

# NEWSLETTER No - 168 - AUTUMN 2021

### **CHAIR'S COMMENTARY**

Dear Members,

I hope that everyone has been able to enjoy a break this summer with friends and family. As more of us get vaccinated and lockdown restrictions ease, it has been encouraging to see Epsom starting to regain its vitality.

The marketplace looks splendid, especially when the sun deigns to shine, more market days and an increased range of market stalls together with the festive notes of the live music programme are all helping to bring back a sense of vibrancy and get communities back together.

Lloyds Pharmacy's heritage shopfront, Grade II\* Listed, is newly restored and looking great in its grey, white, and black colours (see photo below).



Epsom's marketplace is regaining its vitality (Photos: Margaret Hollins)



There is fresh planting in Epsom Square and the prospect of a more varied selection of movies available locally with work on the Picturehouse Cinema in the corner of Epsom Square well underway. We first wrote about the Picturehouse in our Spring 2019 newsletter, available on our website. New maps and signage are appearing around the town, and there is a growing number of cafés in local parks, including Park View Café in Alexandra Recreation Ground, Chill Out Café in Auriol Park, Much in Horton Country Park, plus the Yummy Scrummy catering van in Rosebery Park.

Starting the Society's return to post-lockdown normality was our first, and well-supported event, a guided walk by Ian West on Sunday 4 July exploring the history of two of Ewell's Grade II Listed buildings. Later in July, we held our first in-person committee meeting since lockdown, kindly hosted by The Rising Sun. Many thanks to George and Ewa for making the upstairs room available for us. The pub and its garden have been totally transformed following a major refit and I am confident that I speak on behalf of all my fellow committee members when I say that we are delighted it has re-opened. <a href="https://risingsunepsom.co.uk/">https://risingsunepsom.co.uk/</a>

Lockdown nevertheless provided new opportunities, and towards the end of June I was very pleased to accept an invitation from Graham Jones, MBE to talk on Channel KT4 about what the Society does and what we see as the challenges facing the Borough from a planning and housing perspective. My thanks to Graham for making me feel so welcome. Our chat is available at this link: Channel KT4 — while new heritage Epsom Civic Society - YouTube From its base in Cuddington, Graham's Channel KT4 broadcasts cover a



Top: The new Picturehouse Cinema is taking shape while new signage (bottom left) restores Epsom's heritage as a market town (Photos: Margaret Hollins)

broad spectrum of local topics, community organisations and initiatives across the Borough, so please

Jones Music LTD - YouTube

Ashley Centre
Tales
The Nurber Place
Rathey Station
Port Office
Pales Library

The Qualitation
Port Office
Pales Library

Epsom Open Day returned on Sunday 12 September, with seven racing yards open to the public. This tied in with Epsom Week (10-18 September), including Epsom Heritage Day in the marketplace (Sunday 12 September), when I had the opportunity to meet some of you at the Society's stall. Looking ahead, the Horton arts and community centre is on track to open later this year; sign up for updates here: <a href="https://thehortonepsom.org/">https://thehortonepsom.org/</a> The Playhouse's Autumn / Winter show guide is out: <a href="Epsom Playhouse">Epsom Playhouse</a> And not forgetting the Society's own dinner / theatre outing to the Mill at Sonning on Sunday 19 December, details in the 'Events' section on page 10.

consider subscribing (it's free!) to his YouTube channel: Graham

# **Planning Updates**

# **National**

Following a government consultation earlier this year, and the responses received, the government has published (20 July 2021) **a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** and a **National Model Design Code (NMDC**). The documents are accessible respectively at these links: <u>National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> and <u>National Model Design Code - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> The revised NPPF replaces the previously updated version from February 2019.

A comparison document, showing both old and new versions is available here: <a href="NPPF\_Feb\_2019\_revised">NPPF\_JULY\_2021.PDF - Google Drive</a> (Source: Angus Walker, Partner, BDB Pitmans via Twitter @PlanningActBlog).



The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government:

"Beauty and community must be fought for, and the case for them must be made and remade".

"The aim is to establish what is provably popular with local communities and embed those standards into the planning system via local design codes to ensure consistent, beautiful development.

By enabling communities to set the terms for developers at the very start, we are improving the way we deliver homes.

