

Association of Ewell Downs Residents



Non Political, Founded 1926



NOTICE

The Eighty Second Annual General Meeting

Will be held at

WALLACE FIELDS JUNIOR SCHOOL in the HALL

7.30pm on Tuesday 7 March 2017

GUEST SPEAKER

Stewart Cocker

Countryside Manager - Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Eighty First AGM held on 15 March 2016
3. Statement of Accounts
4. Report from the Committee
5. Election of Officers, Committee and Examiner of Accounts
6. Adoption of Prospective Candidate for election to SCC
7. Councillors' Forum
8. Any Other Business

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The Officers and Committee look forward to seeing you at the Annual General Meeting and we hope you will take this opportunity to meet your neighbours, committee members and councillors informally. Refreshments will be provided from 7.10pm.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The membership subscription of £3.00 per household is now due. It will be a great help if you would kindly pass your subscription, in the envelope provided, to your Road Representative, pay on line, or complete the standing order which is included with this Notice. (See Treasurer's Report for further information). *(The foregoing does not apply to residents in St James' Avenue whose Association makes a bulk payment).*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome. It's time for the AGM again and I hope that more of you will find a window in your busy world to come along and support us.

We were due to have two speakers at this meeting with "Our Countryside" as our focus - one speaker from Epsom & Ewell and one from Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT). However, due to the uncertainty facing SWT as a result of the Surrey County Council (SCC) cutting their funding leading to the threat of redundancy to all of the Countryside Department at SWT, they have offered their apologies. This is a shame as we were especially looking forward to having an update on Priest Hill Nature Reserve. We will however do what we can to update you at the meeting. Nevertheless we are pleased that Stewart Cocker will be able to come along and we look forward to his presentation.

An important part of the AGM is the adoption of our prospective candidates for election to Surrey County Council on 4 May 2017. Our current County Councillor, John Beckett, is offering himself for re-election. John has served us well over the past 4 years and consistently attends our committee meetings and provides up to date information which is included in the Bulletins and Newsletters. He is currently working with us on speeding and other issues along Longdown Lane North, Higher Green and Reigate Road. Do come to the AGM and ask him any questions.

I show below a brief outline of some of the issues that we have been involved with in the last twelve months and some current ones.

- support to the Links Road Backland Group following the appeal by the developers against the Council's refusal to permit the development of detached houses on the 2 acres of back land
- opposition to the proposal to construct an Aldi Supermarket on the former Dairy Crest site on Alexandra Road
- publication of the proposal for a Lidl Supermarket in Upper High Street
- the continuing development of the Animal Husbandry site on the Reigate Road where we are actively in communication with the developers on various issues
- the changes to the roundabout on the Reigate Road required under the Stage 3 Safety audit and the removal of the temporary fence which is scheduled with final landscaping in the summer of 2017
- completion of the scheduled roadworks following the removal of the traffic island on East Street
- opposition to the accommodation for 77 students on Mill Road and the consequent HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) which was rejected.

Our emailed monthly bulletin continues to gather supporters. We now have over 180 residents who receive these bulletins. In an effort to increase this number, we have redesigned the labels which are affixed to the newly styled green subscription envelopes and distributed for the collection of subscriptions to include email addresses. Please fill this in and pass with your £3 to your Road Steward so your email address can be included and get regular updates.

We extend our thanks to all our Councillors and Road Stewards. The Councillors help us a great deal by advising us of issues affecting our area and guiding our efforts to do what is needed to support residents. One of our Councillors, Michael Arthur, was awarded Freedom of the Borough in recognition of his services to the Borough for 50 years – congratulations Michael – well deserved. Our Road Stewards – what a fantastic job they do for us by distributing newsletters, collecting subscriptions etc. We really do appreciate everything you do for us.

Finally, a plea for some new members to join our committee. We are an easy-going bunch and welcome some new blood. Come along and see how you can help. Committee dates are published later and meetings are held at Nescot.

