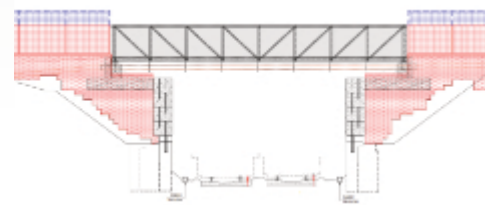


A BRIDGE TOO FAR!



The footbridge at Castle Road has been closed for a couple of years now and the original plan was showing that it would be completed about 2 years ago.

It is now due for completion in July this year(?) with the major hold-up being UK Power Networks who took almost 12 months to approve their works.

There will be some minor local disruptions while the work goes ahead: Parking suspensions on Castle Road and restricted pedestrian access at times on Willows Path & Evelyn Way footpaths over a few days.

REGGIE THE RESIDENT

NUMEROUS RESIDENTS HAVE COMMENTED THAT OUR MP APPEARS TO ONLY GO TO FUNCTIONS AND HAVE HER PICTURE TAKEN... OR WHEN DANCING THEN LEAVES QUICKLY WITH HER PHOTOGRAPHER AND BODYGUARD IN TOW! THIS IS WHY NONE OF THE CLAIMS IN HER NEWSLETTERS APPEARS TO HAPPEN.....

Reggie looks after his Residents!



EPSOM COMMON ASSOCIATION

Our 2026 conservation work has started, with two days on Great Pasture cutting back scrub shading an area previously favoured by snakes basking in the sunshine. We are always looking for new members, and, if you have time, perhaps you could become actively involved. Work on the Common, help with: events, publicity, Facebook, etc. would be much appreciated. For activities and information see: <https://epsomcommon.org.uk>



Our AGM is on Tuesday 28 April

8pm at Christ Church Hall with a talk on the Hogsmill River

Come along and find out more about the good work we do on the Common and in the local area

MORE BROKEN WORDS FROM YOUR MP

Our MP appears to be more interested in having her picture taken, videos of her dancing and talking about matters but not achieving anything for our Residents! The latest matter that has reared its head is regarding the the bridge on Wells Road... She has stated that there are plans in case there is a major issue, however, Network Rail have stated "We recently completed stabilisation works, and the structure is now stable.....At present the bridge remains stable and no plans for diversions are expected to be needed". .. Reggie has asked what plans are in place? Network Rail do not know of a plan.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW UPDATE (CGR)

After carrying our 2 very successful consultations regarding the possibility of a Community Council (or Parish Council) for Epsom & Ewell, the resounding answer was that the residents were not in favour (82% against). There were varied leaflets and press stating false figures regarding the costs etc. which were not fully based on fact or explained fully. The biggest worry is that in a few years time, when the grass is only cut 3 times a year (EEBC residents currently pay for 3 cuts as SCC decided to cut back) and other services cut then there will be no local voice to take action against further cuts. There are plus and minus points for the Community Council. At the last Full Council meeting the Labour Party criticised the cost of the consultation, however, if it had not have been carried out then they would have questioned the fact that residents were not asked about the matter! - Total hypocrisy. Another fact stated was that the RA Councillors wanted to stay in their positions - FALSE - Community Councillors are voluntary unpaid positions and anyone can become one.

CARE HOME PLANNING APPLICATION

A planning application has been submitted for a 70 bed care home with vehicular access along its' western boundary leading onto Chertsey Lane. **Planning Application 26/00002/FUL**

The local residents who live in Oak Glade along Cuddington Glade have sent numerous objections to this oversized development.

Councillor Steve Bridger has been in contact with residents and if required will "call" this application in so that it can be put forward to be heard by the planning committee and not approved by officers

using their delegated powers. He is also willing to speak for 3 minutes as a member of the public to speak against this monstrosity along with other residents (so far over 150 objections have been submitted).

Taking into consideration the height alone would overshadow the properties in Oak Glade with the third floor windows looking into the gardens and rooms - not ideal for privacy. This is also totally out of character for this residential area with most of the surrounding properties being only 2 storeys high. Do we need another care home?



The proposed planning application of "Oak Glade" and artist's impression

Join Our Team
If you have any local issues then contact us by emailing sb@stamfordandhortonra.org.uk or sm@stamfordandhortonra.org.uk
Why not become a member of SHoRA? **The annual subscription is £5.00**
Scan the QR code to subscribe by card

COVID BENCHES

For the last 5 years Councillor Steve Bridger has visited the Covid memorial benches in Stamford Ward and placed a tribute for those family members and friends in the Borough who were sadly lost during and after the pandemic.



This year the tributes were laid on Sunday 8th March.

