	INCOME	2024 £	2023 £	EXPENDITURE	2024 £
2,408.40	Subscriptions Received	2,472.57	3,058.99	Newsletters	986.00
400.00	Advertisements	350.00	630.03	Election Expenses	0.00
15.67	Bank Interest	38.56	180.00	Website	180.00
64.00	Donations Received	0.00	136.00	Subscriptions Paid	86.00
			0.00	Donations Made	50.00
			0.00	Social Expenses	100.00
<u>1,116.95</u>	Deficit For Year			Surplus For Year	<u>1,459.13</u>
£4,005.02	TOTAL	£2,861.13	£4,005.02	TOTAL	£2,861.13

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

2023 £	FUNDS	2024 £	2023 £	ASSETS	2024 £
3,415.18	Surplus at 1 January	2,298.23	798.23	Barclays Current Account	357.36
<u>(1,116.95)</u>	Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	<u>1,459.13</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	Barclays Deposit Account	<u>3,400.00</u>
£2,298.23		£3,757.36	£2,298.23		£3,757.36

Signed *Innes Tarnan* (Hon Treasurer)

I have compared the above Accounts and Balance Sheet with the books and vouchers of the Nonsuch Residents' Association and such Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the finances of the Association.

Signed *Sujit Patel* (Hon Examiner)

87th Annual General Meeting of Nonsuch Residents' Association

Thursday 17th April 2025

8.00pm

at

Sutton & Epsom Rugby Football Club

Cuddington Court, Rugby Ln, Cheam, Sutton SM2 7NF

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of last AGM 19th March 2024
3. Matters Arising
4. Introduction by Chair, David Triggs
5. Councillors' reports
6. Treasurer's report
7. Election of Officers
8. Local Government Reorganisation
9. Open Forum

The Officers and Committee look forward to seeing our residents at the AGM

Nonsuch Ward Update

Councillor Robert Leach



Borough Council Budget 2025/26

In February 2025, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council set its budget for 2025/26.

As always, the council produced a balanced budget. Unlike central government, the borough council does not borrow money to fund its spending. For the first time in more than ten years, we have produced a balanced budget without having to use reserves.

Although the borough council collects the council tax, only 10% of it goes to the borough council. Another 14% goes to the police and 76% goes to Surrey County Council.

The borough increased its small share of the council tax by 2.98%. For an average Band D property, this means an increase of just £6.75 a year, or 13p per week. Epsom and Ewell has council tax below the average of Surrey borough councils.

The police have increased their element by 4.1%. Surrey County Council have increased their share by 4.99% which includes the adult social care precept.

Overall, the council tax for an average Band D property rises by 4.68% from £2,308.34 to £2,416.39.

The borough council continues to face challenges. The October 2024, central government Budget saw sharp rises in employer's national insurance of which central government part compensated by providing about half the extra cost.

Against that, the council benefits from a new tax called Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). This is a charge on the packaging of domestic products. For example, it will add about 12p to anything sold in a glass jar or bottle. This is passed to local authorities to help improve recycling facilities.

The main drain on the borough's finances remains homelessness. The budget statement includes a package of ten provisions to address this.

Despite these challenges, the borough still provides a comprehensive range of services. We have also improved facilities, such as adding solar panels to Bourne Hall and double glazing its windows.

Councillor Christine Howells



Nonsuch Park: Dog walking policy

It has been agreed to implement a twelve-month Commercial Dog Walking Policy pilot scheme, commencing on 1st April this year. This follows public concerns about safety aspects of dog walking in the park. Similar schemes are in place in many other parks and are designed to benefit all park users.

The pilot scheme will initially be self-regulatory, with a recommendation of four dogs, but with a limit of up to six dogs maximum.

Public liability insurance must be verified by the council and the initial cost of a licence will be £200 per annum.

All commercial walkers must sign up to the Code of Conduct and licensed dog walkers will receive a Nonsuch Park armband and be registered on the council database. Car stickers will also be provided to show that dogs are being transported and that the dog walker is licensed.

Detailed information on the scheme can be found on Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s website under Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee or call the contact centre on 01372 732000.



Covid Remembrance Day

On the morning of Sunday 9th March, I was joined by local residents as I laid ribbons on the Covid-19 memorial bench by the Mansion House in Nonsuch Park on behalf of Epsom and Ewell to mark Covid Remembrance Day and to commemorate those we lost as a result of the pandemic.

Councillor Shanice Goldman



Public Spaces

I wanted to take a moment to update you on something we’ve been working on recently—the expansion of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in our area.

