

NEWSLETTER No - 176 – WINTER 2023

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CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Dear Members,

It is always a pleasure for me to wish members a happy Christmas and New Year in our final newsletter of the year and to thank you all for your continuing support for the Society throughout 2023.

I'd also like to thank those of you who have contacted the Society with compliments about our Autumn edition and its heritage-themed articles on 'Durdans' and Rosebery Park. We're always pleased when members get in



Photo: Christmas in Epsom Marketplace 23 December 2022

touch, and as well as positive comments, appreciate your constructive criticism of and suggestions for the newsletter and for the Society's activities more widely. To those of you who have been in touch and are yet to receive a response, please accept my apologies. The Society's committee is still without an Honorary Secretary, and keeping up with correspondence has, in consequence, suffered at times. If you would like to find out more about the Hon. Secretary's role, please do get in touch at: info@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk If you would like to find out more about Lord Rosebery and his horses, check out BBC Radio 4's 'Prime Ministers' Props' on [BBC Sounds](https://www.bbc.com/sounds).

Members who receive the newsletter in hard copy will find following links to further information is much simpler by going to our website and then to 'Newsletters'.

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

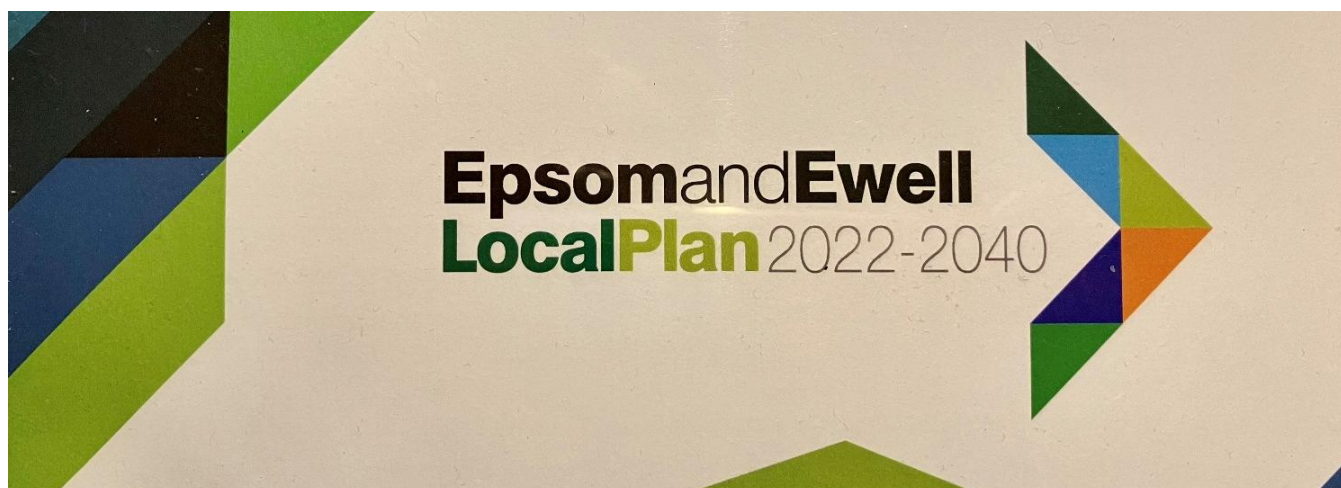


Photo: Epsom and Ewell Local Plan logo

On 24 October 2023, the Council voted to ‘un-pause’ the draft Local Plan process, voting as follows: for: 21, against: 0, abstentions:8. The Council’s news item (25 October) is [here](#).

Owing to the decision in March 2023 to pause the process, the **timetable for adoption of the new Local Plan must be revised** once again in an updated Local Development Scheme. The following timetable showing existing and potential new dates was included in the agenda papers for the 24 October meeting:

Stage	November 2022 Local Development Scheme	Potential Revised Local Plan Timetable
Publication of Regulation 19 Local Plan	February / March 2024	January / February 2025
Submission and Examination of Local Plan	June 2024	May 2025
Adoption	Spring 2025	Spring 2026

The Council’s Licensing and Planning Policy Committee (LPPC) met to consider and formally agree a new timetable on **Wednesday 22 November 2023, at 7.30pm**, agenda papers and YouTube link [here](#).