There are 2 locations - one at the Dorking Road and Wells Road junction and the other near to the Stew Ponds next to one of the footpaths on a dedicated bench.

ALL WORDS AND NO ACTION

Our MP stated that (amongst all the other words) the motorcycles outside McDonalds and the Epsom Square would be sorted out - they haven't!

This is not just a problem within Epsom but in all towns in the surrounding area. After suggestions and meetings by your RA then it was decided that 2 of the reserved spaces to the side of the Town Hall would be for the delivery drivers' bikes. This was marked up "M/C" last December.



Unfortunately the Police and Surrey CC have not enforced the restrictions on a regular basis with the pavement continually filled with the delivery bikes making it extremely hard for pedestrians to navigate the pavement, especially if you are disabled. Our 2 local RA County Councillors are continually speaking to SCC about the issue and will continue to do so until the matter is resolved.

LIB-DEMS LOSE ANOTHER COUNCILLOR IN EEBC

Another Lib-Dem Councillor has resigned from the party and written a damning letter describing his reasons (extracts from his letter of resignation):

"... I have been disappointed with our Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament who seems more interested in leafletting and electioneering..."

"... concerned by her ability to alienate volunteers who freely give up their time..."

"... I now feel a sense of guilt at having played a role in enabling her to be elected..."

Obviously he feels like many local residents with panic setting in - they are afraid of the outcome of the elections!

It goes to show that by sending out leaflets stating loads of facts does not mean that anything is being done - **words cannot beat actions - Your RA always acts on its' words.**

A VOTE FOR A POLITICAL PARTY IS A WASTED VOTE.. ONLY YOUR RA CANDIDATES KNOW YOUR LOCAL AREA

Published by Steven John McCormick, 4a Woodcote Hall, Epsom, KT18 7QQ on behalf of Residents Associations of Epsom and Ewell, 63 Holmwood Road, Cheam Surrey SM2 7JP. Printed by Tradeprint 2 Fulton Road Dundee DD2 4SW

Residents Associations RA EPSOM AND EWELL
STAMFORD & HORTON WARDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2026
stamfordandhortonra.org.uk
epsomwestra.com
AGM Notice
Changes to your RA
Local Elections - 7th May
Wells Road Bridge Update
Care Home Planning Application
Devolution - What is means for you

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
At the Cricketers Pub, Stamford Green (downstairs area)
on
Tuesday 2nd June 2026
Commencing 7:30pm
Your RA Borough Councillor will be present to answer any questions
All are welcome... Only paid-up members can vote on issues arising and the selection of Committee members

MOVING FORWARD: Changes to your RA this year!

With the changes in 2027 when Epsom & Ewell Borough Council ceases to exist and is amalgamated within East Surrey Council, the decision has been made to join with the current **Town and Court Wards** as we become the **Epsom West Division** of East Surrey. (see article on following pages)

You will notice in future newsletters that we will be spreading over a wider area with our news. We have a new website <https://epsomwestra.com> containing the election details about our candidates along with our ShoRA website, <https://stamfordandhortonra.org.uk>.

At present Town Ward has 3 RA Borough Councillors, Stamford 1, Court is part of Court Ward (Labour) and Horton has 2 Councillors. Your RA Councillors will continue to be business as usual and work tirelessly for you, the residents, until 31st March 2027 when the 2 elected shadow Councillors will take over.

You will see both the logos moving forward on the new newsletters and then a completely new one for the Epsom West area (we are working on the new design). Please look out for your candidates who will be out and about in the near future and will be pleased to answer any questions that you may have for them!



Stamford and Horton Wards



Town and Court Wards



We are pleased to introduce your Residents' Association candidates for the new Town & Downs division:

Christine Cleveland
Scott Marshall

YOUR RESIDENT LED, RESIDENT FOCUSED, WEST SURREY UNITARY CANDIDATES



MEET YOUR EPSOM WEST RA CANDIDATES

LOCAL POLITICS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Residents' Association Candidates – Working for Epsom West



Scott Marshall



Christine Cleveland

Visit our new website <https://epsomwestra.com> for all the details about your RA candidates in these important elections which have been forced upon us.



Your candidates were interviewed and selected by a panel for their suitability in these elections and how they would continue the good work that the RA has done over the last 89 years running the Council - this is a fantastic achievement and one that we can all be proud of.

Epsom and Ewell is unique in the UK as being the **only** Council that has continuously been run **by the Residents for the Residents** since the Borough was formed in 1937.

PASSING ON THE RA BATON

Current Borough Councillor Steve Bridger (RA, Stamford Ward) was first elected in 2015 after taking early retirement and was keen to work in keeping the area he has lived for over 60 years a pleasant place to live, work and enjoy.