Jenny Coleman

TREASURER'S REPORT

Audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 are attached to this newsletter. These show that subscriptions received in 2016 were marginally up on the previous year - £1,180.10 (2016) and £1,162.02 (2015). The total of expenses is generally similar to those of the previous year although there were no election expenses but we supported the Links Road campaign with a donation and flowers were sent to families of two residents who suffered devastating losses. Our biggest expense is printing and this cost continues to rise, although we are trying a new printer this time to help keep this under control. The final result is a slightly increased deficit - £86.95 compared to £63.17 in 2015.

Residents continue to have a choice of ways to pay their subscriptions:–

- put £3.00 in the envelope provided and pass this to your designated road representative (don't forget to add your email address so you can get the bulletin)
- pay this by online banking – bank details are: Account Name – Association of Ewell Downs Residents; sort code – 20-29-90; account no. 50126071 giving your name, house number and road/post code as the reference
- complete the attached standing order form and send this to your bank

Subscriptions are our life blood and we would ask all of you, especially those who get the bulletin, to help our finances by contributing the small amount of £3.00 which is requested. Thank you.

I am grateful to Keith Boyce who kindly examines the accounts for us – thank you Keith.

DATES FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2017 – 2018

Committee meetings will be held at Nescot College at 7.30pm on the following Tuesdays:

2017 9 May 4 July 19 September 21 November

2018 9 January

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The aim of the Association is to protect and enhance the interests of residents. Our primary concerns centre on planning, traffic, security and other topics which directly affect our area. To this end, we maintain regular contact with our Councillors who also attend our Committee meetings. Planning applications affecting our area are monitored and, where appropriate, or at the request of residents, we make our views known and elicit support. A monthly Bulletin is circulated by email to all those who request it. This keeps residents informed of what is happening in the location and surrounding areas.

Other activities include sponsoring our election candidates, helping to prepare manifestos and knocking on as many doors as possible at local election time.

For the delivery of election manifestos and of our twice yearly newsletters, we rely on the vital services of our Road Representatives, who also provide indispensable communication lines. To keep in touch with Borough-wide issues, Committee members also attend, as appropriate, meetings of other bodies such as the SCoRA (Standing Committee of Residents Associations) and other local groups.

FOR NEW RESIDENTS

All residents are eligible to join. If they subsequently have any problems or concerns, we ask that these should first be taken up with the Borough or County Council as appropriate. If you are still not satisfied with the response, please approach your Road Representative, Councillor, or Committee member. Our aim is to assist as best we can.

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2017

SCC meetings are open to the public and are as follows: 6 March (Bourne Hall) 19 June (Ewell Court House) 25 September (Bourne Hall) and 29 November (Town Hall). All are at 7 pm.

ONGOING PLANNING MATTERS

Aldi – proposed supermarket - you will all have been aware of the proposal to build a supermarket, with 6 residential units above, on the old Dairy Crest site. At the Planning Committee in April 2016 the application was unanimously rejected, however Aldi have now appealed this decision. The Planning Inspectorate will appoint an inspector to review the decision taken by the Council. The Inspector will consider the case on its merits. We understand there will be a public enquiry in the second half of 2017.

Lidl - some of you will have received the mailshot from Lidl advising their proposal to develop the vacant site at 40-52 Upper High Street Epsom into a mixed-use development. This would comprise a new Lidl foodstore with 30 apartments above the store and 88 parking spaces for customers. Information on the development can be viewed on www.epsom.lidl.co.uk. An exhibition into their proposals was held on 18 January and seemed, in principle, to be well received by those attending to get development moving on this long derelict site.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Herald of Spring- Saturday, 11 March - Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell – 10am to 4pm. This is a very popular family event and attracted over 3,000 visitors last year. As well as the Spring Market there will be many other displays and activities for the whole family.