Taking power out of the hands of the big developers and giving it back to local communities – with more opportunities for small local builders in a more competitive and diverse industry''

Source: Office for Place launch - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Alongside these publications, on the same date, the **Office for Place** was launched by Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick. His full speech is available here: Office for Place launch - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) The **government's press release** provides helpful background and context and can be found here: Vision for building beautiful places set out at landmark design event - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (see sidebar with extracts).

The launch event, 'Building Beautiful Places' and hosted by Policy Exchange UK was livestreamed and is viewable here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tE5GbO8q1Ac

It is too soon to tell what the impact of these measures will be, not least in "putting beauty back at the heart of how we build" and "creating beautiful, greener, enduringly popular places where people want to live and can prosper", as the Secretary of State said. The Society supports strong community involvement in planning and the creation of local, binding standards in terms of design and will be watching developments with interest. An immediately obvious challenge will be how to reconcile the government's aspirations for beautiful places with the ever-expanding roll-out of permitted development rights, which I wrote about in our Summer 2021 newsletter.

#### Local

The Society has long advocated **increased resourcing for planning services**, and we were pleased when the Council's Strategy and Resources Committee at their 27 July 2021 meeting approved unanimously an additional £190,000 to enable the Planning Development Management Service to procure consultancy support to clear the current backlog in planning and related applications and in addition, to employ an officer to train staff in compliance and to undertake an independent review of the service by the Planning Officer's Society (agenda item 18, replacing agenda item 8). More details at this link: <u>Epsom and Ewell Democracy (epsomewell.gov.uk)</u>

We are also pleased to see **permanent senior posts** in both planning and housing being advertised which when filled should restore a

level of stability in staffing that has been missing over many months. The lack of postholder continuity through short-term contracts, with associated loss of local knowledge and consequent impact on overall

resilience of EEBC's Planning team was one of the matters the Society raised in our letter to councillors sent in April and accessible here: <u>Epsom Civic Society</u>

That the Borough is advertising also for an Environment and Sustainability Project Officer is encouraging, given the increasing urgency of environmental and climate change issues and their impacts locally.

**EEBC Draft Planning Enforcement Plan consultation July 2021:** the Society has commented at length on the Council's draft plan, which in the Society's view needs considerable improvement. Our full response is available at this link: Consultation on EEBC Draft Planning Enforcement Plan July 2021 — Epsom Civic Society

The Society has also submitted comments regarding the proposed temporary changes to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement in light of Covid 19.

Best wishes to you all.

**Margaret Hollins** 

# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

My report firstly follows on from those applications previously reported which remain at the state of 'Awaiting Decision'. There is a considerable backlog of applications pending but a new initiative by the Council is to expand the resources and reduce the delay. Inevitably, those applications that are not straightforward and which raise a multitude of planning issues are those that have been exceeding the normal decision period.

113 Longdown Lane South (20/00545/CLP): A decision is awaited on the outcome of both the appeal against the enforcement order of use as unauthorised occupancy and a separate application to extend existing outbuildings.

Ashley Centre Entrance (21/00327/FUL): A decision is awaited on upgrading the eastern entrance, about which the Society wrote an objection to part of the proposals, particularly the covering of the existing red facing brickwork in sheet cladding material with changing colours of illuminated lighting.

*Madan Cottage, Avenue Road (21/00528/FLH)*: A decision is awaited on a first-floor extension of the house abutting the footpath to Rosebery Park.

The Lodge West Street Ewell (19/01604/FUL): Since our last newsletter there is nothing further to report about a possible new application for the site situated in the Ewell Village Conservation Area and abutting the Gibraltar Recreation Ground. As previously reported, an earlier application to develop three flats and two houses on part of the whole former park keeper's house and garden was quashed by a High Court order.

9 Corner House Parade Ewell Village (21/00784/FUL): In January 2020 the owner of a cafe within the shopping parade erected what is considered a crude and incongruous construction of an outside seating area of raised decking and boundary treatment within the Ewell Village Conservation Area. A representation request for an investigation was made. A long period elapsed, delayed because of Covid-19 restrictions, and sometime following the enforcement officer visit an application was submitted in May

2021 applying for its permanent retention. Whilst the encouragement and support for local businesses is not denied, any structures requiring approval, particularly in a Conservation Area should be of appropriate quality of design and materials and contributing to ther enhancement of the heritage asset, this aspect being confirmed by para 197 of the NPPF, the Council Development Management Policy No.8 and Core Strategy No.5. A decision on the application is awaited.

