

## **CHAIR'S STATEMENTS TO COUNCIL**

**Councillor Colin Keane**  
**Chair of the Strategy & Resources Committee**

**I have pleasure in highlighting to Council the items below which were amongst those on the agenda approved by the S&R Committee on 29 March 2022.**

### **The Wells**

It was unanimously agreed to grant a long lease to the Epsom Wells Community Association (EWCA) to support its proposal for community use of the site. The proposal/business case included: renting out rooms for community use, a café and, charging a membership fee to local residents. EWCA will need to fund itself through the external funding available, benefactors, and fundraising events/activities.

The first two years of the lease will have a rent-free period, thereafter the rent will be agreed as a percentage of operating profits. If after two years the Centre were to become financially unviable or closes for a continuous period of 6 months the lease would terminate and the site would revert to the Council. It is hoped EWCA will make a success of the venture in line with its business case.

### **Ewell Court House**

The award of a 10-year service contract to a specialist wedding and event business (Bovingdons Catering Ltd) which also has a contract with EEBC at Nonsuch Mansion was approved. The service contract will make a positive contribution to Council finances and allow Ewell Court House to enhance its offer to customers and the community.

### **Commercial Tenant Update**

The committee approved an extension to the lease held by the operator of the Ashley Centre in a transaction beneficial to EEBC. In addition, improvements will be made by the Ashley Centre to make it more attractive to tenants and ensure its future viability and success as a shopping and entertainment centre.