JOHN BECKETT– PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

John has lived in Ewell since 1995 and is fully aware of the ongoing pressures on the public road network as well as the local issues that are important to residents. John will always come back to his residents whether via telephone, email or by personal contact including locally run surgeries. Many of you have contacted John concerned about potholes, misaligned kerbstones, damaged grass verges or footway trip hazards and parking restrictions which seem to be the most frequent issues raised by local residents.

John has been very active over the past 4 years improving many local roads including Cheam Road, Northey Avenue, Elm Road, Hampton Grove, Park Avenue East, Waverley Road, Ewell Park Way, Briarwood Road, Glenwood Road, and many more that have been surface dressed. John has also helped residents of the division that have been prone to flooding such as Northey Avenue, Chessington Road, Beaufort Way and Ewell High Street. Beverley Close, Banstead Road, and Ox Lane's footways were resurfaced as a result of action and continued pressure by John on Surrey Highways.

John has actively worked with resident groups throughout the division, whose local roads have become car parks due to school or commuter parking and successfully introduced parking restrictions to address these issues. He is always available to residents for advice and support. He has also helped

residents with other issues such as school places as well as adult and child social care cases.

Equally important has been John's criticism of the wasteful spending of millions of pounds at SCC and especially the 60% rise the Conservative's awarded themselves in allowances.

John also supports our local business and campaigned for and financed the introduction of the Christmas lights both on Stoneleigh Parade and Ewell Village to support Lights on Broadway and Ewell Yule as well as supporting the locally run Trifest. Outside of the Council John also sits on the board of the Meadow Primary School Children's Centre Local Advisory Board and was a key campaigner in getting SCC to reverse its decision to close the centre.

Cuts to Surrey Wildlife Trust

Petition to: abandon plans to cut Surrey County Council's funding of the Surrey Wildlife Trust that will result in the redundancy of all 16 Countryside Rangers in April 2017

The Council's plan to cut funding under its 50-year agreement with the Surrey Wildlife Trust to zero by 2021 will result in all the jobs of the Trust's 16 rangers becoming redundant. Few of these very experienced and dedicated staff are going to be re-employed in the much smaller organisation that will replace them. For further information and to sign the petition to get this decision reversed visit: <http://petitions.surreycc.gov.uk/SWTfunding>

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS - EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL *From Epsom & Ewell Borough Councillors*

Proposals for a Sub National Transport Body for the South East - There are proposals for a Sub National Transport Body for the South East (TfSE). It would give a greater say to local decision makers about the strategic growth of their area's infrastructure and economy and would show the benefits of working in partnership. Continued economic success in the South East is threatened by intense pressure on transport networks. Investment is vital, not only to maintain the existing infrastructure, but also to develop new infrastructure which will help unlock further growth potential in the area. TfSE would speak with a single voice on the area's transport needs and develop a single integrated transport strategy for the South East.

The initiative comes from the South East Seven (SE7) councils: Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Medway, Surrey and West Sussex. Invitations to join have also been made to the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton councils. It is expected that four Local Enterprise Partnerships, Coast to Capital, Enterprise M3, Solent and South East will join. Each local

authority will now put the proposal to develop TfSE in shadow form to their elected members for approval. If approved, it could begin full operation from 2018/19, with Government agreement.

Council participates in Syrian refugee resettlement scheme

Following a recent meeting of its Strategy & Resources Committee, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has agreed to take part in the government-sponsored Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS). As part of the UK pledge to help 20,000 of the most fragile and vulnerable Syrian refugees over a 5 year period, the Borough Council is to play its part in helping to make their home in the UK. Epsom & Ewell is the 8th of the 11 Boroughs and Districts in Surrey to participate in the programme.

Councillors agreed to assist up to 10 Syrian refugee families settle in the borough over the five year period, using housing provided through private landlords, church, faith and charitable bodies. Council officers are busy setting up the support required and from next spring they will be seeking offers of suitable accommodation from those who can help. After debating various options the committee decided not to use housing available to those residents on its existing Housing Register, which already has a backlog of over 800 applicants on the waiting list, and instead seek suitable accommodation from individuals and groups willing to help.