107-111 East Street (20/00797/FUL): This application is for a large new development of four storeys for 23 flats on the Ewell side of the Kiln Lane junction with East Street, Epsom. The Society wrote twice opposing the application - initially and also to the amendments. Interestingly, the officers' recommendation to the planning committee was to permit. The committee overturned this decision on the following grounds: 1. The proposed rear access road is unsatisfactory for the width for vehicles and pedestrians; 2. Insufficient car parking; 3. The bulk, mass, and density would adversely impact and harm the character and appearance of the visual amenity of the surrounding area; and 4. A lack of affordable housing provision. It is interesting to note that the points we advanced within our comments about the application were brought out in the debate at committee resulting in this refusal.

20 Burghfield (21/00870/FLH): This is the second application to considerably enlarge a detached house with the earlier application for a similar proposal being withdrawn. However, the Society has written to object stating that the revisions are not dissimilar to that of the withdrawn application. The extension is considered too large and not subordinate to the existing house, sited too close to No.19 with a change to white render finish out of keeping with the estate. The Society believes that an important factor is the character assessment document which describes this road (and also Mospey Crescent) as a positive development with the open space between the buildings a strong and pleasant feature. A decision is awaited.

Holland House Mospey Crescent (21/00110/FLH): We reported the refusal of the application to erect 1.8m high steel fencing to the front and sides of the property. An appeal has been lodged against the decision and the outcome is awaited.

**Michael Arthur** 

# **CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE**

The summer period has presented us with several challenges regarding Planning Applications, refusals and appeals. The general theme being that the Council's decisions on the applications are running late, a number are being refused and then the applicant appeals. It has been good to observe that many refusals

refer to infringements of the Conservation Area planning guidance notes. Another recent challenge has been whether to support or object to a Planning Application. The Council's Planning Website only lists one or the other. On several recent applications we wanted to support an application but with the addition of comments and requirements, usually relating to construction management controls. On a brighter note, the summer has brought out the best of our local heritage and conservation. The visitors to Epsom Common, the Downs and Langley Vale Woods are getting back to pre-lockdown numbers. It has been excellent to visit our new charcoal burner on the



The introduction of grazing on Epsom Common has seen revivals in butterfly and plant diversity. See our article on the importance of biodiversity p8 Photo: Chris Packham

Common, see the cattle grazing and witness the farming operations on our green belt boundaries. Joining forces with the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project, barbecue charcoal will now be produced on Epsom Common. This is part of a traditional approach to managing woodland on the common and is the most sustainable way of disposing of small diameter timber from scrub clearance. For more information regarding charcoal burns and buying charcoal see here: ECA Home (epsomcommon.org.uk)

The main Planning Applications of concern include the following:-

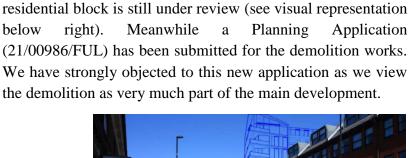
*Multi-Storey Car Park (MSCP)* at Epsom Hospital (20/00249/FUL): As reported in the Summer newsletter, this application was refused at the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. We now anticipate an application for a revised scheme.

6 The Grove (20/01855/FUL): The latest proposal for 9 flats was refused in July 2021. The refusal letter referred to the Conservation Area and the proximity to a listed building. An Appeal (21/00032/REF) has been issued and we await the Planning Inspectorate's decision.

24-28 West Street (19/01021/FUL): The Planning application for the demolition of the existing buildings, including the Furniss Building (pictured below left), and the construction of a 7/8 storey



An application has been submitted to demolish the heritage Furniss Building (above) in advance of any approved application to redevelop this prime West Street location into a multi-storey block. See visual representation of the proposed multi-storey block on West Street (Snapshot Visuals LLP)





There are many factors that apply to both applications (e.g. road access, environmental concerns, Network Rail approvals). Also, if the demolition works are approved and the works carried out, then when viewed as a vacant site, there may be pressure on the Planning Committee to approve the main application.

Clayhill Lodge & Allonby in West Hill (20/00031/FUL + 21/00167/FUL): We wrote in previous newsletters describing the main application for 14 flats and 9 houses. The site is in the Stamford Green Conservation Area and adjacent to Clayhill Green. Both of these applications are still under consideration. The ECS continues with its objections and provide neighbour support as both applications severely affect the Conservation Area heritage.

