

CHAIRMEN'S STATEMENTS TO COUNCIL

**Councillor Neil Dallen,
Chair of the Environment & Safe Communities Committee**

Heathrow airport expansion – Consultation

The proposal is to expand Heathrow with a 3rd runway and, more immediately, to use Independent Parallel Approaches (IPA).

A Members briefing was held followed by a public meeting at Bourne Hall.

The proposal could increase both the number of flights and decrease the height of the aircraft over Epsom.

The consultation has been widely publicised by Heathrow and runs to the 13th September 2019. Please make your views known by participating in the consultation.

Gatwick airport – increase in flights

Gatwick is planning to increase the number of flights by nearly 50% using their standby runway. This currently will not affect the number of planes to/from Gatwick that fly over Epsom.

Keep Epsom Tidy Launch

Earlier this month “Keep Epsom Tidy” was launched at Epsom Station ‘showing off’ the equipment purchased from the grant received from the High Streets Community Clear Up Fund.

This equipment, including a manual sweeper, gum remover, hi-viz vests and litter pickers, is available for volunteer groups to borrow when they undertake community-led clear ups and litter picking.

Along with the Mayor were representatives from Glyn School, Scout and Guide organisations and members of the general public who have previously been involved in community clear ups.

Government Waste Strategy

The consultation on the Government Waste Strategy closed in May and the outcome is expected soon.

This could involve wide reaching changes to waste collection and recycling.

This committee, and Surrey Environmental Partnership (was Surrey Waste Partnership), is waiting for the report before considering any changes to our ways of working.

Council
23 July 2019

**Councillor Barry Nash,
Chairman of the Community and Wellbeing Committee**

Over the last 12 months this Committee has dealt with several diverse issues, many of which have and continue to have a direct impact on the life of our residents, particularly those who are most vulnerable. We have also ensured our residents are able to continue to enjoy all that our green beautiful borough has to offer, as well as ensuring our venues continue to provide the best value to all in our community.

Health and Wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing is central to so much of what the council does. Later this year, the Community and Wellbeing Committee will be considering the Borough's first Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This will provide evidence to highlight what the health and wellbeing priorities should be for the borough; ensuring everyone in the borough has the opportunities needed to achieve their potential.

In March last year, the committee amended the Private Sector Housing Grants Assistance Policy to speed up access to small discretionary grants for urgent repairs or adaptations to the homes of the most vulnerable residents within the borough. These changes speeded up access for vulnerable residents to grant funding for minor adaptations or other small-scale changes to their homes done quickly, so that they could continue living in their own homes for as long as possible.

In June last year, the committee also agreed to participate in the Hospital to Home pilot project. This 12 month pilot service, funded by the CCG is intended to support vulnerable adults who are about to be discharged from hospital, but who do not have any immediate support available from family or friends.

The aim of this service is to deliver short-term intensive support to the patient, enabling them to access and use existing services that the borough supplies locally.

This offer ensured residents have access to services that we supply. Such as:

- Transport from home,
- Meals at home,
- Shopping service,
- Community alarm +
- Handyman service.
- Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

In January this year, the committee agreed to support the Hospital to Home service further by making changes to the Private Sector Housing Grants Assistance Policy. Several beneficial changes were made, including speeding up access to grants for those using the Hospital to Home service. This meant that discharge was not held up by waiting for urgent or remedial works to be done to their home.

Council 23 July 2019

This quicker, joined up approach helps with a speedier discharge, which is better for the patient and better for our NHS.

In October 2018 the committee considered the progress made with the council's Social Prescription service that was launched in 2017.

Social prescription is an innovative and growing movement, with the potential to reduce the workload and the financial burden on the NHS, particularly within

GP services

Experience from the initial pilot, in year one worked well. However, it was noted that in several cases the person receiving the social prescription was not taking up the services being offered to them. With funding from Surrey Downs CCG, we have employed a Link Worker who provides personal help and support to those accessing the service, so that their continued participation is much more likely to be sustained, ensuring they get the best out of the service.

Ewell Court House

In recent months, action has been taken to increase bookings at Ewell Court House as part of the Council's agreed approach to enterprise and income generation. This approach aims to make discretionary Council activities more financially sustainable, ensuring that valued services continue to be available in both the short and longer term. Although the actions taken by the Council to date have led to some improvements in bookings, this has not been at a level needed to make the venue financially sustainable.

We intend to explore the opportunity and potential benefits from entering into a partnership with a specialist company from the wedding and events sector, to maximise the public and community use of this important and treasured building.

Homelessness

The committee has a good record of supporting those of our residents who find themselves homeless, or at risk of homelessness. However, as a borough so close to the capital, which has such a high demand for affordable housing and yet such a short supply of suitable homes, we continue to have too many households unable to access suitable housing in the borough and too many households having to live in Temporary Accommodation.

Later this year the committee will be considering the council's new Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy. This will help us to further understand and tackle the root causes of homelessness in the borough and help develop actions to support residents in their search for a home.

Council

23 July 2019

Councillor David Reeve, Chairman of the Licensing & Planning Policy Committee

Good progress continues to be made in the preparation of the Council's new Local Plan which is the priority for the Committee during the next two years. The absence of an up to date Local Plan is recognised as a major risk on our Corporate Governance and contributes to all the Council's key priorities.

The Local Plan is critical as it will set out how sustainable growth can be achieved, particularly in the context of the new housing in the numbers required by this Government. Critically, it will set the Borough's spatial strategy including development policies and site allocations for housing, employment areas, retail centres, education and health infrastructure.