This he has achieved by assisting in some extremely varied and interesting issues that have arisen over the years with a positive outcome in almost all cases.

Between May 2024 and May 2025 he stepped up to become the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, which is the highest acclaim to achieve, all this whilst still continuing to serve his local residents.

Steve fully endorses both Christine and Scott as East Surrey Councillors - they both appreciate

this fantastic green area that we live in, have numerous contacts and above all care for their Residents and what makes a great community. **This is not how the political parties work!** I know that if elected Christine and Scott will continue to listen to Residents and be your local voice to keep **Local Politics Local without National Politics**.

I will always be available to assist either of them in their roles as your Epsom West Councillors and I wish them every success for the future. I know that you will be in safe hands!

Steve will not be standing for re-election in the elections in 2027 having served the area for 12 years - time for younger blood to take this Borough forward into the future!

Langley Vale Planning Application turned down by RA Councillors

At the last planning meeting in February an application was discussed regarding the Green Belt site at Langley Vale with a proposed 110 houses. The officers put forward that the plans should be approved, however.... **All** the **Residents' Association Councillors** and the Cons. voted against the plan but the Lib-Dem and Labour parties abstained - do they care about the green spaces? - seems not!

Only the Residents Association and its Councillors can be relied on to listen to local residents and continue to protect our valuable Green Spaces

Local Government WITHOUT National Politics!

Devolution & Local Government: What it means for Surrey, East & West

1) The national picture: devolution and unitary councils

Over the past year, the UK Government has pushed a major programme to simplify local government in England, replacing remaining two-tier areas (county + district/borough) with single-tier "unitary" councils and, in many places, creating mayor-led strategic authorities with devolved powers over transport, housing, skills and growth. The **English Devolution White Paper (16 Dec 2024)** and subsequent guidance set the direction and criteria (including a strong preference for unitary councils serving ~500,000+ people), alongside an accelerated timetable in some areas.

2) Surrey: from proposals... to a decision for East and West

In early 2025, government invited all Surrey councils to submit proposals for local government reorganisation. Two alternative maps went to consultation on 9 May 2025:

- **Two unitary councils (preferred by Surrey County Council):** Elmbridge, Mole Valley: East Surrey (Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge) and West Surrey (Guildford, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley, Woking).
- **Three unitary councils (preferred by eight districts/boroughs including Epsom & Ewell):** **East Surrey:** Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge); **North Surrey:** (Elmbridge, Runnymede, Spelthorne); **West Surrey:** (Guildford, Surrey Heath, Waverley, Woking).

On 28 October 2025, ministers decided to implement the two-unitary option, creating East Surrey Council and West Surrey Council, with elections to be held in May 2026 and the new councils taking over on 1 April 2027 (abolishing the county and the 11 districts/boroughs at that point). Government cited financial sustainability and population-size criteria in choosing the two-unitary model.

That decision did not adopt the three-unitary preference put forward by Epsom & Ewell and other districts, even though the three-unitary case emphasised closer alignment with local identities and economic geographies. The announcement also confirmed exceptional government support to stabilise Woking Borough Council's finances, given the council's high legacy debt before integration into West Surrey.

Before the change: who did what?

Surrey has operated under a two-tier local government system since 1974, when the Local Government Act 1972 reorganised councils across England and Wales, and continue until the proposed changes are in place.

Surrey operates a two-tier system:

- **Surrey County Council:** Responsible for strategic and county-wide services, including: Education (schools, admissions, special educational needs), Social care (adult and children's services), Highways and transport (major roads, traffic management), Libraries, Trading standards, Waste disposal (*not collection*), Public health, Fire and rescue service
- **Epsom & Ewell Borough Council :** Delivered local services, such as: Housing (social housing, homelessness prevention), Planning and development control, EEBC controlled roads and car parks, Waste collection and recycling, Environmental health, Leisure and parks, Council tax and business rates collection.

This division often meant residents dealt with two councils for different services, which is what the new unitary model aims to simplify: one council for everything.

3) What to expect now: arrangements, services, and the timeline to 7 May 2026

The statutory timetable (Surrey):

- **7 May 2026:** Elections to the new shadow unitary councils (East Surrey, West Surrey). Elected members then lead the transition (budgets, service transfer plans, constitution) through 2026–27.
- **1 April 2027:** Go-live — East Surrey and West Surrey formally take over all local government services (social care, children's services, highways, planning, waste, etc.). Existing county/district/borough councils are abolished.
- **Mayoral devolution (Surrey):** Surrey's plan references a future Mayoral Strategic Authority for the county footprint, but mayoral timing is expected after the unitary go-live (spring 2027/28), subject to further agreement and legislation.

