

ASSOCIATION OF EWELL DOWNS RESIDENTS

(Founded 1926)

(Non-Political)

NOTICE

The Seventy Sixth Annual General Meeting

will be held at

NESCOT in the Staff Lounge

7.30pm on Tuesday 1 March 2011

GUEST SPEAKER

Anthony Evans

Principal Planner & Conservation Officer

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

He will make a short presentation on Conservation Areas

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of Seventy Fifth AGM held on 23 March 2010
3. Statement of Accounts
4. Report from the Committee
5. Election of Officers, Committee and Examiner of Accounts
6. Adoption of Prospective Candidates for Election to the Borough Council on 5 May 2011
 - Ewell Ward
 - Nonsuch Ward
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.

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.

(The foregoing does not apply to residents in St James' Avenue whose Association makes a bulk payment of their subscription)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am writing this report as your new Chairman and would first like to wish all of you a rather belated Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Colin White has, after many years of sterling work on behalf of the Association, decided to take a step back although he will continue to act as Honorary Treasurer. I am pleased to say that he has agreed to be my right hand man while I am learning the ropes and I am very grateful to him for that.

It has again been an active time for the Association. We have been monitoring several planning issues such as Mid-Surrey Farm, Glyn School Playing Fields and properties within the Conservation Area, as well as the Housing Land Supply Strategy for Epsom & Ewell and soon we shall be immersed in fighting the forthcoming Borough Elections.

On the subject of the Conservation Area, since there has been an influx of new residents who may not fully appreciate the implications of planning concerns within our area, we are circulating with this Newsletter an extract of the Borough Council's planning policy. We have also asked Anthony Evans, the Borough's Conservation Officer, to give a presentation at our AGM, giving you the opportunity to ask any questions or queries you may have. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 1 March at Nescot. However, one thing that residents could do in the meantime is to suggest the removal of obsolete road signs that are cluttering up the area. If you notice a sign that is unnecessary, please email your suggestion to Councillor Michael Arthur at marthur@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

I myself feel very privileged to live in the Ewell Downs area and I am sure that many of you echo this sentiment. The fact that it has been declared a Conservation Area speaks volumes and it is important for all of us to continue to maintain our properties and gardens to a high standard to preserve the beauty and character of the area. It would be wonderful if there were sufficient funds in the Borough's budget for us to have a regular street cleaner but in today's financial climate, it is unlikely that this will be possible, although the subject has been raised with the Councillors who regularly attend our Committee meetings! This could mean therefore that we need to put that extra mile into looking after both the greenery outside our properties and perhaps a little bit of the pavement to ensure that grass verges are well maintained and leaves and other debris are cleared away. There are already many of you who do this, but if we all did, what a difference it would make. We, as a Committee, will continue to do our bit to keep our area 'a green and pleasant land'.

Jenny Coleman

January 2011

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Association seeks 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. Visits are made to the Town Hall to view planning applications and to monitor the agenda items for the committee meetings of prime relevance e.g. Planning, Environment, Leisure and Strategy & Resources, and where appropriate to make our views known

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 Standing Committee of Residents Associations (SCoRA), the Environment Forum, Police Liaison, and the local branch of CPRE.

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The following have put themselves forward for re-election:

Officers:	President	Peter Gilder
	Chairman	Jenny Coleman
	Vice-Chairman	vacant
	Hon. Treasurer	Colin White
	Hon. Secretary	Paula McNally

Committee: Peter Kalinowski, Michael Lockyer and Danny Scanlon

Examiner of Accounts: Gavin Marks

Any further nominations are welcomed and names should be lodged with the Secretary, in writing prior to the AGM. We are currently searching for members from the Reigate Road area and north of the railway line. We are short on representation in those particular areas and would love to hear from you if you could help.

PLANNING ISSUES IN CONSERVATION AREAS

During 2010, AEDR has been in extensive discussion with the Council regarding planning issues. The Committee of Ewell Downs Road Association has already circulated planning application guidance to their residents. We believe this is most helpful and below you will find an extract:

In the last few years there has been an influx of new residents, some of whom may not know the implications of planning concerns, particularly within a **Conservation Area**. Also, many of us who have not yet been involved in improving and/or extending our properties may not know the implications either. Development in some areas such as Higher Green / Longdown Lane is even further constrained by Article 4(2) of the General Permitted Development Order.

