

# Epsom Civic Society

shaping the future, safeguarding the past

NEWSLETTER No - 163 – SPRING 2020

DEAR MEMBERS

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) impacts on all aspects of our daily lives. We are aware that planning isn't at the forefront of members' minds right now and we extend our sincere and heartfelt wishes that members stay healthy and we look forward to getting together later in the year. As regards the Society's activities, the current public health situation inevitably means postponement and cancellation of some activities, including our Annual General Meeting and Road Representatives' social. Here's how we will be directing our activities for the foreseeable future:**

1. The Society's committee will focus its energy on furthering the Society's aims and objectives, with reference to local planning matters and heritage protection.
2. Committee members continue to be in regular contact with each other on all ECS matters and **we will continue to update members via our newsletter, email, website, Facebook and Twitter.**
3. Regarding regular operations, the committee intends to continue to publish briefings on progress with the Local Plan, respond to planning applications and consultations, update on national planning and policy developments with local significance, and engage with all other activities that can take place, without requiring face-to-face contact.
4. We will be focusing on maintaining momentum from our January open meeting by continuing to work collaboratively with individuals, groups and organisations on areas of common interest, including current and anticipated development pressures and the emerging Local Plan.
5. The Society's **Annual General Meeting scheduled for Friday 24 April has been postponed.** We will notify members when a suitable and safe working date can be found.
6. **The Road Representatives' Social planned for Friday 15 May is, with regret, now cancelled.**
7. **We have advised our Road Representatives that they should not put themselves at increased risk to health by delivering newsletters and collecting subscriptions door-to-door.**
8. We recommend that members renew their subscriptions for 2020 and encourage members **to use our online facility where possible (see pages 9 and 10).** We recognise that some members may not be able to do this and we will arrange to collect subscriptions door to door at an appropriate time and following the most up-to-date guidance from central government and Public Health England, with reference to prevailing local conditions.
9. Committee members will continue to provide support for members and enrol new members via our website and email addresses. If members have any queries about Epsom Civic Society's operations during this period, please contact the Chair, Margaret Hollins.

Everything set out above is in the context of striking the appropriate balance between business as usual and recognising that it is not business as usual at the moment, and that our members may well be fearful of the challenge that our Borough and the country is facing with Coronavirus.

## CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

A cold winter's night did not prevent an excellent turnout to the Society's **open meeting, 'Re-shaping Epsom's Future'** at Epsom United Reformed Church on 28 January. The church was full, demonstrating considerable public interest on the part of members and non-members alike in the transformational change facing the Borough. Thanks to everyone who came along, made comments and asked questions. My fellow committee members and I were delighted to have such strong support. For those of you unable to attend, our purpose in calling the meeting was to raise awareness of the current planning context for Epsom and Ewell, and to ask people to get involved with the Local Plan process and make their voices heard on key – and controversial – planning applications.



There are **big issues for the Borough to address, most importantly regarding housing delivery, lack of a five-year housing land supply and delay with the new Local Plan.** Our presentation pack is on the website: <https://epsomcivicsociety.org.uk/> as is our Winter 2019 Newsletter (No 162) which sets out the Society's concerns in more detail (members who have opted to do so will have received their own hard copy of that newsletter in December).

### Summary of Key Points

My commentary sets out the strategic planning context for Epsom and Ewell. Here is a quick summary of key points.

- Production of the new **Local Plan** is delayed, with the next consultation scheduled for May-June 2020. Estimated date for adoption of new Local Plan is December 2022
- The revised Local Plan will guide all development and planning in the Borough for the next 15+ years so we need to get it right– make sure you have your say.
- **New homes delivery** in the Borough falls significantly short of meeting identified housing need and the Borough does not have a five-year housing land supply. See the Annual Monitoring Report, Housing Delivery Test and Head of Planning's Report referred to below. Consequences for the Borough are serious.
- We think that **Local Plan policies must reflect community priorities** in shaping the future of the Borough. Your voice matters so please get involved and have your say.