Guild Living residential home, Epsom Hospital site, Woodcote Green Road (21/00252/FUL): This is the major Planning Application being processed through the system at the current time. As a brief overview the progress is as follows:-

- Application 19/01723/FUL 302-308 care units plus apartments, suites. Refused in November 2020.
- Application 21/00252/FUL Reduced scheme for 267 care units plus apartments, suites. Submitted and then refused on the 7th May 2021.
- Appeal 21/00012/REF In progress for the original 19/01723/FUL application.
- *Appeal 21/00022/REF* In progress for the second, reduced scheme application, 21/00252/FUL.

The Planning Inspectorate reference for Appeal A is *APP/P3610/W/21/3272074* 

The Planning Inspectorate reference for Appeal B is *APP/P3610/W/21/3276483* 

As anticipated in our last newsletter, the

Planning Inspector agreed to the appellant's request that the two appeals be conjoined. The Society submitted revised representations and responses for Appeals A and B respectively on 13 July 2021, details here: Epsom General Hospital Dorking Road Epsom KT18 7EG – Appeals Update – Epsom Civic Society The Planning Inquiry ran from 17 – 25 August and was livestreamed. Catch up on the sessions via The Planning Inspectorate - YouTube - reference 3272074 / 3276483 Epsom General Hospital.

Friars Garth Offices and Affordable Housing (20/01229/FUL): This latest proposal is for the demolition of the existing house and the erection of a three-storey building accommodating 9 flats. We suggest that this is a major improvement on the previous application, which subsequently had to be withdrawn. However, there are still several areas of concern (e.g. environmental, construction management, privacy and overall plot layout).

Langley Bottom Farm Buildings (20/00475/FUL): This application for the demolition of the existing farm buildings and the construction of 20 residential dwellings on Green Belt land was refused. There was a previous application for the removal of the agricultural occupancy obligation (EPS/94/0732) in June 2020 which also was refused. There is an ongoing Appeal in progress for the discharge of the Section 106 relating to the change of use from agriculture to residential. The ECS is extremely concerned that our Council may not contest this appeal. This could subsequently lead to an appeal on the housing scheme and the possibility of houses being built on green belt land.



The Guild Living residential home plans have been refused but Appeals are in progress. The site would dominate the landscape of the Woodcote Conservation Area. A visual representation below shows an aerial view of the revised application. (Photo: Cast Consultancy for Guild Living)



**Local Listing of Horton Cemetery:** The Society was consulted by the Council about the proposed local listing of Horton Cemetery, and we sent our letter of support for the proposal on 27 August. Given that all consultees and members of the public who responded are in full support, we anticipate that by the time you receive this newsletter, local listing will have been confirmed by the Council's Licensing and Planning Policy Committee at its September meeting.

1 Burgh Heath Road (21/00031/FUL): This application for the conversion and extension of the existing Nursing Home into 9 flats was refused on 13th August 2021. The refusal letter referred to the detrimental effect on the Burgh Heath Road Conservation Area, car park access and the removal of the pine tree.

**Bob Hollis** 

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Ensuring biodiversity is addressed in the forthcoming local plan to build in ecological resilience, adaptation and mitigation from the impacts of Climate change.

It is now widely accepted that the climate and biodiversity crises are linked.

In 2018, DEFRA published their "Green Future: Our 25 year plan to improve the environment" report. The forthcoming Environment Bill, which builds on the 25 year plan, will be mandating "net gain" to ensure that new developments leave biodiversity in a measurably better state than pre-development. Similarly, the UK National Ecosystem Assessment, recognizes the value of "services" provided by biodiversity and that these should be incorporated into economic models.

The Epsom and Ewell Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2030's Objective 3 seeks to ensure that "in line with the Local Plan, EEBC identifies and realizes new opportunities for nature and maximizes the biodiversity resources across the Borough" and suggests "planning conditions affecting biodiversity are discharged and implemented as agreed, and that the use of sustainable long mitigation measures (e.g. creation, tree planting or bat boxes) are managed in perpetuity").

However, The Bloom or Bust report published by the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee recognizes that Local Authorities' capacity to deliver net gain will be a major issue.