We’ll continue to update members via our website and ‘X’ (formerly Twitter) account, pending publication of our next newsletter.

November’s LPPC meeting was also asked to approve the **publication of the draft Epsom Town Centre Masterplan (ETCM) for public consultation for a period of four weeks to commence on the Friday 24 November 2023 at noon and conclude on Friday 22 December at midnight**. The draft ETCM will form a key part of the evidence base for the emerging Epsom and Ewell Local Plan. The Society strongly recommends as many people as possible to get involved and have their say.

The ETCM is available [here](#).

IN OTHER PLANNING NEWS

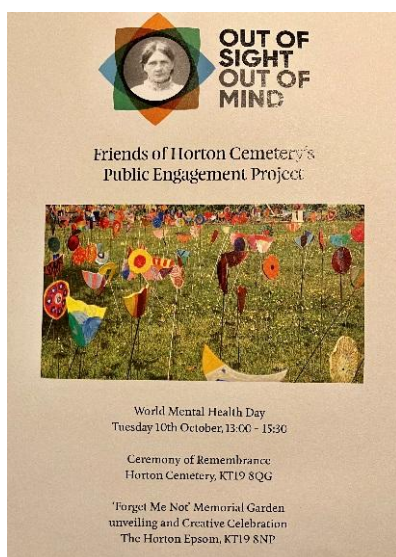
In my Autumn 2023 commentary I mentioned that the Society's planning sub-committee was considering which set of proposals to respond to in the latest round of **government consultations on planning reform**. Given the importance locally of getting a new Local Plan in place, we opted to respond to the **proposals for implementing Local Plan-making reform** as per the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and sent in our submission on 17 October. You can read our submission [here](#).

The **Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill** received the Royal Assent on 26 October 2023 and the Act was finally published on 3 November 2023. **Many of the Act's provisions**, including those relating to **local development plans, national development management policies (NDMPs) and neighbourhood plans will not come into force** without the necessary secondary legislation, ie detailed regulations from the Secretary of State. Bearing in mind the government's consultation on implementing Local Plan-making reform only closed on 18 October, the government needs time to formulate its position following consideration of the consultation responses (including, we hope, responses from the Society).

The government's **press release** on the **new Act** is [here](#). The Act includes a number of changes to the Local Plan process, and transition arrangements between old and new processes announced in the consultation paper set a strict deadline of 30 June 2025 for submitting plans for examination under the current system. The requirement remains to base housing need calculations on 2014 data (now 9 years old!) the resulting number being an advisory rather than mandatory end point.

Meanwhile we await the updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and note the arrival of yet another new Housing and Planning Minister, Lee Rowley, the sixteenth holder of the office since 2010, replacing Rachel MacLean who was in office for 279 days. If Mr Rowley's name is familiar, he previously served in the role (as the thirteenth minister) in 2022 under Prime Minister Liz Truss, as reported in our Autumn 2022 newsletter (No. 172).

Good news for local planning: **the Council's planning department is no longer under review for designation by central government**. This means that the risk of central control of local planning functions has been avoided. The process was initiated in April 2023 by a letter from Secretary of State Michael Gove to which the Council responded, as reported in our Summer 2023 newsletter. The Council's 5 October news release is [here](#).



*Horton Cemetery Commemoration
programme cover October 2023*

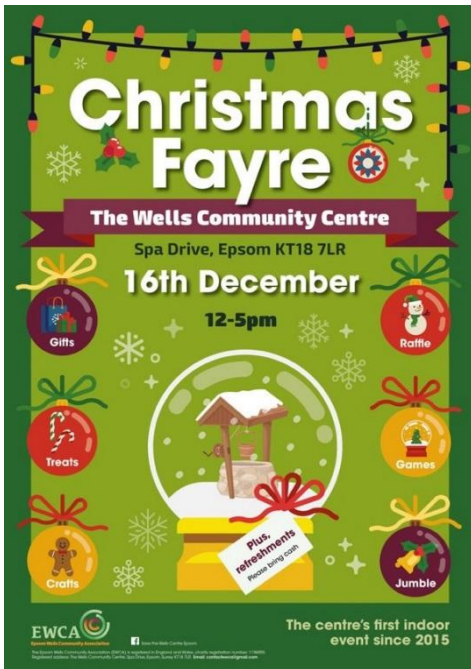
HORTON CEMETERY COMMEMORATION

I was pleased to attend on behalf of the Society the commemoration event organised by the Friends of Horton Cemetery on 10 October, World Mental Health Day. Michael Arthur's article below has details.