## Local Plan

We were prompted to call the January open meeting in anticipation of the pre-submission public consultation on the draft Local Plan scheduled to run March – May 2020. A few days before the meeting, however, the Council's Licensing and Planning Policy Committee approved a **revised Local Plan timetable**, in consequence of which this consultation has been put back to June- August 2021. There will, however, be a public consultation this year, as the final Issues and Options consultation, scheduled previously for October – December 2019, is now scheduled for May – June 2020. Here are the final stages of the Local Plan Programme, showing old and new dates:

Key Stages	Old Date	New Date
Preparation and Production of the Masterplan	June 2018 – June 2019	June 2018 – June 2019
Final Issues & Options Consultation	October – December 2019	May – June 2020
Pre-Submission <b>Public Consultation</b>	<b>March – May 2020</b>	<b>June – August 2021</b>
Submission to Secretary of State	June 2020	October 2021
Pre-Examination Meeting	September 2020	December 2021
<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>December 2020</b>	<b>January 2022</b>
Estimated Date for Adoption	<b>December 2021</b>	<b>December 2022</b>

The complete revised **Local Plan Programme** (January 2020) is accessible at this link: <https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/epsom-and-ewell-local-plan>

On a historical note, the Society's first open meeting about Epsom's future and the Local Plan review was on 23 March 2017 when the public consultation was scheduled for September – October 2017, with July 2018 the estimated date for the new Local Plan's adoption. The process is now running over four years behind, with December 2022 the new estimated adoption date.

A brief reminder of the **Local Plan's importance**: it sets out a vision and strategy to shape the future of the Borough and provides the local policy framework against which all planning applications will be assessed. It covers open space and landscape, quality of the built environment, housing and employment development, community needs, supporting town and local centres, infrastructure provision and managing transport and travel. The Local Plan (something of a misnomer, as it comprises more than one document) is the key component of the Borough's Development Plan (which also includes some Surrey-wide documents on waste and minerals planning). The Local Plan is evidence based with new evidence and refreshed technical studies coming on stream later this year (see the Local Plan Programme and <https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/planning-and-supplementary->

[planning-documents/evidence-base](#)). Planning law states that decisions must be in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. **The revised Local Plan, once adopted, will guide all development and planning in the Borough for the next 15+ years so we need to get it right.** Policies under the existing Local Plan are under review, and new policies will be put forward for adoption. Policies under review include housing targets and housing supply strategy, affordable housing delivery policy, as well as a strategic review of the Green Belt. Examples of new policies will include a new approach for heritage assets, especially locally listed buildings and structures, and policies to meet Traveller community needs. Also anticipated are new site allocation policies that determine where new homes will go and where and how employment sites, retail centres, education infrastructure, green infrastructure and sustainable transport networks will be located. Essentially, the new Local Plan is the ‘growth management plan’ for Epsom and Ewell, reset to start at 2017 (backdated) with an end date during 2037. More details in the Local Plan Programme link above.

## Annual Monitoring Report

Members wishing to know more about how the current adopted local planning policies are performing in delivering desired outcomes such as new homes, can find out more from the Council’s Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The report for 2018-2019 is now available from the Council’s home page <https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/> click on ‘Planning’, then ‘Planning Policy’, then ‘Other Planning Documents’. The latest report reveals (p8) that 165 new dwellings were completed in 2018 – 2019, 28% of the Borough’s identified housing need, the lowest level of delivery since monitoring began in 2005-2006. Housing delivery has been on average 248 dwellings a year since 2006. Housing targets in the current Local Plan (the Core Strategy) are out-of-date and have been superseded by central government’s standard methodology for calculating housing need that requires 579 homes a year for the life of the plan, rising to 695 homes a year where annual delivery is below benchmark (as here). This massive increase in housing numbers for the Borough has serious implications for the emerging Local Plan not least as regards policies on density and height of new dwellings and site allocations for housing. **AMR Appendix D: Five-Year Housing Land Supply** (pp32-35) sets out clearly the acute difficulty, or more accurately the impossibility, facing the Borough in providing a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years’ worth of housing as required by central government (National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 73). There’s just over a year’s supply at most. This may in turn have implications regarding modification of Green Belt boundaries to accommodate more homes.