Heathland, grazing areas, ponds, are all listed as part of the biodiversity plan for Epsom and Ewell. Here a picture of the Stew Pond at Epsom Common. (Thanks to Stewart Cocker, Countryside Manager, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. Photo by Nick Winfield <a href="https://eehe.org.uk/">https://eehe.org.uk/</a>

The main barriers to this are noted in paragraph 187 as "a lack of compliance monitoring, implementation and mitigation measures and a failure to consider the cumulative effect of small losses" which is partially linked to budget restrictions. The Audit Committee recommends that to fully realise the "net gain" objective, the National Planning Policy Framework should be renewed to strengthen Local Authority capacity and enforcement mechanisms.

This issue of implementing robust biodiversity measures is also identified as an issue by the Building Back Better Building Beautiful Commission report "Living with Beauty". Their policy proposal "6: Nature" seeks to ensure that urban development forms part of the wider ecology, where green spaces including waterways and wildlife habitats are be integral to the urban fabric. It states that access to greenery should not be negotiated away on viability grounds- and policies such as those set out in the London plan such as the "greening factor" should be more widely adopted.

The forthcoming Epsom and Ewell Local Plan programme anticipates that new policies will be developed to include climate change and biodiversity. The plan will also consider green infrastructure, sustainable transport networks and design codes.

All these elements will need to be carefully linked and formulated within the plan if they are to be successful. Most importantly it will be essential that the delivery and measurement of the success of these policies are followed up with a robust monitoring and enforcement plan. EEBC needs to be bold in its vision to engrain biodiversity in the plan for built environment (to include new, retrofits and adaptations) for all to benefit from and enjoy. There is much to gain but equally much more to lose.

# **Sources quoted:**

Building Back Better, Building Beautiful Commission, January 2020: Living with Beauty, Promoting health well-being and sustainable growth:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/861832/Living\_with\_beauty\_BBBBC\_report.pdf

Epsom and Ewell Biodiversity Working Group, 2019/20, Epsom and Ewell Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2030:

https://www.epsom-

 $\underline{ewell.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/residents/planning/Epsom\%20 and\%20 Ewell\%20 Biodiversity\%20 Action\%20 Plan\%202020-30\%20 final.pdf$ 

House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, June 2021, Biodiversity in the UK: Bloom or Bust? <a href="https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6498/documents/70656/default/">https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6498/documents/70656/default/</a>

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, March 2021, Epsom and Ewell Local Plan Programme.

 $\underline{https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/residents/planning/planning-policy/LocalPlanProgrammeMarch2021%20Final.pdf}$ 

# **Documents referenced:**

UK National Ecosystem Assessment Follow-on: Synthesis of key findings, June 2014 <a href="http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx">http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx</a>

DEFRA, 2018, A green future: our 25 year plan to Improve the Environment,

 $\underline{https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf}$ 

Aurélie Paoli

### **EVENTS**

#### **BOURNE HALL WALK**

Ian West's exploration of Ewell from Bourne Hall was enjoyed by 23 members in July and a repeat takes place on Sunday 26th September at 2 p.m. and lasts approximately one hour, however there will be no gazebo erected for refreshments on this occasion. If you plan to come along, please let me know.

# THE MILL AT SONNING - DINNER THEATRE



The final cost of the outing on Sunday 19th December to see 'Top Hat' at The Mill at Sonning is now finalised at £83; therefore if you have already paid £45, the additional cost is £38 per person. I gather we can all travel in the Harding's coach. There are still a few places available. Further details were in the Summer Newsletter plus the booking form; however just contact me directly and we can sort out the costs, collection point and any other questions you may have. Non members can book now.

I hope we shall enjoy a proper social gathering next year and I would value offers of help with future Events and someone to take on the role as after 12 years I think some fresh ideas are needed.

Tel: 01372-275580 Email: wadsworthfamily@btinternet.com

Sheila Wadsworth

#### MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Do encourage family, friends and neighbours to look at Planning applications on the Council website and comment on their suitability for our Borough; even better, encourage them to look at our website <a href="https://epsomcivicsociety.org.uk/">https://epsomcivicsociety.org.uk/</a>; better still, please join the Society! Keeping our town an attractive and a good place to live, work and play in as well as to feel proud of our environment, we all need to look about us and sometimes take action. The Epsom Civic Society wants our Borough to move forward with new developments but that development has to be appropriate and meet local requirements. We have a membership of well over 1700 which is good but the more members we have the greater our influence, particularly in planning matters.