Both property and furniture will be needed from spring 2017 onwards. Whether you are a private individual, or part of an organisation that has property that might be suitable for accommodating resettled vulnerable Syrian refugees, please contact Councillor Clive Woodbridge by email at Cwoodbridge@Epsom-Ewell.gov.uk or 0208 393 2853 in the first instance, to register interest.

If you want more information about the scheme please go to this web site for the government fact sheet: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/syrian-vulnerable-person-resettlement-programme-fact-sheet>

County Councillor - John Beckett

15% Rise in SCC's Council Tax?

At the time of writing the Conservatives at SCC are indicating that they are holding a local referendum on a council tax rise of up to 15%. A poor Government grant settlement and an inability to balance the books have together led to this threat of a huge rise in council tax which could cost some residents an additional £357 a year based on a band G property (Band "H" houses will face an even higher cost). This will fall particularly hard on the elderly and those with fixed incomes. However the current financial problems are the result of a Conservative Government treating Conservative controlled

SCC (and other Surrey Councils) unfairly. Residents' Association County Councillors do not believe it is right to expect the council taxpayer to fund the shortfall, and will oppose a referendum and a 15% rise in SCC's council tax which would cost at least £1million to hold.

We have to remember that it was only that two years ago that the Conservatives at SCC thought the priority was to award themselves increases in allowances of more than 60%. It cannot be right that, now they find themselves short of money, they turn to the council taxpayer to bail them out.

Part Night Street Lights

SCC's plans to introduce part night lighting across Epsom and Ewell, with street lights being turned off between midnight and 5am in the vast majority of our residential roads, was due to be introduced on 1st January and a list of roads was posted on the SCC website in December. However the plans were postponed until 2nd February because SCC had not completed their site assessments nor concluded their meetings with Surrey Police and the Council's Road Safety teams. Many residents had expressed concerns about the decision to darken our streets at night and, whilst welcoming the delay, this late change indicates a somewhat rushed and haphazard approach to the plans. As your County Councillors we were also concerned that SCC has not consulted Epsom and Ewell Borough Council about the switch-off, not least because there is concern about possible anti-social behaviour in and around the Borough's parks. At the time of writing this article there is still no indication that those consultations will take place.

One positive piece of news is that the streetlights in both Stoneleigh Broadway and Station Approach will remain on all night. However, the residential roads leading from these roads will be included in the part-night lighting regime. For an update on the plans and to see how you are affected please visit the SCC website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-and-cleaning/street-lights-traffic-signals-and-signs/part-night-street-lighting

Remove That Sign

Some good news. Surrey Highways have a new website www.removehissign.com which is designed to be used by residents to alert SCC of any signs and equipment that has not been collected after planned Surrey works have finished. The web address is printed on the back of SCC's Advanced Warning Signs and gives residents the opportunity to report any equipment left behind. Residents are encouraged to use the website to report signs and equipment left along the highway and they will be collected within 7 working days.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To: -----

ACCOUNT TO BE DEBITED

Sort code: -----:

Account number: -----.

Account name: -----

BENEFICIARY DETAILS

Bank Barclays Bank Plc.
82/84 High Street
EPSOM
Surrey
KT19 8BH

Sort code 20 – 29 – 90

Account number 50126071

Beneficiary name Association of Ewell Downs Residents

Reference -----:

PAYMENT DETAILS

Amount of first payment £3.00
Date of first payment 6 April 2017
Amount of usual payment THREE POUNDS ONLY
Future payments annually on 6 April
Date of last payment until further instructions

AUTHORISATION

Customer's signature: ----- Date: -----

Customer's contact number(s):

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Association of Ewell Downs Residents 2016 – 2017