## Housing Delivery Test

The Housing Delivery Test (HDT) is central government’s annual assessment of local planning authorities’ performance in delivering their identified housing need over the previous three years. On 14 February, the 2019 HDT statistics were published: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-delivery-test-2019-measurement>

Based on delivery over a three-year period, results for the Borough show a fall in delivery from 57% of what was required for the 2018 measurement to 49% of what was required for the 2019 measurement hence the 20% buffer increasing annual housing numbers to 695 continues to apply: under-delivery raises future delivery rates.

In response to under-delivery on new homes, the Council has prepared a **Housing Delivery Action Plan** (September 2019) as required by paragraph 75 of the National Planning Policy Framework. It is

accessible here: <https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/epsom-and-ewell-local-plan>

The **Head of Planning's Report** anticipating the HDT 2019 results is accessible in the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee's agenda papers for 23 January 2020 at Item 5: <https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=131&Mid=809&Ver=4>

It sets out very clearly the serious implications for the Borough in failing to deliver enough new homes and is essential reading for everyone who is concerned about Epsom's future. The Borough has under-delivered on homes, has no five-year housing land supply and no up-to-date Local Plan, the earliest date for that plan being December 2022. In consequence, the Borough remains vulnerable to speculative development proposals which may be difficult to refuse, since the **presumption in favour of sustainable development** applies: "...where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date, [this means] granting permission unless: i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed; or ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole." (Paragraph 11 (extract), National Planning Policy Framework). Failure to meet housing delivery benchmarks and targets may result in central government intervention, which is, in the Society's view, to be avoided.

### **Getting involved – Next Steps**

Our open meeting was just the first step in supporting you to become active citizens in the planning process. We heard from some of you who joined us on 28 January that you have already started to raise your concerns locally and nationally, which is very encouraging. For the benefit of those of you who couldn't come along, **ways to get active in planning include** submitting comments on current and future planning applications; engaging with the Local Plan process: the pre-submission public consultation (June – August 2021) is an opportunity to tell the Council your views; emailing your details to: [LDF@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:LDF@epsom-ewell.gov.uk) for Council updates on progress with the Local Plan; writing to your local councillors, your MP, the Housing Minister (Christopher Pincher MP) and the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government (Robert Jenrick MP); and spreading the word, telling your neighbours and persuading them to join the Society – to strengthen our voice, and theirs.

The Local Plan is evidence based but not evidence dictated. We think that Local Plan policies must reflect community priorities in shaping the future of the Borough. A strong community voice is needed to do this. Your views can help shape local plan policies for the next 15 years and influence the outcomes on key planning applications.

**Please send us your ideas for a future ECS event to support citizen action in planning.** In terms of the Society's own 'next steps', we have had, at his invitation, a meeting with Chris Grayling MP, and are currently exploring opportunities as to how best to bring together the relevant people in a co-operative way to explore realistic solutions to the situation we are all facing. We think that working together on these matters of common interest to identify the best way forward can help to maximise community support for new Local Plan policies and satisfy the Local Plan Inspector, when the time arises.



## Farewell to Ruth Ormella

The Borough's Head of Planning, Ruth Ormella, is leaving her post. Members who attended last year's AGM will recall her interesting talk to the Society and her support for community engagement. We wish Ruth well in her new role and look forward to meeting her successor in due course.

Margaret Hollins

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Major ongoing applications previously reported: While not an exhaustive list, key applications still awaiting decision include the proposed block of flats up to seven storeys at 7 Stoneleigh Station Approach (19/00668/FUL); the Woodcote Grove (W S Atkins site) application (Ref 19/00999/FUL) and the 24-28 West Street, Epsom Town Centre (19/01021/FUL) proposal to construct a 13-storey high-rise tower block in the Epsom Town and West Hill Conservation Area. Crunch time soon to come for these very contentious and strongly-opposed proposals? We always monitor and study reports to committee and will seek to speak at Planning Committee meetings if we think those reports and their recommendations raise issues of significance or concern.

