

Statement by a local resident. I volunteer with the community group Epsom and Ewell Climate Action Network and as member to consider my statement in relation to the report about the Library of Things at Bourne Hall item on the Env Cttee agenda for 23/6/25

I am working with 12 other volunteers to provide this free Library of Things and I support the recommendation in the report. However, some references in the report to Appendix 1 may be misunderstood without details of my CIL application,

My CIL bid was for one permanent shed not multiple units. Discussions with The Borough and County on 14/10/25 confirmed my bid had been approved and the location for the store and also that I would need to apply for planning permission and sign a lease.

PrePlanning meeting was held on 4/12/25 to agree in principle for design My planning application, submitted 24/12/25 with a Heritage Statement Planning was granted on 12 March 2026.
Building Control confirmed they do not need to be involved on 19/2/26.

I have continued working with all partners but only became aware last week from reading this report that the Borough need me to consult with the Police. I want to reassure the Committee that although I am confident the design addresses many of the risks, I am happy to take further advice.

A few brief points on the report

4.5 Insurance is already in place and in addition the Counties Principal Insurance Officer has confirmed they will also insure the store as part of their “Borrow A Bike scheme”

4.8 and 4.9 A green roof: is part of my planning permission and will include a small area of solar to provide safe low voltage lighting alongside a larger living roof. No battery charging will take place inside the store.

5.4 I will work with the Borough officers on signage outside Bourne Hall. to reduce the number of questions from the public to EEBC and SCC reception staff

9.1 I am already preparing an application to the Charity Commission but can accelerate this if it helps officers progress the lease.

I feel I need to say, in the light of my previous experience of trying to progress this lease, that if it can not be ready for signing before April 2027, I may need to ask the new SE Surrey Unitary Authority to revisit the case for finding internal storage inside the Bourne Hall building.

Finally, while I am committed to addressing Crime and Disorder concerns, I ask the Committee to also consider the climate risks facing young people today. My aim, with the other volunteers, has always been to help residents borrow instead of buy, save money and storage space while lowering their carbon footprints.

Thank you

William Ward (Father and Grandfather)