EPSOM FOODBANK

It was troubling to read the following item on BBC Surrey news: ‘Epsom and Ewell food bank charity sees demand almost double’ from the levels it saw during the pandemic: “...food parcels were provided to 10,720 people in 2022-2023, compared to 6,116 in 2019-2020.” You can read the article in full [here](#). If you are able to help Epsom Foodbank, you can donate [at this link](#).

EPSOM WELLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Epsom Wells Community Association is the charity formed by local residents whose aim is to reopen and run the Wells Community Centre. They are holding a Christmas Fayre there on Saturday 16 December, 12-5.00pm. Making time to visit is a great way to support the Community Centre’s revival: this is the first time since 2015 that the Centre has opened its doors to the public, more information [here](#).

SEASON’S GREETINGS

Finally, warmest wishes to you all for the festive season, and an especially warm welcome to our new members. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in 2024 if I did not have the opportunity to meet you at our Ashley Centre display on Saturday 18 November nor at our lunch and theatre outing to the Mill at Sonning on Sunday 10 December.

Margaret Hollins

HORTON CEMETERY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY and MEMORIAL GARDEN



*Photo: At the Horton Cemetery ceremony of remembrance
10 October 2023*

The 10th of October was a lovely, summer-like day for observing World Mental Health Day with the occasion for Epsom being marked by a gathering of several hundred at a Ceremony of Remembrance, firstly at the field close to the Horton Cemetery in Hook Road which for those who don’t know of its location, is at the far end opposite the Riding for Disabled centre and before the junction with Horton Lane where there is a memorial on the roadside verge. Upon approach to the field all were given a coloured ribbon to tie to the fence as a memory of the departed. The remembrance ceremony included a

welcome from the organisers led by Lionel Blackman, a tribute by the Mayor, various readings “Voices from Things Growing in a Churchyard”, “The Oak Tree Beside Horton Cemetery”; choral song “True Colours” by children from St. Joseph’s primary school”; a trumpet solo; ecumenical blessing to remember the 9,000 souls who lived and died in Epsom.

Then secondly, a walk of witness led by a Scots Bagpiper to the refurbished Horton Chapel now known as Horton Arts Centre for contemplation, reflection, tributes, poems, music and dance, a very moving rolling list (rather like an end of film credit) with the 9,000 names – how well researched that was; finally the unveiling of a “Forget Me Not” Memorial Garden Creative collection of 1500 ceramic flowers, truly remarkable.



Photo: Ceramic flowers at the 'forget Me Not' memorial garden at The Horton arts centre

Friends of Horton Cemetery is a registered charity and a public engagement project to promote the awareness of both mental health and the existence, largely unknown, of over 9,000 hospital patients buried there between 1899 and 1955.

ECS views the project to promote the existence and importance of the cemetery as very positive. It is hoped a more in-depth article about the Charity will be published in the future.

Michael Arthur

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There are a number of updates following on from the last (No.175) newsletter.

31-37 East Street (22/01518/FUL): The refusal of the application for self-storage units at ground floor with flexible working offices above **has gone to appeal** (LPA ref. 23/00013/NONDET; PINS ref. APP/P3610/W/23/3324830). The hearing opened at 10:00am on **Tuesday 21 November 2023**. The appeal application concerns demolition of the former Office World and current Majestic Wine warehouse and construction of self-storage at ground floor and flexible offices above. [Note that the initial planning application was on the agenda for the planning committee’s 20 July 2023 meeting, by which time the applicant had already submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate on the grounds of non-determination, ie delay in making a decision within the prescribed time limit. At the July meeting, the committee agreed that the Planning Inspectorate be informed that the Local Planning Authority would have refused permission.] As we wrote in our Autumn newsletter, the site intrudes into the large opportunity site SA1 of the paused Local Plan (the old gas works and utilities site) and we feel a more comprehensive design for the site as a whole will be a better eventual development.