***Guild Living residential home, Epsom Hospital site, Woodcote Green Road (19/01722/FUL):*** Guild Living has now submitted a planning application for the land sold off by the NHS. The applicant has purchased the former nurses' home and hospital facilities at the rear of the main hospital site on Woodcote Green Road. The description is as follows: "Demolition of redundant hospital buildings and redevelopment of the site to provide a new care community for older people arranged in two buildings, comprising 302 to 308 care residences, 8 to 12 care apartments and 26 to 30 care



***A nine-storey residential home by Guild Living on Woodcote Green Road will dominate the Chalk Lane and Woodcote and Millennium Green pond Conservation Areas.***

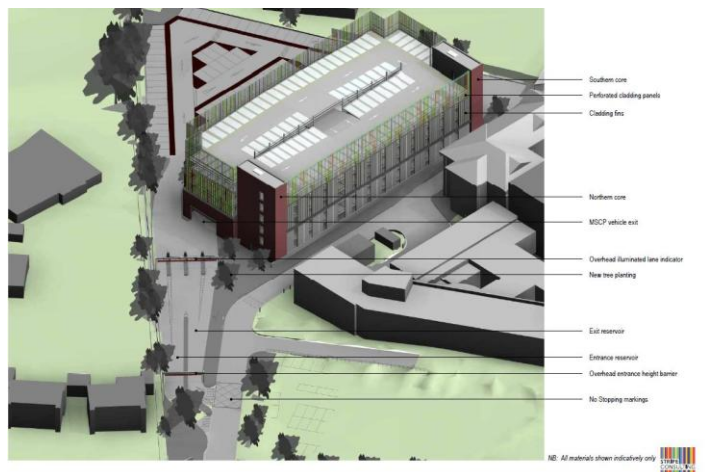
suites providing transitional care, together with ancillary communal and support services Use class order C2, 24 key worker units Use class C3, children's nursery Use D1 as well as associated back of house and service areas, car and cycle parking, altered vehicular and pedestrian access, landscaping, private amenity space and public open space." The proposed site is close by to the **Chalk Lane Conservation Area** and the new tower block would dominate the **Woodcote and Millennium Green pond** area landscape.

**This truly is a massive application – probably the largest ever seen in the Borough on such a small site.** It extends to nine storeys high. There is already very strong opposition to this proposal, with 580 objections received. We have studied the many accompanying documents and submitted our response to Council. We recommend refusal of the proposal. We seek a reduction in height, massing, scale, visual intrusion and impact on neighbouring properties the building will pose, and greater sensitivity in the

design and architectural features and in the fenestration to more respect the design of the locality which is one of the objects of the new National Design Guide.

**Multi-Storey Car Park (MSCP) for Hospital Site (20/00249/FUL):** This is an application for a stand-alone six storey car park (ground level plus five storeys above) on the Epsom Hospital site. The location of the proposed MSCP is immediately adjacent to the **Woodcote Conservation Area**, and near to the

**Chalk Lane Conservation Area** and may have possible adverse impacts for the southern part of **Worple Road Conservation Area** bordering Avenue Road.



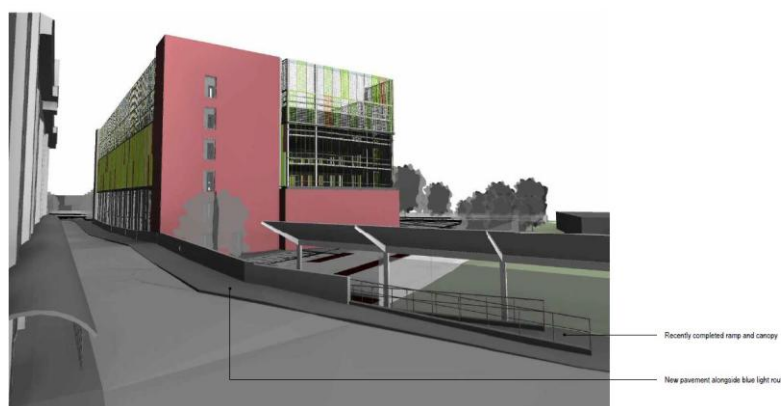
*Screen capture of the proposed Multi-Storey Car Park in the Woodcote Conservation Area (Stripe Consulting).*