The majority of our members have now paid their subscription for 2020 and 2021. Many thanks! If you are one of the few who haven't yet paid, either your Rep will have called when delivering this Newsletter or will have attached a slip to remind you. If you have any queries feel free to check with me. **Tel: 01372 438361 Email:** membership@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk

Ishbel Kenward

### **PLANNING EXTRA**

# Chalk Pit, College Road KT17 4JA

# Epsom Chalk Pit Community <a href="https://epsomchalk.wordpress.com/">https://epsomchalk.wordpress.com/</a>



Epsom Chalk Pit Community In December 2020, Surrey County Council received a retrospective planning application for a change of use of the Chalk Pit from a Waste Transfer Station to a Materials Recycling Facility (Ref 2020/0159). A previous application had been refused (Ref 17/00092/CMA).

There has been a serious and deteriorating situation at the Chalk Pit, including increased noise, dust and neighbourhood disruptions, and a huge fire on site on 10 February 2021. There have also been reports of significant deposits of dust from the operations that are more than 1km away from the Chalk Pit, with

some reports more than 2km away from the site, including Ewell Village. There are concerns that where these deposits are of silica dust this poses potentially serious health hazards.

A petition, 'Stop the Epsom Mineral Waste Recycling Plant Planning Permission' was started about the Chalk Pit and has received 3,600 signatures at the time of writing: Petition · Stop the Epsom Mineral Waste Recycling Plant Planning Permission · Change.org

The Society submitted its letter of objection to Surrey County Council in March 2021 and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council submitted its letter of objection on 19 May.

Background and updates are available via the **Association of Ewell Downs'** news bulletins: <u>Ewell Downs RA | Association for residents of Ewell Downs, Epsom, Surrey.</u> (wordpress.com) and on Twitter: @ewelldownsra; and also from the **Chalk Pit Community**: <u>Epsom Chalk Pit Community – Community group for the area around the Chalk Pit, College Road, Epsom, UK (wordpress.com)</u> on FaceBook: <u>Epsom Chalk Pit Community – Home | Facebook</u> and on Twitter: @EpsomChalk. Updates are also available via Chris Grayling MP's newsletters.

Ken Reid, of Epsom Chalk, provides his views on the current situation below.

In September 2021, NJB Recycling Ltd will have been operating illegally for over a year during which time residents have suffered significant nuisance with a failure by the Authorities to take any meaningful enforcement action. Suffice to say we believe that the development is inappropriate for the Green Belt and that it fails in terms of massing and appearance — it is out of keeping with the neighbourhood. We also believe that the noise and dust assessments are flawed and that traffic and vehicle movements on and off site are misrepresented.

The Environment Agency has had some impact on noise but not enough – they have recently released a noise assessment they have carried out that totally supports residents' complaints and undermines the noise assessment in the planning application. Overall, this is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, as indicated in the following extracts.

- 2.5 "I would consider the overall noise pollution from the NJB to closest fit a CICS2 Significant impact as the pollution is both excessive and sustained. I would therefore recommend that this is a CCS2 significant permit breach."
- 2.6. "I would also consider the noise from NJB to constitute a serious pollution."
- 4.4. "The surrounding area is residential with a few open fields. Epsom Chalk Pit is an isolated industrial area that appears to be at odds with its surroundings."
- 9.3.8 "....I consider that the context is that the industrial noise is wildly out of context for this environment, and that the Significant Adverse Impact is suitable for this situation."
- 10.3" ....None of the consultants have satisfied this requirement of BS 4142, or chose to confirm their model with field measurements."

It is nothing short of a scandal that all the Authorities have allowed this to happen.

Ken Reid

# **Call for Website/IT volunteer(s)**

We are looking for someone with IT experience and an interest in the Society's activities to take on the Society's Website and IT brief following the wish of our current and committee member, Mark Bristow, to step away from the role he has championed for many years. The brief involves first creating a new Wordpress site (preferably based on the Hestia theme) capable of interacting with our social media presence on Twitter and Facebook; second, transferring existing content from the current temporary site (help will be provided by our website host); third, maintenance and management of the Society's new website, including uploading documents, writing copy as necessary; and finally adding content to the Society's Facebook page. Please contact me for further information and an informal chat if you, or anyone you know, is interested in taking on the role.

If you would like to know more about what we do, please email me at: <a href="mailto:chairman@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk">chairman@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk</a>

You can also check out our website: www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk

**Margaret Hollins** 

Please send any letters or comments for consideration to: Newsletter Editor: <a href="mailto:publicity@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk">publicity@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk</a> All of our newsletters are available in colour on our website: <a href="mailto:www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk">www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk</a>
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