Developments must be in harmony with the architectural character and integrity of the Conservation Area. Planning permission must be obtained for any work within a Conservation Area. The definition of “any work” includes, but is not limited, to the following:

- House extensions and loft conversions
- Replacement windows, Dormer windows, Velux windows
- Garage extensions and/or alterations
- Solar Panels, satellite dishes
- Boundary walls, gates and fences up to 2m high
- Any outside buildings &/or structures of whatsoever nature or use.
- Any work that may impinge upon the integrity of the conservation area, &/or have a detrimental impact on, and privacy of neighbouring properties.
- Trees may be covered by a preservation order and may be subject to a planning application.

Planning Notices.

Problems have arisen where residents have failed to display their coloured planning notice or taken it down after a few days. It is important that the notice is displayed in a prominent position outside the property for all to see.

Advertising of Planning Applications

It appears that many residents in our area no longer receive the free local newspapers which included the list of planning applications submitted to the Council. If you want to find out about local planning applications, you can now find these on the Council’s Website.

DATES FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2011/2012

Committee meetings for the coming year will be held at Nescot in Committee Room 1 at 7.30pm on the following Tuesdays:

10 May
5 July
20 September
8 November
10 January 2012

Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

Residents are welcome to attend if they have any particular and urgent issues they wish to raise, but we would ask that you give prior notice to the Secretary.

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2011/2012

Surrey County Council Local Committee Meetings are open to the public and have been arranged for the following dates:

2011

Monday 7 March	19:00 Council Chamber Epsom & Ewell BC
Monday 13 June	19:00 TBC
Monday 12 September	19:00 TBC
Monday 5 December	19:00 TBC

Details of the venues **not** notified above, can be obtained from the SCC Website or from the Committee Manager, Lynda Tarling on 020 8541 9437.

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Surrey County Council (SCC)

Councillor Chris Frost writes:

SCC to lose £41 million in funding over two years

SCC's main central government grant has been cut by 25% over two years, which means a £41 million funding reduction. The authority will lose £25.5m (14.3%) in the next financial year, and another £15.5m (10%) in 2012/13. The Government changed the way formula grant is allocated this year. The local government finance settlement announcement set out that nationally the formula grant from Whitehall would be reduced by 9.9% in 2011/2012 and by 7.3% in 2012/2013. In addition, the Government said councils' 'spending power' for 2011/12 would be cut by 4.4% on average. 'Spending power' takes into account income such as council tax and other grants as well as the core formula grant. The council is still awaiting final details of some specific grants. Confirmation of the government's settlement was due in January, after the copy date for this magazine.

Concessionary Bus Fares scheme

The Government has insisted that the administration for this scheme must be passed to shire county authorities with effect from April this year. The national start time has always been 0930 Monday to Friday, but, led by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, nearly all Surrey Borough Councils paid for a start time of 09.00. When SCC takes over in April, the Conservative administration has decided that the start time will move to 0930, saving some £230,000p.a. There are no time restrictions on weekends or public holidays. The retention of the existing scheme enhancements for disabled pass holders across the whole of Surrey is to be maintained, i.e. no time restrictions on free travel. Companion passes across the whole of Surrey for disabled pass holders and people over 60 who find it very difficult to travel on their own are to be retained, to be used during the same hours as those available to the person being accompanied.

May Gurney win roads contract

SCC's Cabinet has agreed to replace the council's current joint road maintenance contractors Ringway and Carillion with May Gurney on 28th April, subject to final negotiations being successfully concluded. Under the proposed 6-year deal worth more than £60 million, 30,000 of all potholes May Gurney will repair in a year will be fixed within 24 hours of being reported. Currently, just 19,000 a year are repaired within a seven-day deadline. May Gurney was also awarded two supporting deals – a six-year drain cleaning contract and a two-year contract to improve road surfaces.

Wallace Fields Schools parking issues

I am still working on the issues caused by the school traffic. At the time of writing, SCC's budget has not been agreed, so it is far too early to know whether any money will be allocated for parking restriction reviews. The Infant School's Liaison Committee that I helped set up will be considering whether some more parking on site is possible. This would be for staff, thus reducing the number of vehicles parked all day on the adjacent roads. At the moment I still don't have a date when the Access Protection Markings that have been requested will be implemented. It looks as if the work is going to be delayed because the County Council is in the process of changing the highways contractor that carries out this work.

