

Then...



Now...



1934

Epsom Town Hall

2026

Epsom Town Hall

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Annual Report

2025/26

For 1 April 25 to 31 March 26



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Introduction:

Epsom and Ewell

This final Annual Report for 2025/26 reflects both a year of continued delivery for residents and a moment of transition for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.

As we approach the end of the council’s 90-year history, it is an opportunity to celebrate the borough’s rich heritage, acknowledge the achievements of the past year, and recognise the people—staff, councillors, partners and volunteers—who have shaped our community.

Together, these pages offer a snapshot of a borough that remains vibrant, resilient and firmly focused on supporting its residents, now and into the future.

About Epsom and Ewell

The borough of Epsom and Ewell lies on the spring line on the north face of the North Downs where pervious chalk meets impervious London clay, and a series of

springs form – including the springs which form the Hogsmill River – a local nature reserve.

The oldest settlement in the area is Ewell. It was a stopping place along Stane Street, a Roman road which connected London and Chichester. Archaeological evidence of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Saxon activity has been found in Ewell. Today, Ewell remains a vibrant and historic village centre, known for its green spaces, strong community and distinctive character.

Epsom developed into a town during the 17th century after the discovery of mineral-rich springs, whose waters—later known as Epsom Salts—attracted visitors seeking health benefits. Its

popularity as a spa town and the establishment of the Epsom Derby horse race helped put Epsom on the global map, and has helped shape the town to the one we know and love today.

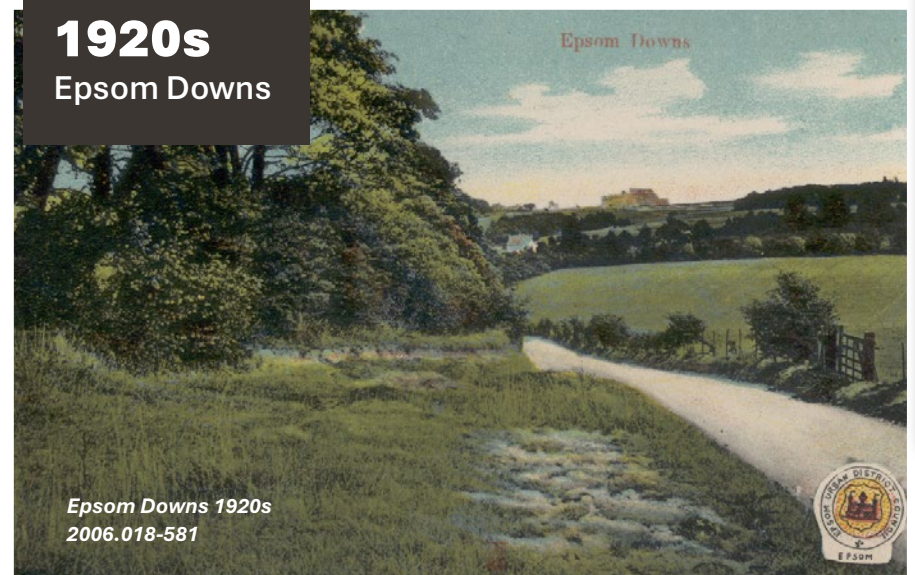
Today, Epsom and Ewell is the smallest and most densely populated borough in Surrey, occupying just 13 square miles with 42% categorised as greenbelt. Our population is growing; according to the 2021 Census between 2011 and 2021 our population increased by 7.7%, which is around 5,800 more residents, to nearly 80,900.

For our final annual report – the following pages show a brief timeline of notable events in our borough over the last 90 years.



Epsom and Ewell timeline

1920s Epsom Downs



Elizabeth II Derby Day 1965
2022.012-013



1965 Queen Elizabeth II and the Queen Mother at Epsom Derby

Message from

Councillor
Hannah Dalton



Leader of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, Chair of the Surrey Leaders Group and Vice Chair of The District Council's Network (DCN) for the Independent Group.

This year marks the final chapter for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. In April 2027, we will join the new East Surrey unitary authority, bringing about the most significant change to our local governance in half a century.

This transition also means this will be the last Epsom and Ewell Residents' Association administration. The Residents' Association has served our borough for almost 90 years. What was true then remains true today and lies at the heart of everything we do: we are local people, without a political party agenda, representing local people and making local decisions about local issues.

While I look toward this change with a degree of sadness, my colleagues and I are—and always will be—immensely proud to be part of that 90-year legacy.

We are handing over a council area that is in a strong financial position and robustly prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

Did you know

When Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is dissolved on Vesting Day in April 2027, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council will have been Residents' Association-led for 90 years.

- As of 2023, EEBC is one of only two district councils in England (along with Uttlesford in Essex) to be Residents' Association controlled.
- Over 90 years, the well-organised and robust tradition of RAs in Epsom and Ewell has provided an alternative to political parties.

Epsom and Ewell timeline

1937

The Borough Arms were granted. Designed by the Reverend. E. E. Dorling, a local archaeologist, historian, and writer on heraldry

The green and white background symbolises the grass and chalk of the Downs; the two horses' heads reflect Epsom's long association

with horse racing; and the blue waves represent local wells and the spring at Ewell. The motto 'None Such' refers to Nonsuch Palace – a Tudor royal palace, commissioned by Henry VIII which was built in Nonsuch Park, work beginning in 1538.

Nonsuch Palace was pulled down in 1682-3 by Barbara, Countess of Castlemaine, mistress to Charles II, selling off building materials to pay for her gambling debts.

Charter souvenir
1991.182-031



BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL
CHARTER SOUVENIR
1937

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Message from

Jackie King

Thank you



Chief Executive of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.

It has been an honour to serve as Chief Executive of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (EEBC) over the past few years, and especially during this final year in the council's history.

As an Epsom and Ewell resident, while I look forward to seeing how the next chapter of local government unfolds, I feel a sense of sadness that from 1 April 2027, EEBC will no longer exist. I am very proud of the council's achievements, and it is important that we take a moment to reflect on them. I'm deeply grateful to all the officers at EEBC who deliver the services that help keep residents in Epsom and Ewell safe and well. The achievements outlined in this report provide a snapshot of the council's work over the past year, along with a selection of notable moments from the last 90 years – the length of time that EEBC has existed.

The tireless commitment of officers over that time has supported all our residents, particularly those most vulnerable, helping to create a dynamic borough with outstanding green spaces, a thriving economy, and a strong community.

I would like to take a moment to recognise the invaluable contribution of our community's volunteers.

During my time as Chief

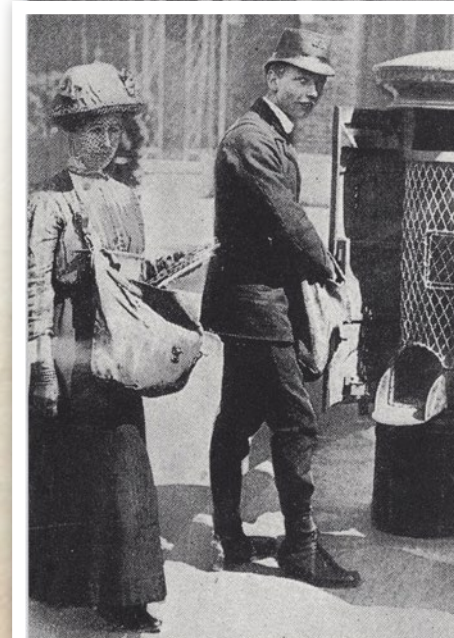
Executive, I have been fortunate to meet many people across the borough who volunteer in a wide variety of roles.