Many of you have raised concerns about issues such as littering, dog fouling and disruptive behaviour in public spaces. In response, as Chair of the Crime and Disorder Committee I've been pushing for a stronger PSPO that gives enforcement teams more power to tackle these problems effectively. Expanding the PSPO will help ensure that our public spaces remain safe, clean and enjoyable for everyone.

I really appreciate all the feedback and support from residents — your voices have played a key role in shaping this effort.

I’ll continue to keep you updated as things progress, but if you have any thoughts or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out. Your input is always welcome and I would love to hear from you.

County Councillor John Beckett



Surrey County Council Finances

A recent Local Government report presents a worrying picture of local government finances across the UK, with a particular focus on the impact of budget cuts on services for children, young people, disabled people and broader council operations. It is certainly true that Surrey County Council continues to be penalised by successive central governments in terms of grant funding, despite the huge contribution that the Surrey economy makes to the national economy.

That said, Surrey County Council (SCC) has not spent or borrowed money wisely and has ignored calls by RA County Councillors to adopt a different financial approach, including the funding of more early intervention and preventative measures to reduce future costs. In fact, SCC's inflated capital spending on infrastructure, not all of it high priority, has resulted in cuts to the planned Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school building programme which is clearly a wrong choice when you consider that SEND provision is one of the services that has the most pressing need.

SCC also continues its spending on highly paid staff with 61 Directors now in the salary bracket of over £100k, including 11 of the highest paid Directors heading the Communications and Engagement Directorate. It has also been revealed that SCC has funded over 6,000 mobile phones to staff. A recent £17m project to replace SCC's financial IT system was late and ran over budget and the final cost has been acknowledged as £27m (although money is still being spent), an overspend of £10m and the equivalent of 1% on the overall SCC council tax bill.

SCC Council Tax & Budget Meeting 2025/26

The ruling Conservative administration supported the 4.99% rise in Council Tax for the county. Included in the additional costs is £8.4m arising out of the government's decision to increase Employer's National Insurance contributions.

I did not support the county council's budget. A greater emphasis on early intervention in Children's Services, a much leaner senior management team, a capital programme focused on essential projects, tighter control of IT expenditure and a focus on getting things right first time for our residents required a different budget to the one presented to us in February.

I have written in the past about wasteful expenditure and high-cost projects promoted by SCC's Conservative group and, despite our further attempts to bring about a change, these continue. For example, Digital Demand Responsive Travel (DDRT) enables residents to use mobile phones to arrange pick-ups near their homes and within an agreed timescale. However, DDRT comes at a high cost and currently the council is using a government Bus Service Improvement Plan grant to fund it. The latest council data shows that costs per passenger journey remain high with each single passenger journey being subsidised by between £26 to £43. That is not sustainable when the government grant runs out and SCC finds itself having to fund the DDRT system. However, the suggestion, by RA County Councillors at the Budget Meeting, of a pause in programme expansion was rejected.

Highway News: Updated fault reporting website

The county council's new 'FixMyStreet' online reporting tool is designed to make it easier for residents to report potholes, faulty traffic signals and other street defects that need fixing, cleaning or clearing. Residents can also see issues which have already been reported, track the progress of repairs and sign up for local updates. To access the website and report issues in your road visit:
<https://tellus.surreycc.gov.uk/>

CHiPs (or County Highway Potholes)

Surrey County Council will now use AI to detect potholes to help speed up road repairs across the county. Computer vision cameras fitted to dashboards inside Surrey Highway's vehicles will spot and automatically record potholes for repair. Surrey is the first local authority in the UK to move away from manual inspections and solely use video and AI technology to monitor potholes.

Ewell Library Closed during Bourne Hall Refurbishment



Ewell Library closed on Monday 17th March and will reopen on Tuesday 8th April. This is to allow refurbishment works at Bourne Hall to take place. This involves replacing the windows at the venue, which are old and outdated, with double-glazed windows, making the building fit for the future. During the closure period, Bourne Hall, which houses the library, will remain open as usual.

Click and collect service

Throughout the closure period a click and collect service will be available from Ewell Library, so library members will still be able to return items and collect reservations for a small fee.

Return dates for all items on loan have been automatically extended to Tuesday 8th April 2025. Therefore, no late fees or charges will be incurred on your account during this time (provided, of course, you return them on 8th April!)

There will be no public PC or study space available at Ewell Library during this period. If you need to make use of these library services, please use other Surrey libraries.