39 Manor Green Road (22/00695/FUL): We were disappointed about the **appeal decision to allow** a rear garden room to be reclassified as a separate dwelling fronting Hamilton Close as it seemed to be strongly against the plan policies. However, the removal of off-street car parking to the donor house was not a consideration, the approval was driven by the Council's absence of a so-called 5-year future housing land supply, which is another dubious central government yardstick so often used being not appropriate for every local authority.

"Brackenlee" Woodcote Side (23/00457/FLH): The refused application for, in effect, a 3-storey (basement, ground floor and loft space accommodation) granny annex in the rear garden has **gone to**

appeal. The Society lodged an objection that this proposal is entirely inappropriate backland development.

6a Bucknills Close (23/00577/FUL): The application for the demolition of a bungalow fronting Bucknills Close and redevelopment with six houses on the site, basically turned around the other way and accessed via an existing driveway from White Horse Drive **has been refused.** The Society **wrote in objection** in July, given the strong evidence of the details being contrary to plan policies.

1 Kilcorral Close (23/00935/FLH): Application for planting and a new 2m high fence fronting College Road and returning 20m into Kilcorral Close to provide an enclosed garden. The Society objected to the application in that it would change the open plan street scene which has existed for 60 years and is a strong feature of this cul-de-sac development. There have been similar recent applications on corner plots in other locations in Epsom where this kind of development has been resisted. However, this **application was granted.**

The former Police and Ambulance Station site, Church Street (22/00923/FUL): Demolition of the existing police station and ambulance station and erection of a new residential, nursing and dementia care home for the frail elderly (Use Class C2) comprising ancillary communal facilities and dementia care, basement parking, reconfigured vehicular access onto Church Street, landscaping, and all other associated works. This application was on the agenda for the 9 November planning committee meeting with a recommendation for approval. However, the committee decided to **defer a decision** due to concerns including displacement of groundwater flooding to nearby properties. The Society's letter is [here](#).

52 The Parade (23/00867/FLH): The application for a first-floor side extension and two gabled side dormer windows to this locally listed building in the Church Street Conservation Area has been **refused for the following reasons:** harm to the Conservation Area and the character of a locally listed building; harm to the character of the area; harm to neighbour amenity. We are particularly pleased to note this decision that reinforces the significance of Conservation Area designation, the importance of local character and heritage and the protection and enhancement of an area's special qualities. The Society submitted its objection letter in September.



16 Church Street (Cedars Cottage) (23/01046/LBA): This application is for the change of use of 16 Church Street from an office building to a Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery. The premises have been vacant for 2 years. The building is Grade II Listed and dates back to the 17th Century. The building is located within the Church Street Conservation Area. The proposed works mainly comprise of changing the internal layouts to suit a modern day and safe children's nursery. Many of the existing features are to be maintained with repairs as necessary. **The Society supports this application** while noting the need for careful traffic management once the nursery is in use and for the avoidance of inappropriately prominent signs and noticeboards to ensure no adverse impact on the street scene. The proposed scheme complies with the requirements of the existing council policies and the Conservation Area designation. Our letter in support is available [here](#).

Langley Bottom Farm (23/01239/REM): Yet **another application to vary the conditions** attached to the planning permission allowed at appeal (20/00475/FUL), this one regarding proposed redesign of

elevations to Plots 1-3, 14-16 and 17-20. There is a decrease in the quality of materials, a slight movement of the plots to suit onsite conditions, internal adjustments for 'home working', and more daylight provisions. The number of 'affordable dwellings' remain as previous. The Society has concerns that this is a case of the developer cutting corners in costs and that the development's overall design quality will be diminished if these variations are approved. Despite the steep rise in building costs, that is not a reason to cheapen this site as there are special circumstances about this approval that should be upheld through retention of its attractive features, such as the curved build and distinctive roof forms, appropriate to the rural environment and farmyard setting. We have submitted an objection letter.