There are many wonderful voluntary organisations in our borough, supporting our most vulnerable residents: through local food banks; providing English language classes and support for our refugee community; caring for our green spaces; organising litter-picking initiatives; offering mental health support; and much more. Each plays a vital role, and together they help make our community strong.

I would also like to thank the staff at Bourne Hall Museum for their work in compiling the historical information included in this report. Since 1969, the Museum has

been collecting artefacts, photographs and memories of Epsom and Ewell, preserving a rich archive of material that brings the history of our area to life.

Finally, my thanks also go to the hundreds of councillors who have served Epsom & Ewell Borough Council over the last almost 90 years. Their leadership has helped shape our borough and the thriving community we are part of today – one that is fit for the future. Thank you all for your service.



Nora Willis letter carrier
1915.OP 1427



Cllr Nora Willis
1937.OP 2216

Epsom and Ewell timeline

1937

On Charter Day, Nora Willis and Annie Winter were the only two female councillors

Nora was the country's first female letter carrier (starting on Monday 14th June 1915). She was elected for Stamford Ward, 1928-40. Annie was the borough's first female Mayor, 1951-52.

Epsom and Ewell

timeline

1933

The Urban District of Epsom was extended

To include parts of Cuddington, Ewell, parts of Surbiton, Sutton, Cheam, and Walton-on-the-Hill.

Charter handover
1990.024-102



1934

Renamed The Urban District of Epsom and Ewell

1936

The Urban District of Epsom and Ewell petitioned the King for a Charter of Incorporation

Hoping to secure more administrative powers.

1937

The Charter of Incorporation was granted on 11th September, creating the Borough of Epsom and Ewell

There were only two female Councillors
(see page 3)

The Borough Arms were granted (see page 4)

Nonsuch Park opened to the public on 29th September, Charter Day



Charter handover ceremony
1990.024-100

1937

The Charter presented to the Charter Mayor, James Chuter Ede, on Charter Day

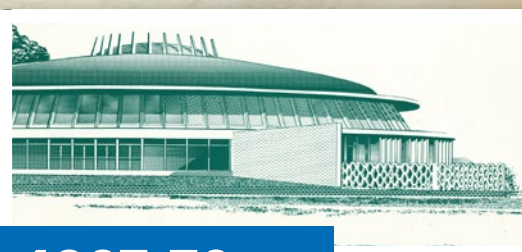
1939-1945

(during World War II)

The council created:

- Eight air raid shelters
- Four restaurants to feed people in need
- 'Holidays at Home' to keep up morale

(see page 24)



1967-70

Bourne Hall is built

(see page 26)

1974

Establishment of Horton Country Park



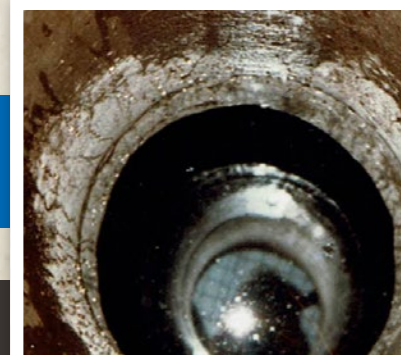
Horton
County Park
1991 GP 5235

1979

Restoration of the great pond on Epsom Common

1983

Opening of Epsom Playhouse



Inside the Old Well
1986 GP 9168

1989

Old well restoration

The well marks the birthplace of Epsom's wellness and spa traditions (one of the world's oldest) and the origin of Epsom Salts.

Town Twinning
1996 GP 9674



1995-6

Epsom twinned with the town of Chantilly, France

A ceremony was held in Chantilly in 1995 and another in Epsom in March 1996. Both towns are world renowned horse race training centres and while Epsom is home to the 'original' Derby, Chantilly hosts the 'French Derby', the Prix du Jockey Club.

2012

Seven recreational spaces in Epsom and Ewell were given Queen Elizabeth II Fields status
(see page 17)



2020-2023

The council supported residents and businesses throughout the COVID 19 pandemic

Maintaining key service levels. For example, making grants of over £11m to local businesses.



1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

Epsom and Ewell's

Mayors

James Chuter Ede was the borough's first Charter Mayor, chosen as prospective Mayor for the new borough because he was the only member who could date his service to as early as 1908.

The borough's first elected mayor was John Samuel Underhill who was elected as the first Mayor of EEBC in November 1937. After he died, in March 1938, Deputy Mayor Charles Joseph Shaw took over for the rest of the term and was later elected Mayor in 1940.

There have been 89 mayors in Epsom and Ewell since James Chuter Ede over 92 years: three people served more than once: Charles Joseph Shaw (in 1938, 1940), Albert Willoughby Gardner (in 1957, 1959) and William John Clark (in 1956, 1974).

Annie Winter was the borough's first female Mayor (1951-52) shown here (bottom, left) at the proclamation of the accession of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, outside the Town Hall, 8th February 1952.

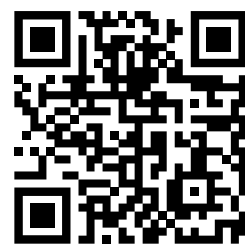


Our final Mayor is Councillor Lucie McIntyre (above) who was born and raised in Epsom. From a young age, Lucie was inspired by her father (Councillor Neil Dallen, MBE) and his commitment to helping others, which shaped her own desire to serve the community.

Lucie was elected as one of the youngest councillors in the borough's history in 2011. Throughout her time as a councillor, she has focused on supporting residents and families in need, with a particular commitment to ensuring vulnerable members of the community receive the help and representation they deserve.

"I got involved with my local Residents Association over a parking issue and was referred to the RA Surrey County Councillor for the division. I successfully engaged with other residents in the road and got the parking restrictions we so desperately needed. Later that year the RA approached me and asked if I would stand as a borough councillor as I had shown a community spirit in getting things done in my local area. I did, and back in 2003 I was elected to EEBC. I was fortunate enough to be elected Mayor of the borough in 2019/20 which was very fulfilling. Although unfortunately my mayoral year was cut short by two months due to the Covid 19 outbreak, I would say that this was my proudest moment in my council career."