Digital Library Services

For the digitally proficient, the closure provides an opportunity to try out Surrey Libraries eLibrary services. Library membership provides access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eComics free of charge. There is also free access to PressReader for national and regional newspapers, and to Naxos for access to over 35,000 CDs worth of music. To access your “local” library services from anywhere, all you need is library membership and a mobile phone or tablet.

Go to <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/borrow-or-renew> and explore the available services via the “eBooks...” and “Library mobile apps” options.

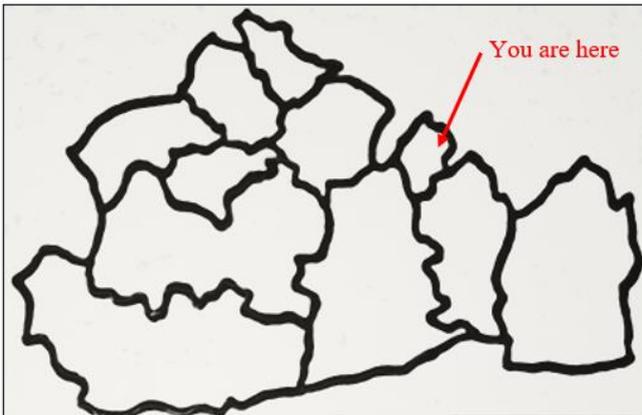
English Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

On 16th December 2024 the government announced its proposals for devolution and a reorganisation of local councils. For Surrey the plan is to replace the county, borough and district councils with two or three unitary authorities with responsibilities for all council matters. In February the national government confirmed Surrey is on an accelerated programme for local government reorganisation.

The key steps in the accelerated programme are:

- 1) Surrey councils submit an interim plan by 21 March 2025
- 2) Submit a final proposal by 9 May 2025.
- 3) Elect “shadow” unitary councils in May 2026.
- 4) Official “vesting day” in May 2027 when unitary councils take over and existing councils are dissolved.
- 5) With unitary councils in place, begin devolution of powers from government to a Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA), either by establishing a new MSA or by joining an existing MSA. This stage will include the provision of a directly elected mayor.

We are currently at stage one and already it’s complicated! Instead of one interim plan, two have been put forward. Option one, from the county council, envisages Surrey split in half creating two unitary authorities. The other, from the majority of borough and district councils, proposes three unitary councils. By 9th May a final decision



must be reached. However, whether it is two or three unitary councils, the most likely outcome for our borough, given the geography, is that it will be in a new East Surrey unitary authority.

Quiz: Match The Person

Many famous people have a connection to Epsom and Ewell. Here is a list of 30 famous people and a list of their descriptions. All you have to do is match the person to the description. The answers are on page 21.

People

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Barry Wordsworth | 11 James Chuter Ede | 21 Mary Archer |
| 2 Bobby Gee | 12 Jeremy Vine | 22 Mel Gieldroyc |
| 3 Charles Dickens | 13 Jimmy Page | 23 Michael Fallon |
| 4 Cheryl Gillan | 14 Joe Wicks | 24 Norman Wisdom |
| 5 David Cameron | 15 John Challis | 25 Oliver Reed |
| 6 Emily Davison | 16 John Logie Baird | 26 Penelope Keith |
| 7 Frank Hampson | 17 Johnny Haynes | 27 Petula Clark |
| 8 George Harrison | 18 Julia Ormond | 28 Sarah Miles |
| 9 Glyn Johns | 19 Lord Rosebery | 29 Tom Osborne |
| 10 Jack Ashley | 20 Lulu | 30 Warwick Davis |

Description

- A Actor who attended Ewell Castle school
- B Applied to become the Conservative candidate for Epsom and Ewell
- C Attracted attention when she attended the Derby in 1971 wearing hot pants
- D As High Sheriff of Surrey, attended unveiling of statue in Epsom
- E Became prime minister
- F Chemistry professor who grew up in Nonsuch ward
- G Educated at Glyn Grammar School. Conducted Last Night of the Proms
- H Epsom-born actor who played Boycie in *Only Fools and Horses*
- I Epsom-born actress who starred in the film *Blowup*
- J Epsom-born actress who won an Emmy award for *Temple Grandin*
- K Epsom-born engineer who supervised Beatles' *Let It Be* sessions
- L Epsom-born politician who was home secretary for longest period in 20th century
- M Epsom-born television presenter of *Points Of View*
- N Epsom-born television presenter of *Great Bake-Off*
- O Epsom-born television presenter of *Tenable*
- P Ewell-born singer who had a number 1 hit with *Downtown*
- Q Failed to be elected as Epsom and Ewell borough councillor but became Secretary of State for Wales
- R First person to televise the Derby
- S First professional footballer to be paid £100 a week
- T He visits Epsom and says it has too many inns
- U Is part of a four-piece singing group that won Eurovision Song Contest
- V Killed when she jumped at the King's horse at the Derby
- W Labour MP and peer who was deaf and campaigned for disabled

