

Epsom Civic Society

shaping the future, safeguarding the past

NEWSLETTER No - 156 - SUMMER 2018

Chair's Commentary

As I embark on my third year as the Society's Chair, I would like to thank members for their continuing support, not only for me but also for my fellow committee members, the majority of whom have been engaged in the Society's activities for considerably longer than I have, and whose expertise I find invaluable. It is a great privilege for me to continue as the Society's Chair, following members' supporting votes at April's Annual General Meeting. I am also delighted to welcome formally Bob Hollis to the committee. Bob is taking over the heritage and conservation brief, formerly held by Rob Austen.

Local Plan update

In the last newsletter, I reported that late April / early May was the anticipated date for the Council's publication of the Pre-Submission Draft Plan. There has been some slippage in the timetable: the Council's Licensing and Planning Policy Committee meeting scheduled for 25 April was postponed, and the draft plan was not on the agenda for the 8th May meeting. That meeting nevertheless had several agenda items of considerable interest, namely the Council's Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2016-2017, the Council's response to the Government's consultation on the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (to which the Society also submitted a response, more details below) and – of particular interest insofar as it anticipates draft policies in the new draft local plan - an agenda item, 'Making Efficient Use of Land - Optimising Housing Delivery'. All these items are downloadable at

<https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=131&Year=0>

The next meeting of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee is scheduled for 7th June and we await agenda items with interest. We will provide local plan updates to members via our website, Facebook page and Twitter account.

Responding to the Government's NPPF Consultation

All local plans should be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the Government has been consulting on what the revised NPPF should say. Key points from the Society's response to this consultation include a desire for greater emphasis on social sustainability, and not on 'growth at all costs', support for all viability assessments for new development to be made publicly available, support for reinforcing planning's links to health and the recognition of the importance of parks, open space, sport and recreation, concern about proposals for minimum density standards in terms of adverse impact on

daylight / sunlight levels on health grounds, support for strengthened protection for ancient woodland and concern not to undermine existing policy on the Green Belt. Indications from central government are that the revised NPPF will be published in July. The new NPPF will have implications for the policies in the Council's new local plan.

Parliamentary Meeting on Conservation Areas

On 8th May, I attended Civic Voice's All Party Parliamentary Group meeting for Civic Societies in Portcullis House for a discussion, 'What is the future for our conservation areas?'. This was part of the 'Big Conservation Conversation', a national campaign to improve awareness and understanding of the nature and value of conservation areas and to seek greater resources and protection, particularly for those areas at risk. Epsom has 21 Conservation Areas, all of which are likely to come under increasing development pressure. The Society is concerned that the character and local distinctiveness of our conservation areas is retained despite the considerable challenge of accommodating increased levels of housing need following central government's new standard model for its calculation. More information about the meeting is available here: <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/news/parliamentary-meeting-discusses-future-of-the-nations-conservation-areas/>

The Big Conservation Conversation website is accessible via this link: <https://www.bigconservationconversation.com/>

Millennium Green Pond

Those of you who have taken a walk by Woodcote Millennium Green recently will have seen the transformation of the pond, the full extent of which has been revealed following an initial extensive clearance of vegetation. The Society is pleased to have provided financial support to the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust for this project.



MGSO4 Festival

This year's Epsom and Ewell Arts Festival runs from 2nd – 8th July. I was very pleased to attend the programme launch on 10th May, and the Society is delighted to be a sponsor for 'Lost Words of Epsom', a wonderful opportunity for children and young people to get creative. Full details are available in the Festival Programme, and on the website: <https://mgso4festival.org/>

Road Representatives' Social

This is always a most enjoyable event, and I look forward to meeting all Road Reps on 12th June and those who do that extra bit for the Society.

Margaret Hollins

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Bradford House, East Street: In 2014 permission was granted for the redevelopment of the two buildings to the north of Majestic Wine and Office Outlet. The first, Crossways House, was completed as ground floor offices with four floors of student



accommodation over; the second, Bradford House was not, because of market conditions. A proposal has now been submitted for it to be replaced by a new building, apparently to be called Sunnybank House, of basement and six storeys over to be used as ground floor offices and 99 student bedrooms, for which there is an established demand by the University of the Creative Arts.

The design of the proposed build is undistinguished and fills too much of the site and there is no provision for very necessary landscaping. The earlier permission had been for residential use, the urgent need for which must be balanced against student accommodation. We have made these points and await a decision.