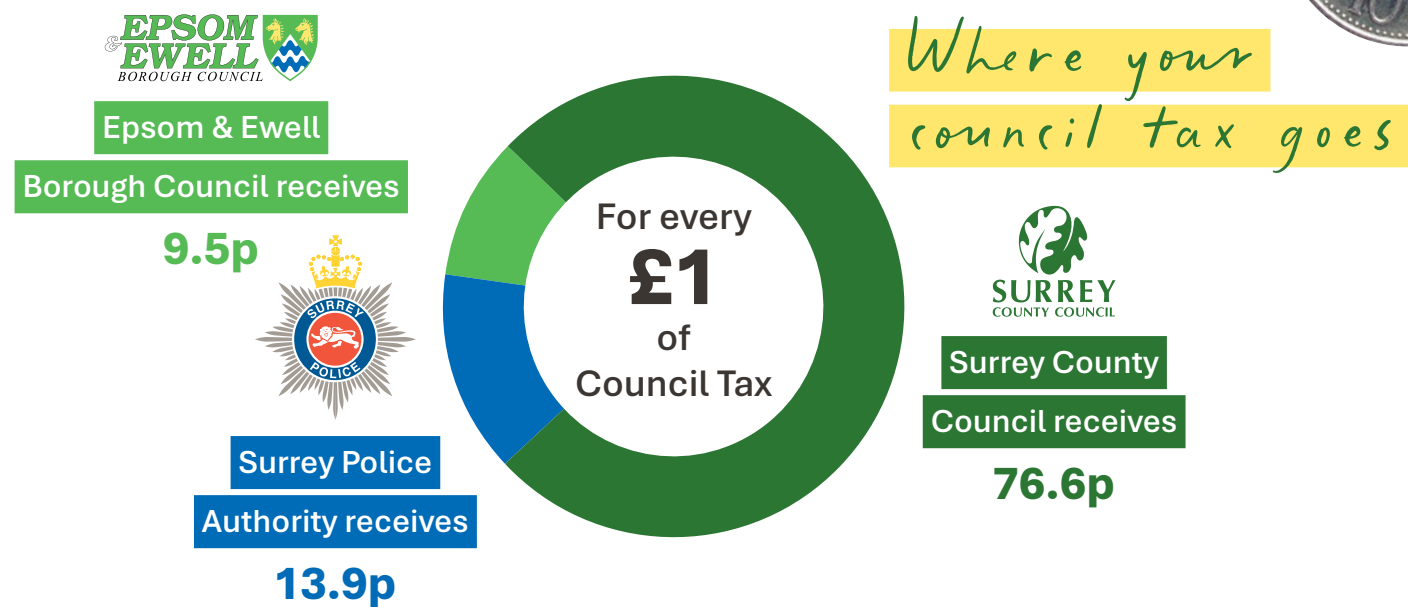
Councillor John Beckett, Mayor in 2019/20



Visit epsom-ewell.gov.uk/past-mayors to see all of EEBC's past mayors

Our finances

We are required by law to set a balanced budget each year and ensure we deliver services in a cost-effective way.



Council Tax (Band D property)	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2026/2027 share
Surrey County Council	£1,758.6	£1,846.35	£1,938.42	76.6%
Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner	£232.57	£337.57	£352.57	13.9%
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council	£226.17	£232.92	£239.85	9.5%
Total	£2,217.34	£2,416.84	£2,530.84	100.0%

Our annual revenue spend, gross, is approx. £50m each year. Approx. £40m is funded via the council's commercial activities, fees and charges for certain services and other income. The remaining £10m, net budget, is funded by business rates, government grants and council tax. Nearly 80% of the net budget is funded by council tax.

Council tax for our borough remains below the average for Surrey and we collect it on behalf of Surrey County Council, Surrey Police Authority, and ourselves.

Of the overall council tax paid by residents, EEBC receives just roughly 9.5%, Surrey Police receive 13.9%, and 76.6% funds Surrey County Council activities.

Therefore, the council needs to ensure that services are delivered in a cost-effective way, which meets the needs of our residents but at a price the council can afford.

In February 2026 the council once again set a balanced budget for 2026/27 without cuts in services and was much less reliant on council reserves.

At a time of major cuts in services and funding cuts across the country, the council has maintained a strong financial position, supported by the Fair Funding Review. This has ensured that at a time of inflationary pressures and the increasing demands of homelessness provisions the council has been able to set a balanced budget without cuts to key services.



Mayor Larby on carousel 1943
1997.121-012



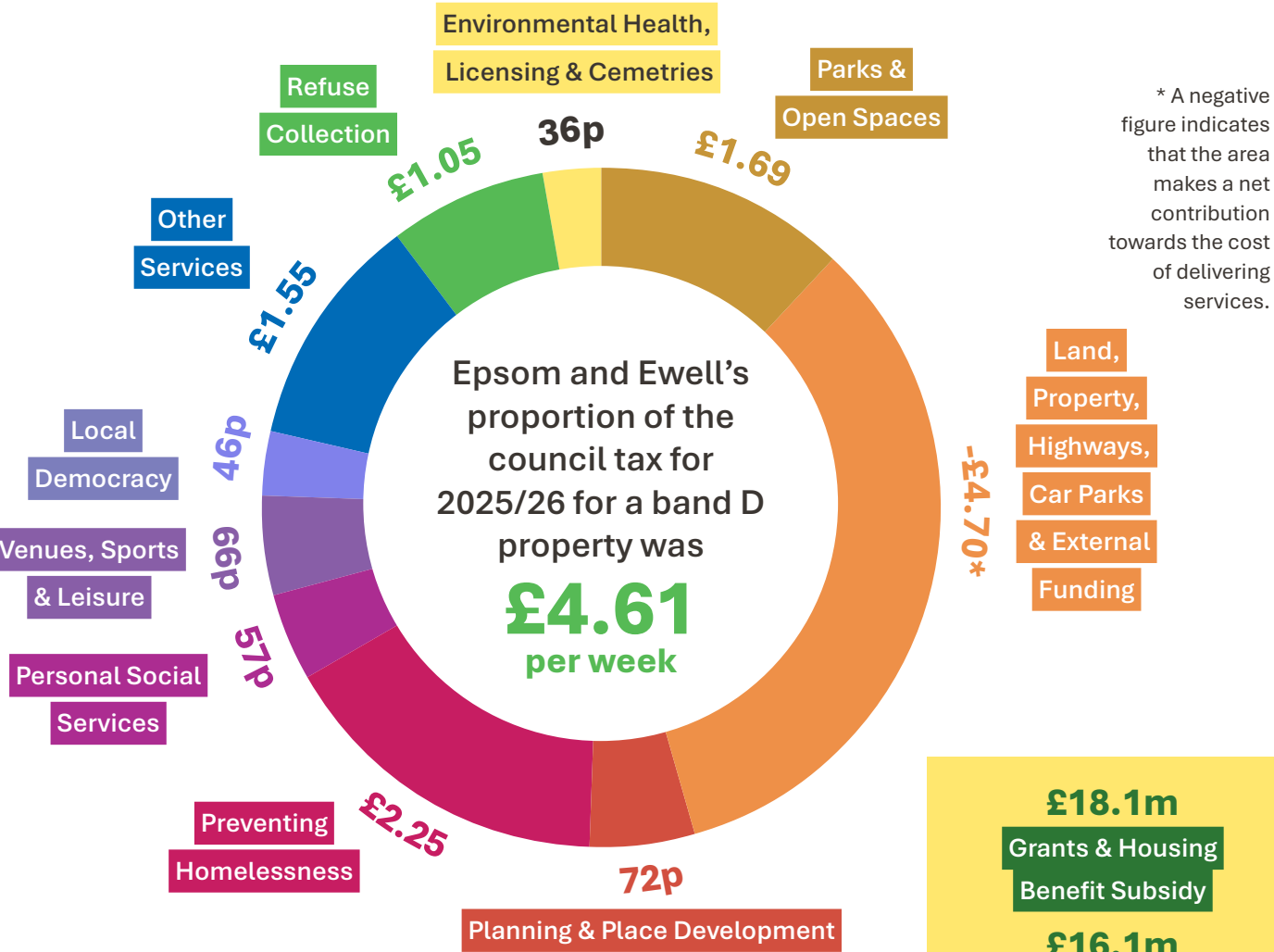
Mayor Annie Winter
1952.OP 7939 from
2024.058-001

The 9.5% of council tax that EEBC receives allows us to deliver a wide range of services for residents including: waste and recycling collections, tending to the borough's green

spaces, supporting people facing homelessness, licensing, planning and development, managing car parks, environmental enforcement, community outreach services

and running and maintaining venues such as the Community and Wellbeing Centre for people aged 55+, community venue Bourne Hall and Epsom Playhouse Theatre.