- X Lived in Epsom before retiring to Isle of Man
- Y NESCOL technician who drew the Dan Dare cartoons
- Z Recorded a song about a road in Epsom with Eric Clapton
- AA Stoneleigh resident who wrote the play *Look Back In Anger*
- BB Student at Epsom College who became Secretary of State for defence
- CC Studied nutrition at NESCOL
- DD Was married at Epsom Registry Office

Fire risk at home – Book a Home Fire Safety Visit

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service offers a free Home Fire Safety Visit to individuals who are identified as at risk and is designed to support someone who falls into one or more of the categories below.

Smokes in their home

Is over the age of 60

Lives alone

Has: a) limited mobility, b) a hearing impairment or c) is blind or partially sighted

Would have difficulty responding to, or escaping from, a fire

Has had a fire before, or shows signs of burns or scorching in the home

Has learning disabilities

Is supported by family, carers and friends

Has a mental health condition such as dementia or depression

Has drug or alcohol dependencies

Doesn't have an alarm in all areas where a fire might start

Collects or hoards in their home

You or they are the parent or carer of a child or young person who sets fires

Requests for such visits can be made by an individual or someone on their behalf. So, if one of these apply, please book a free Home Fire Safety Visit by:

Calling free on 0800 085 0767

Text/SMS 07971 691898



In December 2024, the borough council submitted its proposals under the Local Plan. This sets out the council's proposals for house building in the borough until 2040. This has now been sent to central government with about 200 representations from residents. We will know the outcome later this year.

There has been so much wrong information published by various groups that it is necessary to set out the correct position.

First, it should be understood that this is not a borough council initiative. The Local Plan has been required by central government of both main parties. Central government dictates how many homes we should build and an unelected planning inspector will determine if we have complied. The role of residents and your elected councillors is marginal.

For many years, the council has granted permission for about 200 new homes each year. Even though Epsom and Ewell has more than five times the home density of England, the government said that we should provide more than 800 new homes each year. Our role was simply to state how far we could comply and where we would put these new homes.

I opposed the whole concept of the Local Plan. It is my view that local councillors should determine such matters. However, politics is the art of the possible not the art of the ideal. We must live in the world as it is, not as we may wish it to be. My view is that central government has been dictatorial and that the expense, time and cost is excessive. The plan cost the council about £1.8 million, about £60 for every household in the borough.

The council needs a Local Plan to determine planning applications. Our existing plans are based on three documents produced in 2007, 2011 and 2015. The fact that these plans are between 10 and 18 years old means that planning inspectors are inclined to give them less weight than more recent plans. Nevertheless, I believe that they could have

easily been updated at much less expense and effort. From 2018, the government requires local plans to be updated every five years.

The council engaged consultants who worked with councillors and council officers. Although I oppose the method of the Local Plan, it must be said that they all did a good job. We had a detailed report that was closely argued and difficult to contradict.

The Plan identified seven options and recommended Option 5 which proposes 4,916 homes by 2040. Option 1 excludes Green Belt and provides for 3,566 homes. Options 6 and 7 (respectively 5,901 and 6,401 homes) provide for more use of the Green Belt. Option 7 (not recommended by the council) also includes 350 homes by Ewell East Station.

The most controversial element was building on virgin Green Belt land. There were four options that suggested less and two that suggested more. The Local Plan now submitted allows for 1,580 homes to be built on Green Belt by 2040. This represents just 3.4% of Green Belt land. The largest area is Horton Farm (1,250 homes) with smaller developments by Chantilly Way (30 dwellings) and part of Hook Road Arena (100 homes). Other developments in the Green Belt relate to previously developed areas.

It should also be appreciated that these sites come with some community benefits. Horton Farm development provides seven hectares of public open space. Hook Road Arena development includes a new sports hub for residents.

The Local Plan now submitted is a reduction from what was considered in 2023. It is also about half of what central government has determined. The borough council only stands a chance of succeeding if our reasons are comprehensively set out.

During 2024 there were several briefing meetings for councillors. We had to make a decision on how great a shortfall we could propose to

government with some chance of success. We were advised by a former planning inspector whose advice was valuable.