Under the revised National Planning Policy Framework, this Council, along with every other Authority, is required to use a 'standard method' to calculate the minimum number of houses needed in the area. This calculation for Epsom and Ewell identifies a figure of at least 579 per annum (some 10,000 homes during the new local plan period), irrespective of our ability to build the required numbers.

The Government has also introduced new penalties for those Councils failing to build the annual need (based on the standard method). This includes the preparation of an 'Action Plan' and the addition of buffers.

EEBC, along with over 100 other Councils, have failed the Housing Delivery Test (because we are unable to demonstrate a five year housing land supply) and therefore we are required to prepare an Action Plan to assess the causes of under delivery and actions to seek to redress this in the future; and our requirements have been increased from 579 per year to 695 (a 20% buffer increase) this will remain until such time that a five year land supply can be demonstrated.

Our first Committee in this Mayoral cycle approved the new Local Plan Programme which is now in the public domain. This sets out a timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan, including further documents which will provide the evidence upon which the final Plan will be based. Having an approved programme which we are working against, helps demonstrate that we are positively responding to the challenge of growth. It is important that we maintain progress towards the submission of a draft plan that could be found sound at examination.

The second item approved was the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which provides an overview of the various methods whereby communities, businesses and other groups will be involved in the preparation of planning policies and the determination of planning applications.

Planning Officers continue to make good progress in the preparation of the Draft Local Plan which will go out for public consultation probably in the Winter.

Council 23 July 2019

The next reports before the Committee are likely to be the Housing Delivery Action Plan and the Transformation Masterplan. The Committee will continue to receive reports on the on-going production of technical evidence being prepared to support the new Local Plan. These will include the Strategic Housing Market Assessment update (2019), Retail Needs and Town Centres Health Check and Economic Development Strategy. The outcomes of these technical studies will be reported to the Committee over the next six months.

The 'Housing Delivery Action Plan' which the Government requires from every Authority that failed the Housing Delivery Test, sets out what actions the Borough will take to achieve the delivery of more housing.

The 'Transformation Masterplan' will provide detailed information and advice on how the Borough can be transformed, what that could look like and how it can be achieved.

The evidence gathered will be used to inform the Draft Local Plan which will be distributed for public consultation as outlined in our local plan program and as per our Statement of Community Involvement procedure.

Council
23 July 2019

**Councillor Eber Kington,
Chairman of the Strategy & Resources Committee**

Future40

In June, and after a period of eleven months, the Future40 engagement process came to an end. The Council has received a very positive response to its engagement on Future40 which has reached out to every household in the borough over the past year. Over 3,300 local people have engaged directly with Future40 and, in addition over 4,600 have engaged through the Council's dedicated website, and over 15,000 through social media. 1,800 people have completed detailed questionnaires, and over 1,100 have been part of one to one or group engagement sessions such as Future40 workshops.

Emerging themes are residents' desire to see the future Epsom & Ewell as:

- Green
- Attractive and clean
- Safe
- Prosperous, enterprising, and vibrant
- Creative and Cultural
- Affordable homes and affordable places to start a business
- Making more of the borough's history and heritage
- Connected (transport, digital, communities etc.)
- Attractive for young professionals and families
- A clear and unique identity

The next steps are to expand on these emerging themes and to use them for developing the Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024, as well as informing the strategic plans for other partner organisations in the borough.

Market Place Improvements

Phase two of the Market Place paving works are now underway, following the successful completion of stage 1 just before The Derby at the beginning of June. Phase 1 represented the most complex stage, given that the bulk of the works took place during the winter and spring months and involved the busiest area of the Market Place.

Since the start of the Market Pace works, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has had a place on the project board, and it is good to see that the works are on time and on budget. Considerable care is being taken to minimise the short-term disruption of the construction works on the market place, and it is pleasing to note that no complaints have been received. Indeed, the Council has received positive feedback

Council 23 July 2019

both welcoming the investment in the Market Place as well as commenting positively on the quality of the works being undertaken.

Currently substantial tree pits are being constructed to house the 18 trees that we required as part of the scheme. The intention is to install the trees and street furniture towards the end of the year when the bulk of the construction works have been completed.

I am also pleased to report that the Royal British Legion have offered us one of their special commemorative benches which will find a home in our newly refurbished Market Place.

You may have seen the excellent exhibition downstairs in Civic Street detailing the history of the Market Place and our iconic Clock Tower. If you haven't yet had an opportunity to look around the exhibition I encourage you to do so.

Borough Insight

Following a review in 2017, including a resident's survey, the Borough Insight was resigned and relaunched in its new format in February 2019, and residents have recently received the second edition of the new formatted magazine. The decision to continue to produce a paper magazine was, in part, to ensure that key information reaches groups and individuals in the community who do not use the digital alternatives and others who do not want the information as part of their social networks. Since the end of the production of hard copies of SCC's Surrey Matters we have received a significant increase in requests from Surrey County Council for their information to be shared via the Borough Insight.

The annual cost of the magazine is fixed at £27k and that cost is partly offset by advertising income. Three issues of the magazine are produced each year in February/March, July and November. 38,000 copies are distributed for each edition, which includes a delivery to every household in the borough plus the distribution of a small number of each issue to local venues in Epsom and Ewell including all council venues, libraries, Rainbow leisure centre, GP surgeries, Family Centres, UCA and NEScot.

Stones Road Site of Special Scientific Interest

Councillors may be aware that EEBC owns land at the end of Stones Road to rear of East Street/Kiln Lane, part of it which is a designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest being a breeding ground of great crested newts. Following advice sought from Natural England officers are putting together plans to provide for an improved buffer zone around the site and for carefully managed but restricted public access. This will be the subject of a Report to Strategy and Resources in July.