How your money was spent delivering key services in Epsom and Ewell in 2026/27:



Where Epsom & Ewell Borough Council gets its money from:

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is funded by five separate income streams and with this income the council must fulfil its statutory

duties as well as deliver the council's priorities. 2026/27 income is expected to be around £51.5 million.

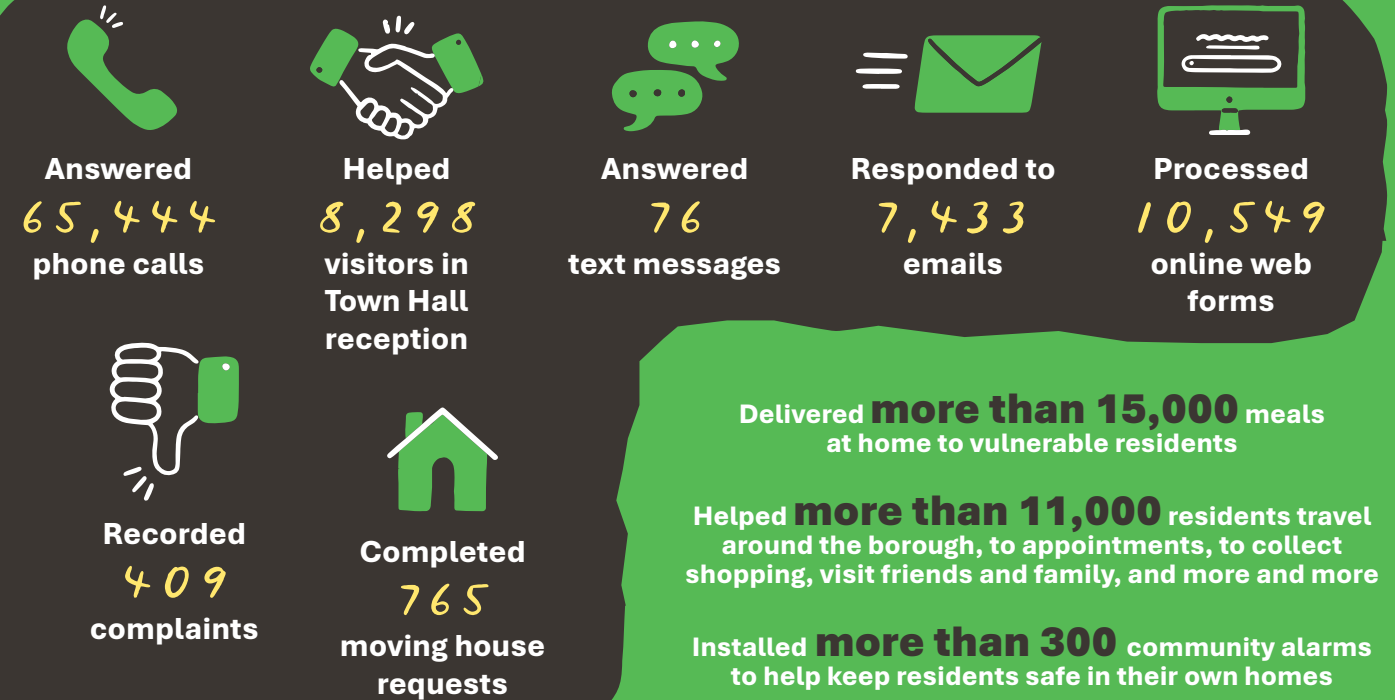


Epsom and Ewell Services

We carry out a wide range of services for our residents and businesses in Epsom and Ewell, and work in partnership with other councils, Go Epsom and services such as Epsom and Ewell Safer Neighbourhood Team within Surrey Police, and Surrey Fire and Rescue, to improve life for Epsom and Ewell residents.

Prevented more than **525** households from becoming homeless

In 2025/26, we:



Managed over **80** sports, recreation and entertainment facilities and venues

Published more than **1,850** posts on social media which had over **2.4 million** impressions (number of times it was shown on someone's screen)

Issued **55** media releases

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, on average, we reached* around **4,220** people each day on our social media accounts.

*organic reach - this does not include posts that we paid to boost

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Report

We are committed to ensuring that everyone can access our services and share in our achievements, and that we make the best possible use of the wide range of talent available to us.

Together with our residents and partners we work to build a culture of respect for everyone in our borough to achieve a strong, modern and fair society.



Our aim is to eliminate discrimination, further equality of opportunity and promote good relations between the diverse groups in our community.

Our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Annual Report 2025/2026 can be found on our website: [DEI Annual Report 2025-26](#)



Flag being flown in the marketplace during Pride



Democratic Services

Number of elections and referenda organised
(East Surrey Shadow Authority and Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Plan Referendum)

2

Number of council meetings organised
(April 25-March 26)

59

Number of reports considered by council and committees
(April 25-March 26)

539

Planning

In 2025/26, the number of planning decisions that the planning department processed remained steady compared to the previous year, with more than 1500 decisions made across all application types.

Processing times remained excellent, with about 94% of all applications determined within the statutory timeframe of 8-13 weeks, including 100% of all major or larger applications.

Significant applications presented to the Planning Committee during the year included the approval of the redevelopment of the former SGN gasworks in the Epsom Town Centre for 456 dwellings across five residential towers of 8-12 storeys, alongside public open space and access roads. An outline scheme for 110 dwellings at Langley Bottom was also refused, with officers presenting with professionalism against a backdrop of significant resident and political interest.