Mid Surrey Farm

My colleagues and I continue to monitor developments at this farm, and we will be looking carefully at any planning application for a new building that is submitted.

Reigate Road crossing

The County's Highways Officers have developed a plan for a crossing towards the Drift Bridge end of Reigate Road. Residents close to the site have been given details of the proposal. Some have suggested extending the current pavement on the even numbered side of the road as far as the roundabout with College Road. Sadly, this would be far more expensive than the money available. The new crossing, with associated traffic islands, should slow traffic down along this stretch. The idea is then to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph, which David Wood and I tried to get done when the limit in the other part of Reigate Road was reduced. At that time, the police objected, and said that they would not enforce a lower limit on that part of the road. If traffic speeds do come down, then a lower limit should be easier to achieve.

Localism Bill unveils greater powers for local government

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles set out the greater freedoms for local authorities contained in the Localism Bill in December. As well as proposals on senior pay, mayors, and holding referendums on council tax, the bill outlines a general power of competence giving local authorities more freedom. Measures the bill will introduce include:

- Community right to buy: Local areas will get powers to save local assets threatened with closure by allowing them to bid for the ownership and management of assets.
- A general power of competence: Local authorities will be given greater freedom to make innovations.
- Neighbourhood planning: Establishing a new right for communities to shape their local areas. Neighbourhood plans will enable communities to permit development - in full or in outline - without the need for planning applications.
- Council Tax referendums: An end to central capping will see local residents given the power to veto excessive increases by requiring local authorities to hold a referendum on any proposed rise above a certain threshold.
- Business rate discounts: Councils will get the power to grant a discount in business rates so they can respond to the concerns of local businesses.
- Local referendums: Local residents will get the power to start, via a petition, local referendums on any local issue.
- Elected mayors: Measures set out to provide for directly elected mayors in 12 cities in England from 2012, subject to referendums.
- Abolition of regional strategies: The intention is to end regional spatial strategies, including the South East Plan.

- Community right to challenge: Communities will get a right of challenge to run local authority services so they can get more involved in the delivery of public services and shape them in a way that will meet local needs.
- Community services: A right will be established for voluntary and community groups, parish councils and certain public sector employees to express an interest in running any service for which the authority is responsible.
- Local planning reform: The Government will give local authorities and communities greater control by removing the ability of the Planning Inspectorate to re-write local plans. Planning inspectors will continue to assess local plans at a public examination and authorities will only be able to adopt plans judged ‘sound’ by an inspector. The new measure means inspectors will only be able to suggest changes at the request of the local authority.
- Social housing allocations reform: Greater flexibility for councils to set policies on social housing allocations and tenancies locally, and to place homeless people in private sector accommodation.

Epsom General Hospital update

The Government’s White Paper says that all hospitals must be a Foundation Trust or join with a hospital that is already a Trust. Hospitals cannot be Foundation Trusts if they are losing money, which both Epsom and St Helier are.

A Project Board is being set up jointly by the London and Surrey Strategic Health Authorities, with a remit to invite bids for both hospitals. This could result in Epsom separating from St. Helier, something for which we have been campaigning for a long time. The bid document needs to contain a requirement to operate both a full time A & E service, with all the support systems that entails, and a Consultant led maternity unit. As GP’s will be commissioning services in a couple of years time, we are now campaigning to persuade GP’s to say that they will want to commission those services in future. If they don’t, Epsom General Hospital would be downgraded.

Chris Grayling and Sir Paul Beresford will be joining with a couple of other MP’s to write a letter to all GP’s in the area served by Epsom General Hospital asking them to confirm that they will commission the above services. The letter will contain a S.A.E. to make it easier for them to reply.