The proposed MSCP will adversely affect the setting of 3 listed buildings on the north side of Dorking Road (East Lodge, the Bell House and Clock House Medical Centre) and the row of positive buildings on the south side of Dorking Road. **The visual impact on these properties and on the neighbouring Tennis / Sports Club is horrendous.** The overall **detrimental effect and harm to nearby heritage assets** is, in the Society's view, substantial. The proposed car

park is best described as a utilitarian structure with a large bulk and mass and a bland, boxy design devoid of any quality architectural features. It is a significant intervention on this part of the hospital site, that currently provides surface-level parking only. The Society does not agree with the submitted Planning Statement that what is proposed will result in limited harm only: the applicant has submitted Accurate Visual Representation photographs of how the development would be seen from numerous fairly near locations, most from within the Conservation Areas. The effect of the development is quite alarming.

In terms of health and well-being, locating a car park of this size adjacent to the well-used public right of way risks increased exposure of the public, including schoolchildren, to poor air quality from increased levels of vehicle emissions. We also query the compatibility of a development of this nature with the Borough's Climate Change Action Plan. In consequence, the Society cannot support this application in its current form and recommends that it be refused. An objection letter has been submitted.

The Society recognises the need for a car park to satisfy parking requirements. But it need not be so ugly or visually intrusive. A way to resolve it would be to have 2 floors of underground / basement parking and 3 storeys on top which would be at approximately the same height as the hospital. **We understand that pre-application discussions with planning officers suggested in any event that ground level plus three storeys should be the maximum**



*Screen capture of the proposed Multi-Storey Car Park showing ground-up view (Stripe Consulting).*

**height.** We would suggest green living walls for the external wall treatment to soften the impact, particularly adjoining Epsom Sports Club land and increased tree planting on the boundary. The Society considers the current provision of only 7 active charging points for electric vehicles, with 6 passive charging points for further EV expansion is an unambitious target, given the Borough's newly adopted Climate Action Plan. Increased vehicle emissions from petrol / diesel cars are inappropriate adjacent to a sports ground promoting healthy activities.

**7 Chase End, Epsom (19/00988/OUT):** The Society objected to a backland proposal to erect two new houses in the rear garden within this small cul-de-sac of semi-detached properties. This was seen as a piecemeal development for this plot. The application required the demolition of one half of a semi-detached property, the build of two new houses in the garden and replacement of the semi-detached dwelling on a different footprint with a tunnel of restricted height and width to access the rear houses. This seemed quite inappropriate. However, the Council has granted approval despite policies which we thought were in place having seemingly been ignored. Incidentally, the houses proposed are very close, almost abutting, the recent embankment landslip of the railway line. That must raise a further question mark on the site suitability.

**Police and Ambulance sites, Church Street Epsom (19/01589/FUL):** This McCarthy and Stone application for 60 Extra Care Units for occupation by persons aged 70 or over was validated in mid-February.

It is for a building extending to seven storeys high but stepping down to three storeys towards The Parade to respect the neighbouring residential dwellings. The application further refers to including shared

facilities, a communal lounge and a hotel style

guest suite for visitors and parking for a total of 31 cars for residents, staff and visitors and space for mobility scooters with charging points. The applicant describes the design as contemporary, built in light brick and large window openings to help break up the façade of the building. There has been substantial local opposition, and the Society's own letter recommends refusal of the application on several grounds, including height and density, the adverse impact on the adjacent Church Street Conservation Area and nearby listed buildings.

**2/24 Dorking Road (19/01365/FUL):** We reported in our Winter (No. 162) newsletter to members about this application for the demolition of two 1930s-era detached houses and their replacement with a new 3-4 storey building to accommodate 20 flats with basement parking. The Society's letter recommending refusal of the application is available on our website. As we go to press, the application is awaiting decision.