We could have just taken out those three sites of virgin Green Belt. Put bluntly, we had to gamble on how little Green Belt to offer and still have a chance of success. If we did not succeed, there was a real risk that the Plan would be rejected. This is roughly what happened to Elmbridge Council. If the Plan fails, there is a possibility that the inspector could require more Green Belt land to be given up. Even with our proposal, there is still a chance that this could happen, but to do so, the inspector would have to give reasons for going against a detailed and closely argued Local Plan.

While many residents simply wanted no building on virgin Green Belt land, most councillors took the pragmatic view that this would almost certainly lead to automatic rejection of the Plan. It could ultimately lead to *more* virgin Green Belt land being lost. I do not think this is a proper way for local decisions to be made, but that is how they are being made. I do not know of a single councillor of any political affiliation who likes the Plan. I voted for it because I consider it the least worst option available to us.

As far as Nonsuch Ward is concerned, the proposed ridiculous six-storey blocks of flats on Priest Hill playing fields have been dropped. This was known to councillors in November 2023. However, we could not disclose this until November 2024 because it was commercially sensitive. It should be noted that its exclusion was not because this area is next to a nature reserve (though I think that is good reason for exclusion). It was excluded because there is a long lease for their use as playing fields with no break clause.

Option 7 alone does provide for a development of 350 homes by Ewell East station, but this is not part of the council's recommendation. However, this is not the end of the story as the government has since announced another new policy requiring houses near railway stations.

I add that the Local Plan is an immensely complex process of which this is only a superficial summary. Much more detail is available on the council's website, including the 564-page report to full council.

My view is that the whole Local Plan process rides roughshod over local residents' wishes and is unnecessary. It is also impractical as there are not sufficient builders and plant to produce all the homes the government wants. Anyway, by 2040 the Office for National Statistics believes that there will be another 4 million UK residents, requiring yet another 2 million homes.

The council has taken a pragmatic approach to minimise the damage being forced on us by central government. Your Residents' Association, alone, has sought to minimise that damage.

Cllr Robert Leach

Sports News

Horse racing returns to Epsom Downs on Tuesday 22nd April with the Spring Meeting. The first race is due off at 1.35pm.

This year the Derby Festival is on Friday 6th & Saturday 7th June. Expect the usual traffic and crowds associated with the big occasion. The Derby itself will be run at 3.30pm on the Saturday of the meeting.

Ewell Village Bowling Club has an Open Day on Sunday 18th May from 11am-4pm at Gibraltar Rec, West St. It's a chance to try lawn bowls for free. All equipment provided - just wear flat shoes or trainers. Further details are on the club website www.ewellvillagebc.co.uk

Quiz answers

1 G	6 V	11 L	16 R	21 F	26 D
2 U	7 Y	12 M	17 S	22 N	27 P
3 T	8 DD	13 Z	18 J	23 BB	28 I
4 Q	9 K	14 CC	19 E	24 X	29 AA
5 B	10 W	15 H	20 C	25 A	30 O



A Personal View from Cllr Robert Leach

Central government plans to reorganise local authorities. Under these plans Surrey County Council and the 11 district and borough councils in Surrey will cease to exist. Instead, there will be two or three

unitary authorities that deal with all council matters.

And all this is to be completed within 18 months! Epsom and Ewell Borough Council would cease to exist from 2027.

I believe these plans are undemocratic, rushed and unsupported by evidence. I have not heard a single resident say they want the borough council abolished. At the very least such a radical change should be subject to a local referendum. Let the residents say how they wish local services to be provided. After all, that is the whole idea of democracy.

The Labour party manifesto for last year's General Election speaks of devolution. Indeed, the term is used no less than 136 times. Here is an example from page 106: "We will deepen our democracy by reforming Parliament and devolving power to communities."

Yet what the government is proposing is the exact opposite. Devolution means passing power *down* from centralised bodies. It is based on the principle of subsidiarity, which states that "social and political issues should be addressed at the lowest level of government that is appropriate." This is a principle that has been widely used in government and the church. In the European Union, subsidiarity is expressly stated in Article 5(3) of the Treaty on European Union. What the government is proposing is not subsidiarity, but the opposite of passing power *up* to larger bodies.

Removing a layer of government is the opposite to what the last Labour government did. That government created the Greater London Assembly in addition to existing London borough councils. So why is it right to have two tiers of local government in London but wrong in

Surrey? That government also added the further administrative layers of a Scottish Parliament and a Welsh Senedd.