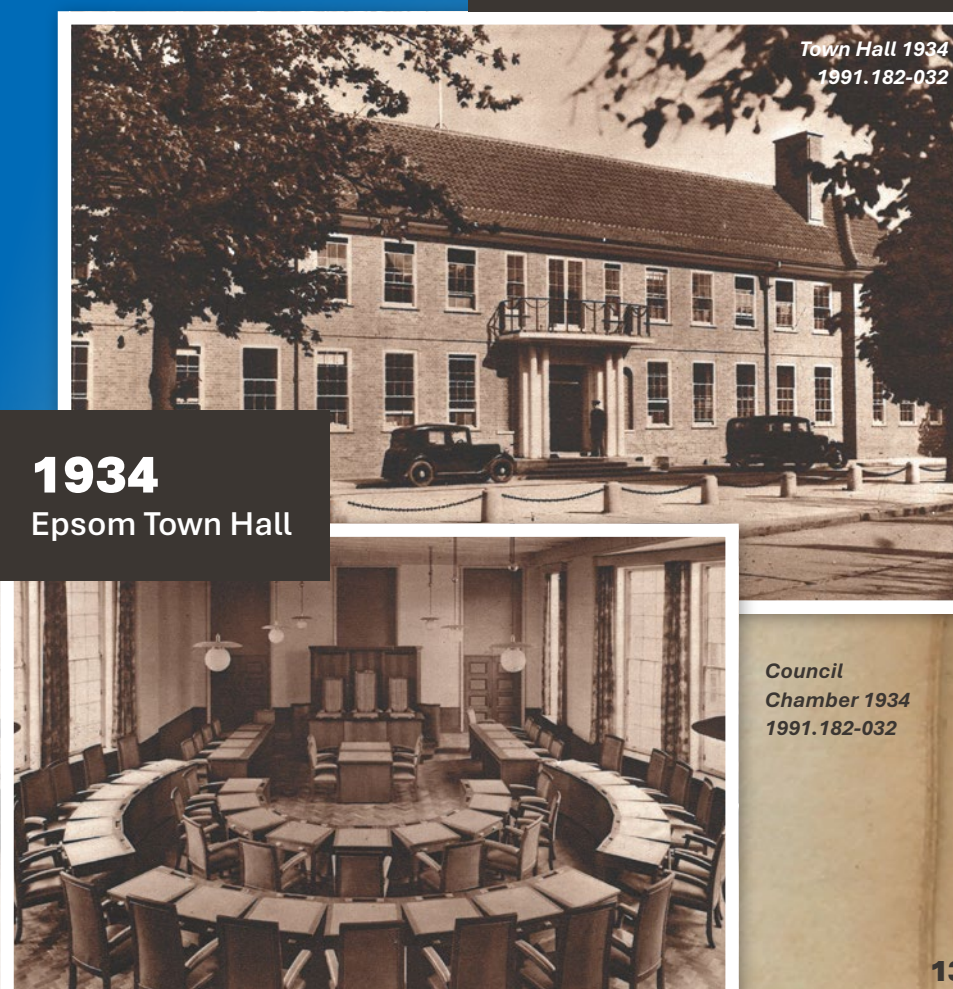
In the area of planning enforcement, 271 cases were received from the public which is above the historic average. There were also 275 closures, resulting in a slight downturn in cases across the year, maintaining good progress made the previous year. There remains a concerted drive to reduce this number further. Areas of improvement, first identified in a November 2023 audit, were addressed and found to be satisfactorily addressed in the July 2025 follow up audit. There were also favourable audits into fees and charges and Tree Preservation Orders.

The Department's appeal record is commendable - well up on last year and well above any level of designation threat. 87% of the total decisions referred to the Planning Inspectorate in 2025/26 were dismissed (up from 73% the previous year). This included two applications for costs and three appeals against enforcement notices being dismissed.

Demand for the fast-track planning service, first introduced in 2024, continues to grow. Work also continues on the back of house operating system PlanX,

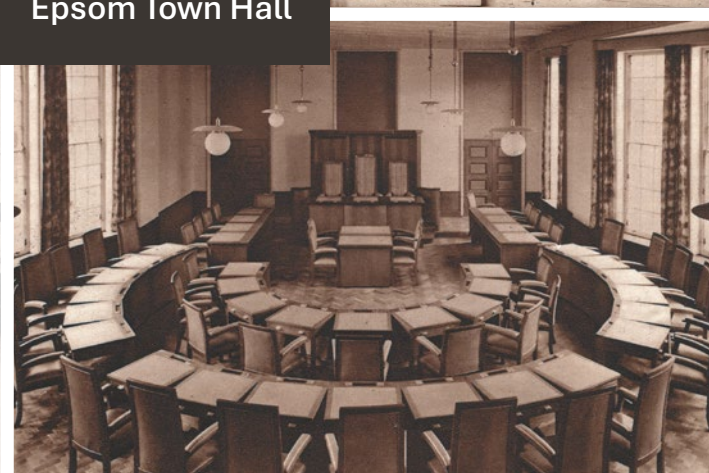
which has enabled residents to submit tree works applications directly via the council's website, alongside user friendly tools for planning and enforcement matters. It is anticipated that the service will be expanded to include submission of planning applications directly to the Council. All of the council's tree preservation orders and historic planning applications have been recently digitised, providing a more efficient tool to review past decisions.

Epsom and Ewell timeline



Town Hall 1934
1991.182-032

1934
Epsom Town Hall



Council Chamber 1934
1991.182-032

Community Infrastructure

Levy (CIL)

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allows local authorities to raise funds from new developments for infrastructure projects.

When new development takes place, it can place extra pressure on local services and facilities. The Community Infrastructure Levy enables councils to raise funds from development to be spent on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of local infrastructure.

CIL is proportioned and allocated using the following approach:

- 80%, known as the Strategic Allocation, is retained by the council to allocate to projects in accordance with the CIL Regulations and Infrastructure List
- 15%, known as the Neighbourhood Allocation, is retained by the council to allocate to projects identified by local community groups or councillors
- 5% is retained by the council to cover administrative costs.

For the area covered by the made Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Plan, a different funding split applies in accordance with our adopted CIL Spending Protocol.

For the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026; a total of £1,371,000 was allocated for four Strategic CIL funding projects following bids by infrastructure providers including:

- Ash Dieback Essential Safety Works and Treescape Restoration: tackling Ash Die Back disease and new tree planting in EEBC maintained public open spaces
- Surrey Police Automatic Number Plate Recognition system enhancements: funding for the additional installation of ANPR cameras in the borough
- Ruxley Lane, West Ewell, Road Safety Scheme – improvements to existing signalised junctions
- Improvements to playgrounds in Epsom and Ewell – improvements to 8 playgrounds on EEBC maintained open spaces.
- A total of **£236,800 was allocated for six Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) projects following bids by community groups and organisations. Projects to be funded from the Neighbourhood CIL include:**
 - 3rd Epsom Scouts Community Building – Renovation of a partially derelict building to provide modern, accessible facilities that can be used by the community.
- Lighting Improvements – Cattle Arch between Dewsbury Gardens and Worcester Park. The installation of permanent lighting to improve visibility, enhance public safety, and encourage greater use of the space by the community.
- Wheels for Epsom – The project is for a new and improved storage container, larger and insulated to protect bikes for a local charity that supports disabled people and people who would otherwise not be able to cycle, through providing fun and friendly activities
- Horton County Park Path Restoration – Restoration and improvement of the multi-used paths to ensure they are safe to use by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders
- The Library of Things – to install a permanent, secure storage unit at a suitable community site in Epsom and Ewell to enable the launch and long-term operation of a new community service: the Library of Things which is a sharing initiative for useful household items.
- Linden Bridge School – Road Safety Outside School Scheme – pedestrian accessibility and safety scheme for Linden Bridge School.



An update on the borough's

Local Plan

Recent examples of completed projects that have secured CIL funding include:

- A new 3G Astro Pitch including at Glyn School, an all-weather 3G facility which will enable football teams to train and compete throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions.
- New playgrounds in Roseberry Park, Bourne Hall, Alexandra Recreation Ground, Auriol Park and Clarendon Park.
- Step and obstacle free access to Stoneleigh Train Station through the national 'Access for All' station improvement programme.
- Reinstating the Horton Arts Centre gardens.

Our annual funding round for the 2026 Strategic and Neighbourhood CIL fund opened on Monday 9 March 2026 and closed at 23:59 on Sunday 17 May 2026.

Applications are assessed according to the CIL spending protocol and the council's Strategy and Resources Committee decide which projects receive funding.