**South-West elevation of the Police and Ambulance Station proposals on Church Street (McCarthy and Stone).**

**Michael Arthur**



## CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

The winter period has given us the chance to reflect on the continued importance of our delightful Conservation Areas and how they enhance our wellbeing. We have been encouraged by the Council's refusal of certain planning applications based on the detrimental effects to the specific Conservation Area or to the local environment. At our January Open Meeting attendees supported the ECS commitment to our local heritage.

The future and preservation of our local Green Belt is still one of concern. It should not be accepted that we need to give a 'little bit up' to save the whole. My experience in the construction industry suggests that this policy shows an opening and the potential to 'grab a lot' and start building on the land already owned by the developer. Their type of development offered would be large single houses and OAP units.

At a recent meeting with our local MP, the prospect of some small-scale development on our Green Belt came up for discussion. The Society does not, in principle, support development on the Green Belt, although we recognise that any proposal for development must be considered on its merits.

The Council's delay in the production of the Local Plan can only provide more opportunity for developers to push forward with unfavourable planning applications.

The latest Planning applications causing concern include the following:

***Clayhill Lodge & Allonby Scheme (20/00031/FUL):*** This application includes the demolition of two houses and the construction of 14 flats and 9 houses. We have written and strongly objected to this proposal, which is located within the **Stamford Green Conservation Area**.

***Proposed development of 14 flats and 9 houses in place of two houses in Stamford Green CA (LyttleAssociates Architects (Design and Access Statement 1).***

This site is a continuation of the recently completed adjacent Court Lane development



(15/00492/FUL and 16/01145/FUL) which is still to be occupied. The first phase of the Court Lane scheme was approved on Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. The second phase was approved by the Council. The proposed Clayhill Lodge scheme is intended to complement the Court Lane design with similar materials, landscaping and access arrangements.

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's own Character Appraisal and Management Proposal 2007 states:

"The Stamford Green Conservation Area is a truly special place ...It is

our duty as the Local Planning Authority to ensure, in our decision-making, that its special character is not only preserved but, wherever possible, enhanced."

***W S Atkins Grounds, Woodcote Grove (19/00999/FUL):***

In our last newsletter, we said that we could not see a quick resolution for this application, and so it has proved to be. Amended plans were received by the Council in February in consequence of which we reviewed and updated our original letter of objection submitted last September.

While the amendments address several of our original concerns, we nonetheless concluded that the revised proposals constitute an attempt at significant over-development affecting heritage assets in one of Epsom's most important Conservation Areas, and accordingly we have submitted a second letter of objection which is available on the Society's website.



***Aerial view showing the Atkins site and surrounding Green Belt and Chalk Lane Conservation Area (Epsom Civic Society).***

***The Lodge, West Street, Ewell (19/00801/FUL):*** This application did become a little complicated! We wrote back in August 2019 objecting to a scheme for the demolition of the detached house and then construction of two houses and four flats on the remaining smaller size plot. The council refused the proposal, stating the adverse effect on the **Ewell Village Conservation Area**. This application went to appeal. We wrote to The Planning Inspectorate reconfirming our objections. However, in the meantime, a further application was submitted by the developer. Adjustments were made to the parking provisions, which conformed to local policies. Also there was the reduction of one flat. We wrote again objecting to this latest proposal and strongly supported the efforts by local residents. We are pleased to report that the Planning Committee meeting on 12 March overturned the Officer's recommendation to permit the application by overwhelmingly refusing it

***Langley Bottom Farm Buildings (20/00325/FUL):*** An application has now been lodged for the



construction of 20 new houses on the site of the farm buildings and attached **Green Belt** land at Langley Vale Farm. This residential development is in the Green Belt and we are analysing the application in detail before we are able to comment. If Planning Permission was to be granted then this scheme could be the forerunner for the main development on the green belt field up to the village.

***The bridle track running adjacent to Langley Bottom Farm and fields looking across to Langley Vale Village. Planning to build 20 houses has been lodged (© Ian Capper).***

**1 Higher Green proposed new house (19/00758/FUL):** We reported that the application was refused but this application has now been appealed. We objected based on our concerns regarding the effect on the CA and proximity to a school. We have posted a letter to The Planning Inspectorate confirming our objections to this scheme. We await the outcome of the Appeal.