The former Police Station, Church Street: The planning department has held discussions



with the developer and useful amendments have been made. Adjustments have been made to improve co-ordination with future development of the Ambulance Station and Clinic. In this artist's impression, important changes in design have also been made to reflect local distinctiveness, including slated mansard

roofs and ground floor plinths and these will be welcome improvements by softening the rather square and unfriendly appearance. We have written accordingly and made some further suggestions, but pointed out that problems of parking and affordable housing remain.

2 Pine Hill: This house, in a prominent position at the entrance to the Woodcote Estate, has deteriorated into a 10-bedroom HMO (house in multiple occupation). An application by the owner to extend it into a block of apartments caused much criticism and was withdrawn last year. A revised proposal has now been made involving the addition of a new upper eaves floor to create eight 2- and 3-bedroom flats on three floors. The extension, with its increase in bulk, would be overbearing and change a well-designed house into a solid block; this would be unacceptable and out of keeping with the character of the estate. The present poor condition of the house cannot justify such a proposal and we have written to say that planning permission should be refused.



101 College Road: This is a substantial comparatively modern house opposite the main



entrance to Epsom College and it is proposed to demolish it and build a three-storey block of nine 2-bedroom flats covering a large part of the site. We believe this would be out of keeping with the location and would be overdevelopment by reason its bulk and height. We have therefore said that we agree with local objections and could not support the grant of planning permission.

Alan Baker

EPSOM COMMON OPEN DAY

This very popular event is being revived this year and will take place on Sunday 29th July at Stamford Green. The Society has supported the day financially and we will have a stall to promote our activities.

Malcolm Boyd

THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

This new legislation comes into force on May 25th and its provision relates particularly to how organisations contact their members. As part of our compliance with the law we are advising all our members of what data we hold, how we use it and your right to ask for it to be amended or deleted.

Why we hold your data

The information we have has been provided by you and by no other persons or organisations. Your data is not, and will not, be included in any material posted online on our website or on Facebook, Twitter or any other social media. We will not pass your data to any third party.

Data we hold

We hold the postal addresses plus telephone numbers and email addresses, where given, of our members. We also hold some information given to us by you concerning your specific expertise or interests. We will hold this information until you advise us that you no longer wish to receive information from the Society, or to be contacted by us for any reason.

How we use the data

We use the information you have provided to deliver our Newsletters, send notices of our AGM and to inform you of other events we organise. If you have expressed interest or expertise in any particular areas relating to the work of the Society we may contact you about that. Any data we have is solely for the purpose of contacting you by newsletter, telephone or email.

Your rights

If you wish to see the information we hold, or to ask for that information to be updated or removed, please contact the Hon Secretary (info@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk; 10, Woodcote Green Road, Epsom, KT18 7DH).

Email

For those of our members who are contacted by the Society by email, we will be sending emails to these members separately.

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to those members who have paid this year's subscription and especially to those who have generously given donations. A reminder for those who have not yet paid - £2 per individual / £3 per household is due. If you have not yet paid and you were out when he/she called, your Road Rep. should have put a note on this Newsletter giving a reminder of his/her

address. Please save them an extra trip by taking your subscription to them. If unsure whether you have paid or not please contact your Road Rep or me.

NATIONAL TRUST **FREE** PASSES

The National Trust free single use Passes that have been available run out on 31st May. I am expecting to have more available soon after 1st June. Epsom Civic Society is a member of Civic Voice and, as members of ECS, you are each entitled to one of these Passes for your own use or to give away.

If you would like one please let me know by phone or email and I will let you have it when they arrive.

Our Society is a founder member of Civic Voice which is a national charity for the civic movement in England. It works to make the places where we live more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive and to promote civic pride.

Ishbel Kenward - Tel. 01372 728570 email info@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk

A POLICEMAN'S LOT.....

The Metropolitan Police was the first formal, fully operational police force in the country established by Sir Robert Peel and operating within seven miles of Charing Cross. This area included part of Surrey as it then was and gradually additional parts of the county were added including Banstead, Warlingham, Coulsdon and Epsom.

In 1835 the Municipal Corporations Act allowed cities and towns to form their own police forces. In 1836 Guildford set up its own force and Godalming followed a few years later. A meeting of the Guildford Watch Committee appointed nine constables and a part time superintendent constable – he was also a baker - received £15 p.a. It was also decided that the constables be provided with a uniform similar to that worn in London at cost not to exceed five guineas.