In March 2025 we submitted the borough's Local Plan to Government for Public Examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

An Independent Inspector was appointed in April 2025 whose role is to consider whether the Plan meets the appropriate 'soundness' requirements and if it can be adopted. As part of this process, in July 2025 the Inspector issued a series of Matters, Issues and Questions (known as 'MIQs') for the council and participants to respond to. These MIQs and the responses formed the basis for the public examination hearings. The hearings were split into two stages:

- **Stage 1 – Legal Compliance and the Duty to Cooperate** held on the 28 August 2025.
- **Stage 2 – Soundness** – the Hearings were based on 12 specific matters and were held over 7 days between 30 September 2025 and 09 October 2025.

During the Stage 2 hearings, concerns were raised that the council is not doing enough to meet its housing needs through the submitted Local Plan: following the Stage 2 hearings the Planning Inspector requested that we undertake two additional

discrete pieces of work, one in relation to promoted Green Belt sites and the other in relation to whether any sites identified in the Land Availability Assessment (LAA), which were discounted for availability reasons can be considered to be developable. The Inspector formally set out the work to be undertaken in her letter dated 22 October 2025 with the council submitting this work to the Inspector on the 22 January 2026. Following the submission of this work, the Inspector requested further additional work be undertaken in relation to assessing the suitability of additional sites for potential allocation through the Local Plan. This work was progressed during the year.

"The submitted Local Plan provides less than 50% of the identified housing need within the borough which we considered to strike the balance of meeting development needs whilst protecting the borough's green spaces, heritage and character. However, the council has been instructed to undertake additional work to progress the plan through the examination stage towards adoption. We endeavour to continue to work towards the adoption of the borough's local plan, to ensure that in future, local people have a greater say on how our communities are developed, and that we are in a stronger position to defend against unsuitable speculative planning proposals in Epsom and Ewell."

Councillor Peter O'Donovan, Chair of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee

Environmental Health

1,700

Environmental Health cases managed



sustained improvement

in measured air quality – Ewell High Street Air Quality Management area was revoked



105

New registered food businesses



237

Food safety inspections carried out



1,500

licences issued to taxi drivers and vehicles



280

restaurants, bars and events licensed



Parks and green spaces



" Epsom and Ewell is a fantastic place to live, work and play – and that will be the legacy we hand over. Our stewardship of our green open spaces has been especially exemplary thanks to our Countryside Team while our venues have become real community hubs. It is one of the best places to live in the country and EEBC has played a big role in ensuring that is the case. "

Councillor Clive Woodbridge

Return of water voles to the Hogsmill River

On 30 July 2025, 50 water voles were re-introduced into the Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve. Water voles are one of the UK's fastest-declining mammals, having disappeared from 94% of their former range: their return to Surrey is both a symbolic and ecological milestone. The project – delivered in collaboration with South East Rivers Trust, Citizen Zoo, Natural England and the Environment Agency and volunteers – underpins the council's commitment to managing biodiversity and creating resilient ecosystems across the borough that support climate change.

In even better news – subsequent monitoring is indicating that a population is managing to establish itself which is a fantastic result.

This year, the Manor Open Space was designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance

Recognising the importance of this site in ensuring a green corridor between Horton Country Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Epsom Common LNR.

In Horton Country Park LNR we partnered with the Newt Conservation Trust to create two new ponds in a field called Emmett's Mead

We started preparatory work for the construction of several more ponds on both Horton Country Park LNR and Epsom Common LNR. Newts are a protected species; they contribute greatly to our ecosystem by helping soil fertility and reducing the risk of insect-borne diseases.

In Epsom Common LNR we partnered with the Epsom Common Association and Lower Mole Partnership to restore Ratcliff's Pond

We used funds left to the Epsom Common Association by a volunteer.

In July 2025 the Countryside Team organised and hosted a Recorders Day on Epsom Common LNR

Experts from across the county attended and helped improve our knowledge of the site's ecology.

In January 2026, the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators agreed that the Council – working with the Clerk of the Conservators – will oversee and manage the return of sheep grazing on Juniper Hill.

Historically, sheep grazing helped maintain the Epsom Downs' exceptional open chalk grassland – there was even a dedicated shepherd until 1925! Grazing was carried out on Juniper Hill as recently as the 90s and early 2000s and was successful in making a real difference to the habitat. Funding for the project is currently being confirmed.

Our volunteers

We couldn't care for the green spaces in Epsom and Ewell without local volunteers, who work tirelessly – providing around 8,800 volunteer hours each year. Volunteers are managed and supported by the EEBC Countryside Team, and the Lower Mole Partnership which helps manage day-to-day tasks as well as providing specialist skills and advice (tree felling, pond excavation, sign fabrication, volunteer training, and more).

Bourne Hall Lake 1990 Excavation 0161



Epsom and Ewell timeline

2012

Seven recreational spaces in Epsom and Ewell were given Queen Elizabeth II Fields status

Part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations – Court Recreation Ground, Gibraltar Recreation Ground, Rosebery Park, Shadbolt Park, Alexandra Recreation Ground, Chessington Road Recreation Ground, and Warren Recreation Ground – are protected.



Green Flag award
Epsom Common

Green
Flag

Award

In 2025, Epsom Common LNR was awarded the Green Flag again, for the 19th year.

" We are incredibly proud that Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve has received its nineteenth consecutive Green Flag Award! This is an outstanding achievement and a true testament to the dedication and hard work of our Countryside team, volunteers, and partners as they create and maintain habitats that help biodiversity to flourish. Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and as such it is important that we continue to protect and nurture its distinct habitats and wildlife for future generations to enjoy.

A huge thanks to our Countryside team, volunteers and partners for helping us make a difference to our green spaces, including the Epsom Common Association, the Lower Mole Partnership and Natural England. "

Councillor Liz Frost,
Chair of the Environment Committee



Climate Change Pledge

In 2025/26 we progressed the delivery of our second Climate Change Action Plan (2025-2029), continuing to work towards our target for our operations to be carbon neutral by 2035.

Did you know

The Council now has 287kWp of solar panels installed on its buildings. The solar power generated each year is more than the total electricity usage at both Bourne Hall and Epsom Playhouse.

Key achievements included:

- ✓ **Completing two building upgrade schemes to significantly improve energy efficiency**, replacing all the windows at Bourne Hall with double glazing and replacing all stage lighting at Epsom Playhouse with LEDs.
- ✓ **Launch of our Green Your Home Guide**, containing advice, ideas and support for residents making homes in Epsom and Ewell more energy efficient, healthier and more pleasant to live.
- ✓ **Revocation of Ewell High Street AQMA**, following a sustained and significant improvement in air quality.
- ✓ **Supporting the development of and then endorsing the Surrey Retrofit Strategic Action Plan**. The plans focus is to accelerate home retrofit, reduce fuel poverty and increase environmental sustainability in homes across Surrey.

Epsom and Ewell in Bloom

We're delighted that Nonsuch Park won two Gold Awards in the 2025 South & South East in Bloom Awards. Nonsuch Park was awarded Gold in both the Heritage Parks category and the Large Conservation Area category.

The Heritage Parks category showcases some of the region's most exquisite gardens that are open to the public. It celebrates these remarkable spaces not only for their unique qualities, but also for the dedicated individuals who care for and maintain them.

The Large Conservation Area category recognises parks and green spaces of more than 10 acres for their overall quality, including the management of natural features, wildlife habitats, visitor facilities and community involvement.

Congratulations to everyone who helps care for Nonsuch Park. Thank you for your dedication and hard work in ensuring these exceptional standards continue to be achieved.