**Wells Community Centre, Epsom Common (19/00929/FUL):** We continue to support the local residents and councillors in the objection to this proposal to demolish the Wells Community Centre and build 23 residences. Whilst we support the need for more affordable homes, we consider that this proposal is poorly conceived and is poorly designed.

**27 Alexandra Road (19/01721/FUL):** We wrote an objection letter to this façade refurbishment and four-storey extension to this existing block of flats. Whilst not objecting to the additional floor we were concerned at the provision for extra one-bedroom flats. We suggested that two-bedroom flats should have been proposed to better suit the council's current housing projections. As the Newsletter closed for press, we learned that this application was approved without amendment.

We encourage our members to write letters objecting (or supporting) planning applications that could directly affect them and schemes of a wider nature that could affect the environment and their quality of life. The Council list out the acceptable criteria for objecting to a specific application. The ECS can assist you in identifying any conflicts with Council & Government Planning Policies. These can be hard to search out but usually form the basis for the Council's acceptances of refusals.

**Bob Hollis**

## **EVENTS**

### **Midsummer Quiz Night Postponed**

Our Midsummer Quiz Night at The Epsom Club on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June has been postponed. We will keep you posted once we are in a position to arrange it again.

**Ian West's walk on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> July** is currently going ahead subject to the Government's COVID-19 social/physical restrictions having been lifted. We will email details and update you via our website nearer the time regarding the planned walk, meeting place and time. Please do contact me directly by telephone if you aren't online! No booking is required. Sheila Wadsworth, 8 Claverton, 52 Woodfield Lane, Ashted, KT21 2BJ (01372-275580).

### **MGSO4 Festival**

Epsom's creative arts festival is planned for 22-28 June, subject to COVID-19 restrictions, with the theme of 'Journeys'. Check out their website for more information: <https://mgso4festival.org/>.

**Sheila Wadsworth**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Sadly two of our long serving Road Reps have recently died and both have contributed to the Society for many years and not just as Road Reps. Richard Dean, Rep. for over 20 years, died in November and



Martin Thompson, Rep. for just under 20 years, in January. Both had the interests of Epsom at heart and will be missed.

Exceptionally, this year, due to Coronavirus precautions, our Road Reps cannot deliver your Newsletter. We will email members as usual and place the Newsletter on the website. Simply click on the website Newsletter link to find it. For those members who look forward to receiving their printed version, we will be arranging for a reduced print run for distribution at a later date. Regarding your subscription, where possible we would encourage you to renew using our online subscription facility. Go to the website [www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk/membership](http://www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk/membership), click on 'Join us' and select the PayPal option at the bottom of the page. You can choose between individual (£2) and household (£3) membership, or pay a different amount if you wish to make a donation. Please include your surname, post code and house number so we can identify you as having paid. When you select the yellow 'Pay Now' button, you will be taken to the PayPal website. If you have a PayPal account, you can sign in; if not, you can make the payment by credit or debit card without signing in.

Our Membership is currently approaching 1850 but, at this crucial time in the history of the Society and the Borough, the more members we have the better, as well as a few more committee members. If you do use one of our recruiting leaflets please amend my address at the bottom of the application page to 9 Sheraton Drive, Epsom, KT19 8JL – we moved in February.

If you wish to join us, please contact: **Ishbel Kenward** - Membership Secretary (01372 438361) or email: [membership@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk)

**Ishbel Kenward**

### **URGENT: Call for New Committee Members**

To ensure that the Society continues to thrive at this critical time for planning in Epsom we need more members on the committee, especially for the roles of **Secretary** and **Minutes Secretary**. We also need more support for writing letters on planning applications and with our newsletter, website and other communications.

So if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining the committee, we'd love to hear from you. Please don't hold back from volunteering!

If you would like to know more about what we do, please email me at: [chairman@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk)

You can also check out our website: [www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk)

**Margaret Hollins**

Please send any letters or comments for consideration to: Newsletter Editor: [publicity@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:publicity@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk)  
All of our newsletters are available in colour on our website: [www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk)

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