Day-to-day services during transition: Government and sector bodies stress that services continue as normal while the transition work happens in the background, with detailed implementation and "shadow" arrangements to minimise disruption — especially in complex county-wide services like adult social care and children's services.

How the geography splits:

- East Surrey to cover Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge.
- West Surrey to cover Guildford, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley, Woking.

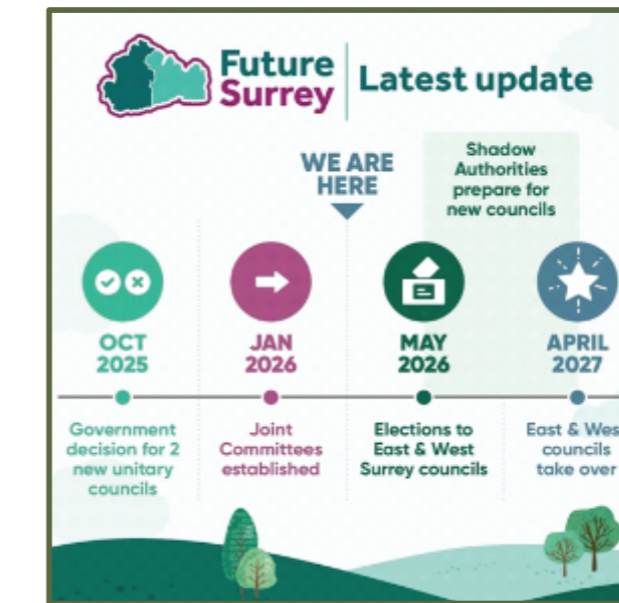
Whilst East Surrey and the dissolution of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council may well reduce public service costs to local households from 2028/29 (as forecast) whilst also simply local government — there remain lots of details to work through to ensure that services that affect our local area are better than before devolution.

The Residents' Association will continue to work hard to make sure that matters important to local people get the priority and a suitable level of scrutiny.

Our Residents' Association candidates for Epsom West have now been selected and are ready to be elected on 7th May 2026

East Surrey Council will be in charge of local services from 1 April 2027

On 7th May 2026, residents will elect councillors for Surrey's new East and West unitary councils. These councillors will be elected for a five-year term, rather than the standard four years. This is because the newly-elected councillors do not immediately take on full decision-making powers. Instead, they will spend the period from May 2026 until April 2027



working as 'shadow authorities'. The role of the shadow authority is preparing the new councils, so they are legally, organisationally and practically ready to operate when they form on 1 April 2027 — known as vesting day.



The shadow authorities will appoint the new councils' statutory officers — including the chief executive, set up governance arrangements, confirm allowances and expenses, establish meeting structures, and oversee the development of operational policies and processes. They can only make decisions about how the new councils will function after Vesting Day, as any decisions about running current services remains with the existing county, district and borough councils.

Due to the amount of work to be done before vesting day, the existing Surrey councils are working together through voluntary

joint committees. These committees are preparing early recommendations and groundwork — such as draft constitutions and governance frameworks. The joint committees will end after the election in May, and the shadow authorities will then formally consider their recommendations.

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE: Shaping Epsom & Ewells' Future

As we move through March 2026, the Epsom & Ewell Local Plan—the blueprint for the borough's development until 2040—is at a critical juncture. Following a period of intense public scrutiny and a series of "Examination in Public" hearings held throughout late 2025, the focus has shifted to the fine details of "soundness" and legal compliance.

Where Are We Now?

The plan was formally submitted for examination exactly one year ago, on March 10, 2025. Since then, a government-appointed Planning Inspector has been reviewing every policy, from housing targets to Green Belt protections.

Recent weeks have seen significant movement. Following the conclusion of the main hearing sessions, the Inspector identified areas where further evidence was required. Most recently, on March 3, 2026, the Programme Officer confirmed that the Council is preparing additional evidence—specifically regarding the Green Belt Topic Paper and housing delivery—to address concerns raised during the hearings. This new evidence is expected to be published this month.

Next Steps and Timeline

The road to final adoption is now clearly mapped out, though it remains subject to the Inspector's satisfaction:

Late March/April 2026: Publication of additional evidence and a likely further targeted public consultation on these specific updates.

Summer 2026: Possible "additional hearing sessions" if the Inspector deems them necessary to discuss the new evidence.

Autumn 2026: Publication of "Main Modifications." These are the formal changes the Inspector requires to make the plan legal and "sound." This will trigger a final six-week statutory public consultation.

Late 2026 / Early 2027: The Inspector issues the final report. If favourable, the Borough Council will vote to formally adopt the Local Plan.

With the Borough set to transition into a new East Surrey unitary authority in 2027, finalising this plan now is essential to ensure our local priorities—and our Green Belt—are protected under a bespoke local framework.