Solar panels at
Bourne Hall



Elizabeth II opens Ashley Centre 1984
GP10352

1977 & 1984
Queen Elizabeth II visits Epsom

Epsom and Ewell timeline

Elizabeth II at Clock Tower
1977 OP 4581



Housing

The Housing Services Team are responsible for supporting residents who are in housing need, who are facing homelessness, or both.

Homelessness

2025/26 has been characterised by sustained and increasing demand across all housing services functions, particularly in relation to homelessness prevention and temporary accommodation.

A total of 623 homelessness approaches were received during the year, representing a significant increase compared to the previous year. Despite this rising demand, the service has maintained a strong focus on early intervention and prevention, achieving a combined total of 525 successful

prevention outcomes, including both statutory preventions and early advice interventions. This demonstrates that the enhanced service model we use, with a focus on early triage, prevention activity and timely move-on support, continues to mitigate the impact of increased demand.

Rough Sleeping

Rough sleeping levels remained comparatively low across the borough during 2025/26.

A small number of rough sleepers have been identified intermittently throughout the year, and these people have been supported by the East Surrey Outreach Service and our Single Persons' Housing Options Officer.



Housing Needs Register and Allocations

Demand for social and affordable housing continues to significantly exceed the available supply of properties, with the greatest pressures seen in family-sized accommodation.

During 2025/26, we received 377 new applications to the Housing Needs Register, bringing the total number of registered households to 1,541. Despite this sustained demand, the number of lettings remained limited, with only 97 social housing properties becoming available during the year.

Over half of these lettings were for either 1-bedroom or sheltered properties, with no four-bedroom properties becoming available. This reflects the ongoing constraints in the supply of social housing, particularly for family homes.



Home Improvement Agency

394

residents have been helped by our handyperson service

90

residents have been supported via our Disabled Facility Grants and discretionary grants

The aim at the heart of our Home Improvement Agency service is to support disabled, elderly and vulnerable residents so that they can continue to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Through a home assessment, our experienced team identifies practical solutions to help people live comfortably and safely, using a range of available grant assistance alongside our trusted handyperson service.

By addressing potential risks such as slips, trips and falls, the adaptations and repairs we carry out improve residents' confidence and safety within their home and play a vital role in preventing hospital admissions. The services we provide also help to reduce or delay the need for people to move into residential care.

Over the past year, the team has once again delivered strong results, supporting residents with a wide range of advice and practical assistance. This has included fitting handrails, installing stairlifts, creating wet rooms, and adapting homes to provide wheelchair-accessible spaces—each tailored to the individual needs.

Working in close partnership with the NHS and Surrey County Council, the team has focused on supporting the most vulnerable members of the community. This collaborative approach has supported safe and timely

hospital discharges, enabling residents to return home with the right adaptations in place.

The handyperson service has expanded considerably with an almost 80% increase in completed jobs, following extensive promotional work over the past two years.

We're very pleased that, through early intervention, partnership working and a strong focus on prevention, the service continues to make a meaningful difference—helping people remain safe, independent and at home for longer.

Ewell Court House 1930s
OP 0964

1930s
Ewell Court House

1958
Elizabeth II with Carrozza



Elizabeth II with
Carrozza at Oaks 1958 OP11979



Packhorse Bridge 1930s
OP 2656

1930s
Packhorse Bridge



Princess of Wales at Horton Hospital 1985
GP11275

1985
Princess Diana visits Horton Hospital

1955
Princess Margaret visits Epsom Hospital



Princess Margaret at Epsom Hospital 1955 OP
7423 from 2007.026-022

Community health and wellbeing

Our new Health and Wellbeing Strategy launched in July 2025, with aim of supporting the mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing of all our residents, with a particular focus on those impacted by the increased cost of living.

This year we've launched new programmes that provide targeted support for those who need it, to help residents take part in more sport and wellbeing activities.

Young Legends
In 2025/26 we delivered our first Young Legends programme. Launching in October 2025, the programme provided free access to a variety of sports, wellbeing and creative activities, helping children aged 9-11yrs of age build confidence, make friends, and develop new skills, while also supporting those preparing for the transition to secondary school. A total of 84 children took part with 95% saying that would join the programme again. A graduation took place at Bourne Hall in December to celebrate the young people's success with a performance by those who attended sessions with Laine Musical Theatre.

" My daughter has gained confidence and has left sparked with imagination and enthusiasm... Thank you for fostering such a positive and enriching experience. "

Parent



" Young Legends, specifically Yoga, was extremely beneficial for my son. He was going through a difficult time and found yoga to be very calming which improved his mental health. "

Parent

" The Young Legends Musical Theatre course gave my son an opportunity to experience performance arts in a way he might not otherwise have had. He has discovered a passion for performing... and showcase an amazing talent we were unaware he had! "

Parent

Access to activity bursary
In 2025 we also opened our first 'Access to Activity' Bursary Scheme for 12-15 yr olds. The scheme provides up to £200 per child to help cover sports club membership costs, subscriptions, and match fees. In the first six weeks, six young people applied for support through the scheme.



Neighbourhood Board Forums

We continue to work closely with the boroughs community and voluntary and housing sector, hosting four Neighbourhood Board Partnership Forums over the course of the year. The Forum seeks to improve residents' experience across the borough by promoting local connections and sharing resources and information for those who need services the most.

Officers regularly attend the Advice Café, signposting and linking residents to council services and provision in the wider community.

Our work to support local veterans continues with our dedicated Armed Forces and

Community Covenant Officer supporting the Epsom and Ewell veteran's hub, civic ceremonies, and national events such as remembrance Sunday. More recently the council has also reprised the Multi-Faith Group Forum, bringing together other community leaders and creating a broad and diverse network of partners.

We continue to provide support and oversight of the national refugee schemes, including Homes for Ukraine and the Afghan resettlement programmes. To date, we have now welcomed more than 200 people through the Homes for Ukraine scheme, and supported host families across the borough

throughout the sponsorship arrangements. We continue to welcome people from Ukraine and to work with local partners and other councils in Surrey to meet each individual's needs. We work especially closely with Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network to provide ongoing integration and welfare support, to include English courses, Ukraine school, and support to find work and housing. Feedback from both hosts and guests consistently highlights the value of the support provided, with community integration and support further bolstered by the Festival of Friendship – Ukraine, held in January.

Please see our section on Arts and Culture in the borough to hear more about this.



Air raid shelter sign
1990.070-004

Did you know

In the second world war, Epsom and Ewell accommodated a share of Dutch, French and Belgian refugees.



Holiday Attractions

First Programme 1943 Price Twopence

KEEP THIS PROGRAMME — it may be valuable. Watch future announcements in the Local Press.

CRICKET WEEK	
CRICKET GROUND Sunday, 13th June.	WOODCOTE ROAD
Epsom C.C. v. The Army XI. The British Army XI will be composed of Test and County Players who play at Lords the day previously. Proceeds in aid of Army Charities.	
Whit-Monday.	
Epsom C.C. v. British Empire XI. In aid of Red Cross and St. John Fund.	
Wednesday and Thursday, 16th and 17th June.	
Epsom C.C. v. Cambridge University In aid of Charities.	
Saturday, 19th June.	
Epsom C.C. v. "The Buccaneers" Famous amateur County Cricketers. In aid of Red Cross and St. John Fund.	
Sunday, 20th June.	
Epsom C.C. v. London Counties XI. (County Cricketers). In aid of Red Cross and St. John Fund.	
Admission 1/- to each match.	Each match commences 11.30 a.m.