Over the years attempts to establish forces in other parts of the county were started but it was not until the County Police Act of 1839 - known as the Permissive Act - that serious attempts were made to form a Surrey Division. In 1850 the Rural Police Committee met at Reigate and decided to take evidence regarding the formation of a police force in Surrey. In 1851 the Surrey Constabulary became operational with 70 police officers including five superintendents. Men of the right calibre were selected and in 1854 new headquarters were completed in Woodbridge Road, Guildford. Various county police stations were opened and superintendents were stationed at Reigate, Dorking, Godalming, Farnham and the headquarters. Four classes of constables were established but initially no sergeants.

The railway line to Portsmouth caused scores of construction workers – navvies - to move into Guildford and an Inspector Donaldson was killed in a riot which followed. In 1863 Reigate formed its own force and this force remained independent until 1947 when it amalgamated with the County Force.

In 1932 Sir Malcolm Campbell, of Bluebird fame, took charge of a mobile section and a few years later Donald Campbell joined the Special Constabulary as a motor cycle dispatch rider and in 1935 a Special Constabulary Air Unit was set up at Redhill Aerodrome.

There is not space to give the full history of Surrey Constabulary which in 1993 became Surrey Police and which gradually cemented a partnership with Surrey County Council to stimulate and assist community safety and crime prevention across the county.

Special mention must be made however of the boundary changes made in 1998 when Surrey took over the Boroughs of Epsom and Ewell, Spelthorne and the remaining areas of Reigate and Banstead and Elmbridge. This meant that Surrey, for the first time, had to police one of the biggest sporting events in the world, the Epsom Derby.

In 1948 the Force purchased, at a cost of £17,500, Mount Browne in Guildford, and this remains the Surrey Police H.Q. It was opened in 1949 by The Right Hon. J. Chuter Ede M.P., the Home Secretary, former Charter Mayor of Epsom and Ewell and former Chairman of Surrey County Council. It has very recently been announced that Surrey Police will be moving out of Mount Browne. The new headquarters are likely to be in the Dorking/Leatherhead area and it will take 4 to 5 years for the move to be completed.

Harry Corben (by invitation)

Much of this information was taken from Surrey Police. A Pictorial History by Geraldine Middleton-Stewart to whom much thanks.

EVENTS

LAMBETH PALACE and THE MUSEUM OF GARDEN HISTORY

There are a few tickets for the above visit on Friday, 22nd June including lunch – cost £50 pp. Full details are in the Spring Newsletter but do ring me for further information on 01372 273517.

IAN WEST’S ANNUAL WALK Sunday 24th June

One of the highlights of ECS activities is Ian’s annual exploration of Epsom and Ewell. This year he will be guiding us around the south part of Ewell village starting at 2.00 p.m. from the Dorset House car park – at the rear of 5 Cheam Road on the left from Ewell High Street opposite Sainsburys. Members, family and friends are very welcome. The walk usually lasts up to two hours so comfortable shoes and/or sticks are advisable.

ANNUAL BUFFET SUPPER – FRIDAY 19th OCTOBER

We will be returning to Unity Hall, Epsom United Reformed Church, Church Street, Epsom KT17 4PW. Cost will be £23 per person and timing is 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. (doors open at 7.15 p.m.) Parking is in Depot Road car park at a charge of £1.50 and there is an access gateway into the hall. Members, family and friends are all very welcome.

Our buffet is provided by Studio Foods who always add new items to their generous offerings and the food is delivered to your table. Mark Bristow, our Information Technology and Webmaster, efficiently provides a variety of wines and soft drinks to welcome you. Our entertainment will be by Warren Ashton who will talk on the origins of quirky catch phrases and expressions in everyday conversation, while illustrating them with cartoons. The application form is below.

APPLICATION FOR THE ANNUAL BUFFET SUPPER – FRIDAY 19th OCTOBER

Name

Address.....

Tel No.....

No of tickets @ £23 pp.....Total cost.....

Any dietary requirements? Yes/No Please list.....

Please return this form with your cheque made out to “Epsom Civic Society” and a stamped addressed envelope to Sheila Wadsworth, The Chestnuts, Farm Lane, Ashtead, KT21 1LJ

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