It also tried introducing even more tiers in the form of assemblies for regions of England. The population would have a referendum when they would rush to vote in favour. Except that it didn't happen. In the end, only one referendum was ever held. It was in 2004 for a North East England assembly and 78% of voters said no.

The justification is that there will be a single body that deals with dustbins, libraries, schools, potholes and social care among the 333 duties of local authorities. While it is true that residents often do not know which authority is responsible for what, it is no great problem to pass an enquiry from one authority to another.

Now we know that Epsom and Ewell could continue as a town council or parish council, so there would still be two layers of local government! If you want to know what a parish council looks like, watch the Vicar of Dibley.

The threshold for a local authority has been set at the arbitrary and ludicrously high number of 500,000, so neither Iceland nor The Bahamas would qualify. Quite why this high number has been chosen is not explained. Ewell had a form of local government in 1664 when it had just 99 houses and a population of 446.

Epsom and Ewell has a population of 81,000. This is larger than at least eleven sovereign nations. More people live in Epsom and Ewell than in Greenland, or Andorra, or the Marshall Islands.

In England, the largest local authority is the unitary authority of Birmingham City Council. How is this exemplar of large unitary government doing? In September 2023, it declared itself bankrupt. The government had to send in commissioners who reported in April 2024 that "in terms of day-to-day activity it lets its citizens down in so many ways." It also said "the council lacks the capacity and capability to take

the necessary steps to address its problems without external support.” No-one has said anything like that about Epsom and Ewell.

Birmingham’s waste collection service was described as “too expensive” and “not fit for purpose.” Again, no-one has said that about Epsom and Ewell’s efficient in-house service with its weekly collections.

In January 2025, Birmingham was given special permission to increase council tax by 7.5%, well above the normal cap of 5%. Its debt is £3.5 billion, about £8,000 per household.

In 2017, our own Surrey County Council wanted to hold a referendum for its own proposed inflation-busting increase of 15%.

Surrey County Council has made several power grabs over the years. Until about 2001, the borough council was the highway authority. We offered a better service at lower cost. Similarly, the county took over cutting the grass verges recently. They immediately reduced the annual number of cuts from six to four and failed to achieve even that.

Going further back, the borough council was the education authority. And even earlier, it provided water, electricity, gas, telephone, hospital and police services. The borough council is perfectly capable of providing whatever services are needed. Where appropriate, the council works with other local authorities and does use private contractors. If we really must have unitary authority in Surrey, the best solution is to scrap the county council and devolve powers to the boroughs.

Of the eleven districts and boroughs in Surrey, six are now in debt, as is the county council. They owe £4 billion between them. Woking Council alone owes £2 billion. Its finances are so dire that the entire council tax receipts are not enough to pay *the interest* on its debts. If it sold all its assets, it would still owe £1.5 billion. Epsom and Ewell is one of the few councils that is not in debt. The funds we hold are your money. Why should your money be used to plug the deficit of other councils?

In terms of day-to-day operation, the smallness of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is an advantage. The councillors and officers get to know each other and get to know the area. There is no shortage of people offering to be borough councillors. In the 2023 election, there were 134 candidates for 35 seats — almost four per seat.

At present, you can ring up any of the 36 people who hold 35 borough council seats and five county seats. We can deal promptly with any local issues. There are enough of us to give residents the time needed to deal with issues. We can meet residents individually and in small groups. You will not get that if there are only half a dozen councillors for half a million residents.

And who will have the local knowledge to make planning and licensing decisions?

We operate on the committee structure where every councillor, of whatever political affiliation, is involved in decision making. Surrey and other large authorities use the cabinet structure. That means authority is delegated to a small group of councillors and to officers. Most councillors are simply rubber-stamping backbenchers. There is no proper scrutiny of officers who are often remote.

One of the many factors identified in the failings of various councils has been councillors not knowing what the chief executive was doing. A lack of oversight of the chief executive of the local authority can lead to major issues. Epsom and Ewell, as a small borough using a committee structure means we broadly have a friendly, transparent, co-operative and honest form of government.

The timing of all this is curious. This happened just as we submitted our draft Local Plan on the future of the borough until 2040. We are in the midst of moving the Town Hall into more appropriate premises. This will proceed whatever happens as proceeding is less expensive than stopping.

There are also plans to postpone the 2025 county elections by one or two years. This denies voters the chance to express an opinion on the political parties.

The cost of this reorganisation to Surrey residents has been estimated at £40 million. Remember, this is your money that is being wasted.

