



## **Woodcote (Epsom) Residents Society September Update**

### **Local Plan**

Bringing forward the next stage of the Local Plan (Regulation 19) for public consultation is a key priority for the Council and is expected to take place in early 2025.

You may well be aware of recent Government announcements about reforming planning in order to deliver its national ambition for 1.5 million new homes by the end of this five-year parliament. This involves a range of radical proposals including changes to how local housing need is calculated for Local Plan purposes and the concept of 'Grey Belt' whereby low performing sites in the Green Belt can be identified for development.

The proposals as they stand would result in our housing need figure increasing by 41 per cent - going from 576 homes a year to 817. The previous housing figures were already difficult to achieve within the new Draft Local Plan and this additional scale of development would be likely to seriously threaten and undermine the character and amenity of our Borough.

Both the Council and the umbrella organisation for the Residents Associations across Epsom and Ewell (SCoRA) have recently responded to the Government consultation on the planning reforms. These express support for some of the suggested policy changes relating, for example, to improving the delivery of much needed affordable and social housing.

Strong objections have also been lodged though to proposals which could lead to excessive high density, high-rise development at odds with the prevailing character and heritage of the Borough.

# Housing Pressures and Homelessness

## **Epsom & Ewell has proportionately one of the highest numbers of homeless households living in temporary accommodation in England**

At present, we have 160 homeless households in temporary accommodation in the borough and more than 90 homeless households in nightly paid accommodation outside of the borough. Many of these families may have to wait more than three years before temporary accommodation in the borough becomes available, and even longer before a permanent housing solution can be found for them. A long-term and sustainable solution will involve tough decisions within our Local Plan as well as improved Government support.

## **Climate Action**

With increasingly unpredictable and extremes of weather the Council established a climate change action plan in 2020, with targets to cut its environmental impact and take steps to become carbon neutral by 2035. The principles include reducing the Council's own carbon emissions, working with other agencies, e.g. Surrey County Council (SCC) to reduce their emissions and promoting good practice throughout the Borough.

In the first four years achievements include installing solar panels and energy efficient lighting in Council-owned buildings. Electric vehicle charging points have been installed in some Council-run car parks and Council-owned vehicles are being replaced with electric vehicles. Sustainable tree planting schemes are being rolled out across the borough.

In addition we are promoting the 'Solar Together' joint buying schemes for householders; business energy efficiency schemes; grants. and support through the Council's Home Improvement Agency and energy efficiency advice for vulnerable and disabled people through Action Surrey.

## Residents Meeting - Epsom Sports Club

# The Future for Epsom Hospital and local health services

**Thursday 17th October at 7:30pm**



**Speaker: James Blythe,  
Managing Director, Epsom  
St. Helier NHS Trust**

**Followed by a Q&A session with  
your local ward councillors**

# Please support the work of your Society

Membership - Without your **subscriptions** we would not be able to continue with the work we do on your behalf. It is easy to pay- no forms to fill in.

Annual membership costs just £5 per household from 1 January each year. A larger donation would of course be very welcome and would go towards improving our communications with residents.

Paying your subscription is very simple to arrange.

- by **bank transfer**

Account Name: Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society  
Details: Sort Code 23-05-80 Account Number 18192567

Reference - Your postcode and house number

- by setting up a **standing order or direct debit**

- by **cash or cheque** - We can also arrange to collect your subscription if you email us on

 [info@woodcoteepsomresidentssociety.org](mailto:info@woodcoteepsomresidentssociety.org).

## ADVERTISING YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR NEWSLETTER OR ON OUR WEBSITE

It is a great cost-effective way of advertising your business to 2,500 local households.

Our rates and how to book space are on our website

<https://www.woodcoteepsomresidentssociety.org/index.php/category/advertise/>

or you can email us on [info@woodcoteepsomresidentssociety.org](mailto:info@woodcoteepsomresidentssociety.org)