OFFICERS

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| President | Peter Gilder, 44A Ewell Downs Road | 020 8394 0429 |
| Chairman | Jenny Coleman, 24 Longdown Lane North jncoleman@virginmedia.com | 020 8393 8124 |
| Vice-Chair | Peter Kalinowski, 5 Higher Green pjkalinowski@hotmail.com | 020 8393 4194 |
| Hon. Secretary: | Paula McNally, 25 Longdown Lane North Phmcnally@aol.com | 020 8393 1483 |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Michael Lockyer, 18 Higher Green mike.lockyer0@gmail.com | 07818 067 741 |
| Mark Palmer, 78 Reigate Road mark.palmer1886@virgin.net | 07703 106 793 |

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Beech Walk Meurig Thomas, 16 Beech Walk 020 8393 5197

Ewell Downs Road

North End Alison Spicer, 45 The Green 020 8393 6079
South End Joan England, 46 Ewell Downs Road 020 8393 2291

The Green

North End Sarah Shickle, 23 The Green 020 8393 8230
South End Ann Broad, 77 The Green 020 8393 8653

Hampton Grove Kim Thorp, 3 Hampton Grove 020 8394 0650

Higher Green

Even numbers Michael Lockyer, 18 Higher Green 07818 067 741
Odd numbers Liz Jones, 37 Higher Green 07955 769 541

Langton Avenue Michael Arthur, 20A Langton Avenue 020 8393 1476

Longdown Lane North

North End Graham Evans, 30 Longdown Lane North 020 8394 0160
South End Steve Gebbett, 53 Longdown Lane North 01372 720921

Park Hill Road Liz Watson

Reigate Road

No. 28, 34-52 Meurig Thomas, 16 Beech Walk 020 8393 5197
No. 54-92 Mark Palmer, 78 Reigate Road 07703 106 793
No. 94-118 Mark Palmer, 78 Reigate Road 07703 106 793
No. 120-140 Mark Palmer, 78 Reigate Road 07703 106 793

Small Holdings

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| The Looe-143 | Carol Billam, Cefn, Nth. Looe Estate | 020 8393 2490 |
| Priest Hill Heights | Mark Palmer, 78 Reigate Road | 07703 106 793 |

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| St James Avenue | Jason Barnett, 15 St James' Avenue | 07880 958 592 |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|

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|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Windmill Avenue | <i>Vacancy</i> | |
| Windmill Lane | <i>Vacancy</i> No 1-21 | |

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Ewell Ward

| | | |
|----------------|--|---------------|
| Michael Arthur | 20A Langton Avenue marthur@epsom-ewell.gov.uk | 020 8393 1476 |
|----------------|--|---------------|

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Humphrey Reynolds | 18 Purberry Grove hreynolds@epsom-ewell.gov.uk | 020 8393 3752 |
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| Clive Woodbridge | 16 Corbet Road cwoodbridge@epsom-ewell.gov.uk | 020 8393 2853 |
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Nonsuch Ward

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| Graham Dudley | 93 Chadacre Road gdudley@epsom-ewell.gov.uk | 020 8786 9096 |
|---------------|--|---------------|

| | | |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| Chris Frost | 'Oak View' 8 Warren Hill, Epsom cfrost@epsom-ewell.gov.uk | 01372 720430 |
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| David Wood | 1 Hays Walk, Cheam dwood@epsom-ewell.gov.uk | 020 8786 9386 |
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SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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|--------------|--|---------------|
| John Beckett | 7 Walsingham Gardens, Stoneleigh jbeckett@epsom-ewell.gov.uk | 020 8393 8208 |
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Our web site www.ewelldownsra.org gives details of events which may be of interest and also shows copies of newsletters and bulletins. We also have a Facebook page "Association of Ewell Downs Residents" and a Twitter page so do get in touch if there is something that everyone should know about.

Published by the Association of Ewell Downs Residents
www.ewelldownsra.org