Epsom and Ewell comprises two main ancient towns. Epsom goes back to no later than the sixth century while Ewell goes back 10,000 years to the Mesolithic period. Early government was largely provided by lords of the manor and by the church. In 1850, the Epsom Board of Health was established. In 1894 Epsom Urban District Council was established and Ewell became a parish council. In 1933 they were amalgamated as Epsom and Ewell Urban District Council. This was given a royal charter in 1937 as Epsom and Ewell Borough Council.

The borough is steeped in history and tradition which are valued by its residents. We have a ceremonial mayor who attends more than 200 engagements in a year. These are valued by schools, churches, charities and voluntary bodies.

I do not pretend that the borough council always gets things right. But I do believe it is generally a well-run and efficient council. Epsom and Ewell combine the tranquility of the countryside with the convenience of the town. We have acres and acres of publicly accessible green space and no skyscrapers, yet we have a population density more than five times the England average.

Epsom and Ewell is a beautiful place to live. The borough council has helped achieve this.

Why throw it away?

Cllr Robert Leach

This is a personal opinion

Buyers moving from the Capital – High demand locally

Demand for homes in the borough continues to exceed supply and this is particularly apparent for buyers moving from the capital. In 2024 the percentage of homes bought by Londoners was 74% in Epsom and Ewell and 35% in Mole Valley.

Home movers bought homes an average of 45.4 miles outside of London in 2024, with destinations in Surrey particularly popular as it offers a change in lifestyle and great value for money. The most sought-after destinations for London leavers in 2024 were Epsom and Ewell and the Mole Valley in Surrey.

This is unsurprising as both offer quick and easy transport routes into Central London, an excellent selection of State and private schools and plenty of green space. Not forgetting in 2019, Epsom and Ewell Borough was rated by The Independent as one of the happiest places to live in the UK!

Mark Anthony Estate Agents offer traditional and modern marketing methods to capture all these home movers for our clients. If you are considering selling your home or would like an up-to-date valuation please contact us on 020 8393 7275

Mark Jenkins of Mark Anthony Estate Agents

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As a resident of the Nonsuch Estate, I would like to offer discounted fees to home owners who are considering moving.



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Nonsuch Residents' Association

Area Representatives

Abinger Avenue	Janet Richards, 39 Abinger Avenue	020 8393 9434
Albury Avenue 1, 3, 5	Catherine Goodall, 35 Buckland Road	020 8394 0083
Albury Avenue 2-4 & 6-25	Colin Quigley, 15 Albury Avenue	07802 821989
Aragon Avenue	Janice Gidley, 34 Howard Avenue	020 8224 0464
Arundel Avenue 1-37 & 2-48	Jane King, 48 Arundel Avenue	020 8394 1075
Arundel Avenue 39-77 & 50-108	Fiona Dowle, 50 Arundel Avenue	020 8393 2568
Banstead Road	Innes Tarran, 9a Beverley Close	07557 109289
Barnard Place	Vacancy	
Beverley Close	Innes Tarran, 9a Beverley Close	07557 109289
Birchfield Grove	Sheila Ivey/Judith White, 4 The Bridle Path	020 8393 8796
Boleyn Avenue	Steven Liu, 18 Aragon Avenue	07988 416798
The Bridle Path	Sheila Ivey/Judith White, 4 The Bridle Path	020 8393 8796
Bridleway Close	Sheila Ivey/Judith White, 4 The Bridle Path	020 8393 8796
Bramley Road	John Herbert, 79 Holmwood Road	020 8393 3633
Burford Lane	Sheila Ivey/Judith White, 4 The Bridle Path	020 8393 8796
Buckland Road	John Herbert, 79 Holmwood Road	020 8393 3633
Castle Avenue 2-37	Keith Henry, 8 Castle Avenue	020 8224 0781
Castle Avenue 38-72	Sue Henry, 86 Castle Avenue	020 8786 7816
Castle Avenue 73 on	Sue Henry, 86 Castle Avenue	020 8786 7816
Castle Way	Keith Henry, 8 Castle Avenue	020 8224 0781
Castlemaine Avenue	Linda Lau, 4 Castlemaine Avenue	020 8393 6728
Chanton Drive	Vacancy	
Cheam Road (E)	Vacancy	
Cheam Road (W)	Vacancy	
Chatsfield	Vacancy	
Cheyham Gardens	Vacancy	
Cleves Ave	Nidhi Sharma, 10 Cleves Avenue	07448 550671
Conaways Close	Monica Butler, 6 St Normans Way	07929 237102
Dormans Court	Vacancy	
Ewhurst Close	Tanya Glynn, 20 Ewhurst Close	020 8224 2015
Fairview	Innes Tarran, 9a Beverley Close	07557 109289
Fairfax Avenue	Roger Smith, 14 Fairfax Avenue	07751 144756
Gomshall Road	Catherine Goodall, 35 Buckland Road	020 8394 0083
Harefield Avenue	Heather Locke, 5 Harefield Avenue	07957 168825
Hays Walk	Vacancy	
Hillside Road	Sandra Malyon, 4 Hillside Road	020 8393 3578

