

February 2025 Update

Dear Residents

In case you have not had a chance to go to the website I want to draw a few important issues and dates to your attention.

I hope you will have received a copy of our [new leaflet](#) about who we are, what we do and some of the differences we have made. If you haven't already paid your £5 to enable us to continue our work we would be incredibly grateful if you would do so. [This link explains](#) how easy it is to pay and contains a copy of our leaflet. It also sets out the benefits of advertising in our quarterly newsletters which are distributed to 2,500 residents in the Ward.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government is seeking to make far reaching changes to local government across England. It has been confirmed that Surrey will be part of the first phase and if it goes ahead as planned Epsom & Ewell Borough Council won't exist after April 2027. As a result the 2025 Surrey County Council elections have been postponed for at least a year to release time and resources to put the plans for the re-organisation in place. We are concerned about the postponement of the elections and the implications of the changes for Epsom & Ewell, the proposed size of the unitary authorities and in particular how the debt held in parts of Surrey is going to be addressed. [You can read more here.](#)

Local Plan

The Council has approved the submission of the local plan to the government for examination in March 2025 – along with all the comments received on the Regulation 19 public consultation. This was the final opportunity to tell Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and a government appointed planning inspector whether the plan is legally compliant and sound, based on criteria set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. We took this opportunity to comment and highlight particular concerns we felt had not been adequately addressed. Our comments focussed on the four sections of the plan which we considered were not sound. They are: site allocation guidance being too prescriptive, inadequate residential amenity standards, lack of detailed guidance on design quality and standards and omission of some valued local open spaces in our ward which should be protected. [You can read about the detail here.](#)

You will probably be aware of the campaign not to release any Green Belt land for housebuilding in the plan but it is unfortunately not tenable in the face of the Government's commitment to increase local house building targets and its decision to make them mandatory. The plan proposes 4,700 additional homes over the plan period to 2040 compared to the Government target of 10,242.

2025 Derby Arrangements

WERS has been leading the agenda to ensure Langley Vale residents safety and security concerns are addressed following incidents at the 2024 Derby. The Police and the Jockey Club have committed to addressing the impact of these incidents and the Society is hosting monthly meetings leading up to Derby Week itself to ensure this is the case. [You can find the details here](#)

Our AGM – 11 March 2025 7.30pm Epsom Sports Club

This is your opportunity for you to hear about what is going on in our ward. It is also a chance for us to hear from you about the things you would like to see us champion on your behalf. 2025 is going to be an important year for our Borough so do come along if you can and inform our thinking. [Details can be found here.](#)

Epsom & Walton Downs Consultative Committee

We have a representative on the Epsom & Walton Downs Consultative Committee. It next meets on 24 March. If you have any questions or concerns relating to the management of the Downs please let us know so we can raise them on the 24th.

John Mumford

Chair

Woodcote (Epsom) Residents Society

Local people representing Woodcote and Langley Vale residents interests