Wednesday, 26th May. MUNICIPAL BATHS, EAST STREET, EPSOM.
Grand Swimming Gala
Doors open 6.45 p.m. Commencing 7.30 p.m.
See posters for full details.

Sunday, 6th June. GIBRALTAR RECREATION GROUND.
Ewell Bowling Club v. Ewell Ladies Bowling Club
Commencing 3.0 p.m.

**FOLLOW RED ARROW
TO AIR RAID SHELTER**

Epsom and Ewell *Timeline*

**1939-1945
(during World War II)**

The council created:

- **Eight public air raid shelters**
Sheltering more than 5,500 people.
- **Four restaurants for people in need**
Helping those bombed out of their homes and with rationing.
- **'Holidays at Home' to keep up morale**

Travel was discouraged, petrol rationed and the railways were needed to move troops and supplies.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

This year we have worked to support community integration through promoting Arts and Culture opportunities in the borough!



A highlight for this year has been the borough's first ever Festival of Friendship – Ukraine.

The council worked closely with Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network, Surrey Libraries and Epsom Picturehouse to curate this wonderful week-long series of events, which brought together Ukrainian residents and the wider community for a week of arts, music, crafts, and cultural activities. Delivered across two key local cultural venues – Epsom Library and Epsom Picturehouse, it offered a platform for the borough's Ukrainian community to share their heritage, creativity, and lived experiences. The festival supported the council's **Health and Wellbeing Strategy** and the **Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy** by increasing

participation in cultural activity and by showcasing the diversity of creative expression within the community. This event encouraged collaboration with local stakeholders, strengthened community pride and an appreciation for shared culture. We have continued to support work experience students within the field of Arts, Culture and Heritage, with their support helping to deliver another successful 'Kids in Museums' event in November, when we welcomed members of Epsom Girlguiding Division to explore the collection at Bourne Hall Museum. In winter 2025, the council also launched its Winter Wellbeing programme that supported families across the borough to enjoy leisure and creative activities together. The programme included access to Rainbow Leisure Centre for swimming and soft play sessions, visits to Epsom Picturehouse and SEND arts sessions at Epsom Library. The Winter Wellbeing programme also supported Warm Welcome hubs at Epsom Methodist Church and St Barnabas Church, hosted by Love Me Love My Mind, to put on creative and fun sessions for children and young people in attendance.

It was a beautiful journey of culture and connection.

Inna Kucherenko,
Ukrainian artist

"We're pleased the programme has helped families try activities they may not have experienced before. We hope it has shown the value of leisure time, creativity and warm, welcoming community spaces."

Councillor Clive Woodbridge,
Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Committee

"A huge thank you for thinking about the wellbeing of our little family. You helped us to support our children with what they really need and most of the times miss due to financial and work life reasons. Your hard work and efforts are rewarded with the smiles through our children's faces."

Family,
Participants in our Winter Wellbeing programme

Finally, we are delighted to have launched the borough's first Epsom and Ewell Cultural Partnership, bringing together those in the creative industries, including charities and educational establishments. We hope to share initiatives and explore opportunities to raise the profile of Arts, Culture and Heritage across the borough to improve accessibility for all.



Bourne Hall

During 2025/26, the team at Bourne Hall has maintained a clear focus on improving quality, increasing visitor footfall, and preparing for the transition to the new East Surrey Council.

Targeted investment has enhanced the overall standard of the building. This includes the replacement of lighting in the main hall, improving both presentation and energy efficiency, alongside the redecoration of all function rooms to ensure they remain flexible, high-quality spaces for community and commercial use. Public areas have also been improved, including enhancements to the foyer and a refresh of the Flying Saucer Café, contributing to a more consistent and welcoming visitor experience.

The museum continues to play an important role within Bourne Hall's offer. During the year, displays have been enhanced, including the introduction of new interpretation and collections such as a Roman coin display.

In parallel, a strategic review of the museum service has been undertaken to ensure it remains sustainable, relevant and aligned with future council priorities, particularly in the context of Local Government Reorganisation.

Events and community engagement remain central to the venue's success. The Christmas light switch-on and Summer Festival both attracted strong attendance and positive community feedback, reinforcing Bourne Hall's role as a focal point for local activity. In addition, work has commenced on a legacy exhibition to reflect the history of Epsom and Ewell, supporting the borough's transition into the new authority.



Throughout the year, preparation for Local Government Reorganisation has been a key priority, including the review of assets, operational arrangements and compliance requirements to support a smooth transition to East Surrey Council.

Overall, Bourne Hall has demonstrated continued development and resilience during a period of significant organisational change, ensuring it remains well positioned as a high-quality, sustainable community venue for the future.

Bourne Hall Museum

Visitor figures to the museum have risen with the introduction of new signage, gallery features and social media.

- Successful events and activities have brought in new audiences to enjoy the heritage of the area.
- Volunteer numbers have doubled which has increased our collections research and resource available for the public.

Successful grant application has brought us new features.



Epsom and Ewell timeline

1967-70

Bourne Hall was built in response to the need for a purpose-built library, museum and community venue – and what a fantastic response it was!

The innovative circular design led to the building receiving Grade II listed status in 2015.

Epsom Playhouse

2025-26 was another successful year for Epsom Playhouse.

Highlights included:

- The complete overhaul and upgrade of the auditorium's lighting. The upgrade makes the Playhouse more energy efficient; 90% of lights in the auditorium are now LED lights, which are better for the environment and take less time to programme.
- The refurbishment of the foyer, including a new box office desk, a change of hue from burgundy to royal blue and a more modern, refreshed aesthetic.
- A record-breaking pantomime run for Aladdin which brought in over £322,000 through the Playhouse box office, beating the previous record set in 2019 (£313,600, Peter Pan). Ticket sales for panto also showed signs of recovery from the immediate post covid years, achieving the highest number of ticket sales since 2021. We also saw an increase in ticket sales for the Santa Show, which runs in the Myers studio in December.



The team at Epsom Playhouse have embraced a year of change, continually showing dedication and resilience throughout, whilst delivering fantastic experiences for our visitors. We are also hugely grateful to our volunteers who have worked so hard this year. Bravo to the whole team.

A historic market town

First granted by Royal Charter in 1865, Epsom Market has been a defining focal point for this bustling town for hundreds of years.

Today, Epsom and Ewell is still home to regular markets where you can buy fresh food and drink, accessories, locally produced arts and crafts, and more.

Our popular regular market is every Thursday and Saturday. Epsom Market is also home to a variety of street traders and promotional stalls on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Regular Market, Epsom Market Square, Thursday and Saturday

A variety of stalls selling fresh, local products such as seasonal fruit and vegetables, fresh bread and baked goods, butchers, fashion and more.

Farmer's Market Epsom Marketplace, First Sunday of the month

Our larger Farmer's Markets are held on the first Sunday morning of every month.

Artisan Market Bourne Hall, First Saturday of the month

Takes place on the first Saturday of the month, 10am – 2pm

Come along and enjoy artisan jewellery, woodcrafts, preserves, and lots more.

Contact us:

Call: **01372 732000**

Hard of hearing can SMS on **07950 080 202**

www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Town Hall, The Parade,
Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5BY

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