Ewell Ward

Cllr Michael Arthur writes:

Our New Homes

In the last newsletter it was reported that a consultation was held last autumn as to where new homes might be built up to the end of a plan period (2026). Due to

representations made, the consultation period was extended to the end of the year so, at the time of writing, an indication of the responses submitted is not yet available. This will be fully reported at the AGM. To recap, the options of the consultations were:-

1. Build all future (not yet designated) homes in the urban area
2. Build the majority within the urban area (70% to 90%) the balance on public open space and/or Green Belt land
3. Build a large number on a planned urban extension, meaning 40% to 60% being built within the existing urban area but the remainder on land released from Green Belt

Your committee carefully considered this important matter and made a response in favour of supporting option two.

Localism Bill

The coalition government has published details paving the way for a “Big Society”. The bill which had its first reading just before Christmas aims to free up councils from bureaucracy and shift power from central government to local councils and communities. This can be but welcomed.

Gradually, over the past 50 years or so, responsibility has been taken away from local level and placed under a Whitehall dictate. It will be a pleasant change that councils will be freed from the bureaucracy imposed upon them so that can get on with the job of serving their local areas, and that councils may be able to innovate and address local issues without having to seek new legislation first.

Locally elected councillors and residents know their areas best. This bill gives them more control over such areas as planning and housing and will help to ensure that their borough, rural, urban, town and village can flourish in a way which meets the needs and aspirations of the people who live there.

This move will bode well for the future with local residents’ association councillors in control of their area without creating additional bureaucratic burdens. Returning RA councillors in the May election will ensure that the Borough of Epsom & Ewell is a continuing successful and desirable place to live.

Cllr Clive Woodbridge writes:

Epsom & Ewell face above average government grant cuts

Shortly before Christmas, the Coalition Government announced a tough grant settlement for local authorities covering the next two years. Nationally, the total proposed reduction in council formula grant is 9.9% in 2011/12 and 7.7% in 2012/13. However higher levels of grant loss have been allocated to councils in the southeast. As a result Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, in line with other Surrey District Councils, will see larger than average grant reductions over the next two years.

After allowing for changes in service responsibilities, the proposed formula grant reduction for Epsom and Ewell is 16.5% in 2011/12 and a further 10% the following year. This equates to a cut in funding of about £620,000 in the coming financial year and a further reduction of over £300,000 in 2012/13.

The RA-controlled Council has been able to manage its finances in such a way that there will be no service reductions in 2011-12. However given the extent of the grant reduction, it is inevitable that some difficult decisions will have to be taken beyond that period.

Disabled get ‘right to control’

Since December, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, working in partnership with Surrey County Council, has been one of only seven authorities in England that has been testing what is called ‘Right to Control’, a system that is intended to put disabled people at the heart of deciding how their support needs can best be met. As a ‘trailblazer’ authority, the Council will be trialling this way of working for a two year period.

New legislation gives disabled people more choice and control over certain public funding they receive to go about their daily lives. These funding streams include Access to Work; Independent Living Fund; Adult Social Care; Disabled Facilities Grants; Work Choice and Supporting People. The newly opened ‘The Hub’ in Epsom, in the High Street next to Marks & Spencer, is intended to be the first stop for advice about bringing these streams together and should be the starting point for anyone interested in enquiring about Right To Control

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has a role to play as the provider of Disability Facilities Grants (DFG). When a resident applies for a DFG, the council will undertake a funding checker, which will then assess their eligibility for benefits and assistance - such as Adult Social Care and Access to Work. The Council’s role will be to advise everyone of their “right to control” and any funding available. Likewise, when a resident approaches Job Centre Plus they will complete the same checker, and if they appear in need of DFG assistance, the council will be forwarded their details. Anyone wishing more information about Right to Control is invited to contact your local councillors who will point you in the right direction.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR EPSOM AND EWELL

Our local MP is **Chris Grayling**, who can be contacted at the following:

House of Commons
London SW 1A

or

212 Barnet Wood Lane
Ashted, Surrey, KT21 2D

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report a surplus for the year of £414, which takes our General Fund in excess of £2000. We were able to reduce our costs, but should remember that this year we shall be involved in the Local Elections with related expenses. I recommend that we retain our subscription level at £3 per household for 2011.

I would like to thank Gavin Marks for running his eye over the figures and for agreeing to continue to act as Examiner of Accounts. My sincere thanks must too, be extended to all our Road Representatives for their hard work and commitment in collecting our subscriptions, which represents our sole source of revenue.