Area Representatives

Holmwood Close	Brian Kibble, 2 Holmwood Close	020 8393 9761
Holmwood Road 1-79 & 2-58	Sylvia Russell, 54 Holmwood Road	020 8393 4709
Holmwood Road 60-68 & 81-139	Brian Kibble, 2 Holmwood Close	020 8393 9761
Howard Avenue	Janice Gidley, 34 Howard Avenue	020 8224 0464
Howell Hill	Vacancy	
Howell Hill Grove	Sheila Ivey/Judith White, 4 The Bridle Path	020 8393 8796
Howell Hill Close	Sheila Ivey/Judith White, 4 The Bridle Path	020 8393 8796
Lodge Close	Sheila Ivey/Judith White, 4 The Bridle Path	020 8393 8796
Merrow Road	Vacancy	
Mintwater Close	Monica Butler, 6 St Normans Way	07929 237102
Nonsuch Court Avenue	Jane King, 48 Arundel Avenue	020 8394 1075
Nonsuch Walk 1-57a	Christine Howells, 7 Nonsuch Walk	020 8393 8555
Nonsuch Walk 59-101	Vacancy	020 8393 2157
Nonsuch Walk even numbers	Vacancy	020 8393 2157
Northey Avenue 4-54 & 17-51	Vineet Bhati, 48 Northey Avenue	07799 645729
Northey Avenue 56-104 & 53-91	Vacancy	
Parr Avenue	Jane King, 48 Arundel Avenue	020 8394 1075
Queensmead Avenue	Sandra Malyon, 4 Hillside Road	020 8393 3578
Ranmore Road	Vacancy	
Rugby Lane	Vacancy	020 8393 2157
Sandy Croft	Sheila Ivey/Judith White, 4 The Bridle Path	020 8393 8796
Seymour Avenue 1-29,31	Jenny Lloyd, 18 Seymour Avenue	020 8394 0872
Seymour Avenue 30,32-74	Terry Witham, 26 Seymour Avenue	07484 156446
Shere Avenue	Andrew Curran, 14 Shere Avenue	020 8393 2514
Springfield Road/Little Springfield	Vacancy	
St Normans Way	Monica Butler, 6 St Normans Way	07929 237102
Station Approach	Vacancy	
West Drive	Vineet Bhati, 48 Northey Avenue	07799 645729
Westcott Way	Steve Lawes, 8 Westcott Way	020 8224 1910
Wonersh Way	Brian Kibble, 2 Holmwood Close	020 8393 9761
Wotton Way	Catherine Goodall, 35 Buckland Road	020 8394 0083

If you can help your Residents' Association by becoming an Area Representative, please contact David Triggs on 020 8393 3526.

What can you do as resident?

* Ensure you renew your membership of the Residents' Association, or to become a member if you are not one already. The annual subscription is only £3 for each household for the year and helps us to operate effectively and sponsor your Residents' Association candidates at borough and county council elections. Please return your subscription to your Area Representative in the envelope provided with the Spring Bulletin or pay online using either our new recurring payment facility or one-off instant payment facility as detailed on page 7 of this Bulletin.

* Please attend the Annual General Meeting in spring each year. This is the opportunity for you to hear what is going on in your area, what is planned and what needs to be considered.

* At any time, please give us your input. You can contact your Area Representative, or any member of the Committee, or any of the Councillors, on any subject which you think involves us. If you do not tell us things, there is a fair chance we will not know about your particular concern.

* If you contact council officers or the police about something which is of interest or concern to other residents, please let us know so that we can collate input and keep people informed.

* Please continue to give us your support on any matter affecting the residents and the community. The strength of a community rests in the hands of its residents.

*If you are able to help by becoming an Area Representative or by joining the Committee, please let any of the officers or Area Representatives know. The effort involved is not huge but the benefit to yourself and to the other residents can be significant.

This Association functions through the efforts of willing volunteers and we are always keen to hear of those who are prepared to help.

Thank you for your support. Thank you for caring.



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