Association of Ewell Downs Residents

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	2010	2009	Payments	2010	2009
Subscriptions	1184.55	1154.96	Printing, postage & stationery	604.66	478.05
			Hire of rooms	90.00	185.51
			SCORA	21.00	21.00
			CPRE	25.00	21.00
			Election expenses		182.10
			AGM Expenses	29.59	78.00
Total receipts	1184.55	1154.96	Total payments	770.25	965.66
Less <i>Total payments</i>	770.25	965.66			
Surplus for the year	414.30	189.30			

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2010

	2010	2009		2010	2009
Assets					
Barclays Bank current account Payments in advance	2049.53	1635.23	General Fund as at 31 Dec 2009	1635.23	1445.93
			Add Surplus for the year	414.30	189.30
Total assets	2049.53	1635.23			
Liabilities					
Sundry Creditors					
Total Liabilities					
Total Net Assets	2049.53	1635.23	General Fund as at 31 Dec 2010	2049.53	1635.23

The Association has responsibility for the John Clarke Memorial Fund.

The fund is held in trust and as at 31 December 2010, the balance stood at **£1572.94**
During the year, the fund paid out £294.70 in grants.

Signed Colin White Hon. Treasurer

I have examined the books and vouchers of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2010 and, so far as appears from my examination, proper accounts have been kept.

The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account and, in my opinion, give a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs at 31 December 2010 and of the receipts and payments for the year ended on that date.

Signed Gavin Marks Examiner of Accounts

Association of Ewell Downs Residents 201 – 2012

OFFICERS

Vice-President	Peter Gilder, 44A Ewell Downs Road	020 8394 0429
Chairman	Jenny Coleman, 24 Longdown Lane North	020 8393 8124
Vice- Chairman:	<i>Vacant</i>	
Hon Treasurer:	Colin D White, 42 Longdown Lane North	020 8393 4290
Hon. Secretary:	Paula McNally, 25 Longdown Lane North	020 8393 1483

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peter Kalinowski, 5 Higher Green	020 8393 4194
Michael Lockyer, 18 Higher Green	07818 067 741
Danny Scanlon, Cherry Tree Cottage, Reigate Road	020 8394 1315

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Beech Walk	Meurig Thomas, 16 Beech Walk	020 8393 5197
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Ewell Downs Road

North End	Sheila Fairley, 1 Ewell Downs Road	020 8873 6242
South End	Joan England, 46 Ewell Downs Road	020 8393 2291

The Green

North End	Paul Evans, 7 The Green	020 8393 8957
South End	Ann Broad, 77 The Green	020 8393 8653

Hampton Grove

Kim Thorp, 3 Hampton Grove	020 8394 0650
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Higher Green

Even numbers	Michael Lockyer, 18 Higher Green	07818 067741
Odd numbers	Liz Jones, 37 Higher Green	07982 234 149

Langton Avenue

Michael Arthur, 20A Langton Avenue	020 8393 1476
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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

Reigate Road

No. 28, 34-52	Meurig Thomas, 16 Beech Walk	020 8393 5197
No. 54-92	Peter Wilson, 'Tandlewood' (Next to 54)	020 8393 5475
No. 94-118	Carol Billam, Cefn, Nth Looe Estate	020 8393 2490
No. 120-140	Carol Billam, Cefn, Nth Looe Estate	020 8393 2490

Small Holdings

The Looe-143	Carol Billam, Cefn, Nth. Looe Estate	020 8393 2490
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St James Avenue

Jason Barnett, 15 St James' Avenue	07880 958 592
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Windmill Avenue

Sharon Perks, 21 Windmill Lane	020 8224 1706
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Windmill Lane

Sharon Perks, 21 Windmill Lane	020 8224 1706
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No 1-21

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Ewell Ward

Michael Arthur	20A Langton Avenue	020 8393 1476
Pamela Bradley	Nulli Secundus, Chessington Road	020 8394 2491
Clive Woodbridge	16 Corbet Road	020 8393 2853

Nonsuch Ward

David Wood	1 Hays Walk, Cheam	020 8786 9386
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SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Chris Frost	Oak View, 8 Warren Hill, Epsom	01372 720430
David Wood	1 Hays Walk, Cheam	020 8786 9386