PREVIOUS PLANNING APPLICATIONS: FOLLOWING UP

The condition of the Guild Living hospital site. The Society has raised concerns with the Head of Planning about the dreadful appearance of the Guild Living site on Woodcote Green Road following the partial demolition of former hospital buildings over 2 years ago. We have requested action be taken by the Council to require the landowner to improve the appearance of the site as redevelopment is now probably some years away from actually happening.



Photo: Partial view of Guild Living site (May 2023)

Concerns about Woodcote Grove non-compliance of conditions within the approval. The Woodcote Grove major

residential scheme within the Chalk Lane Conservation Area, which Epsom Civic Society objected to, is now virtually complete and largely occupied. There remain, however, numerous potentially serious breaches of planning conditions which are being pursued by the Borough Enforcement Officer. These include: 1) external materials not in accordance with approved details; 2) car park layout not in accordance with approved plans; 3) pedestrian gate not accessible to the public (creating in effect a gated community); 4) hard and soft landscaping not in accordance with the approved scheme with

many shrubs and trees just dumped on site and not planted; 5) facilities such as cycle storage, bin storage and recycling arrangements not in accordance with approved details; 6) fast charge sockets for electric vehicles not working.



Photo: bins and wooden structure in front of the nationally Grade II Listed Woodcote Grove mansion house (August 2023)*

This is a disgraceful state of affairs for this key site within the Conservation Area and which includes the Grade II* Listed mansion house. We understand that a schedule of remedial works has been requested to be submitted by the developer to the council by 18 November. We will be monitoring this site very carefully to ensure the necessary works are undertaken.

Concerns about the impending start on the hospital Multi-Storey Car Park and lack of detail about the likely impact on parking, traffic, etc. Concerns were raised by Epsom Civic Society members in a meeting with the Council's Head of Planning that there were a number of outstanding pre-commencement conditions that need to be submitted and approved before any work can commence on the new multi-storey car park for Epsom Hospital accessed off Dorking Road. Many of these details will impact on nearby residents, especially the precise materials to be used and arrangements for displaced car parking whilst the building is constructed. We advised that affected residents and the Society should be consulted on any important details that are submitted for approval.

Michael Arthur, Bob Hollis and John Mumford

FUNDING SMALL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We are grateful both to College Ward Residents' Association for publicising in their latest newsletter **two funding streams from Surrey County Council** for small community projects, and to Civic Society member and road representative Edward Clay for alerting us to them.

Your Fund Surrey Small Community Projects

This scheme allows for a funding pot of £50k to each Surrey County Councillor. If you do have a community-based project idea, please look at this [link](#) or get in touch with your SCC Councillor to discuss your proposal.

Councillors' Community Fund

SCC Councillors are also allocated £5,000 to support even smaller funding requests. If your voluntary group or local initiative needs a small amount of funding to get a project started, this [link](#) has more information.

Your Surrey County Councillors are:

John Beckett (Ewell)
Eber Kington (Ewell Court, Auriol and Cuddington)
Jan Mason (West Ewell)
Steven McCormick (Epsom Town and Downs)
Bernie Muir (Epsom West).

Margaret Hollins

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

National Net Zero target and how this translates into local policy

The national net zero target refers to a commitment by the UK government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 100% from 1990 levels by 2050. If met this would mean that the amount of GHG emissions produced by the UK would be equal or less than the emissions removed by the UK from the environment. There are some exceptions to what is included in this metric which includes aviation, carbon emissions from degraded UK peatlands and emissions associated with goods manufactured abroad for example. In 2017, an estimated 28 million tonnes of CO₂ and other carbon gases were removed by vegetation in the UK. However, the amount of greenhouse gas removal or emissions possible from the UK's natural environment is dependent on how the UK uses its land and the land's condition. More on the UK's environmental accounts [here](#).

Surrey County Council's Greener Futures document presents SCC's ambitions to achieve their goal of Net Zero Carbon by 2050. This includes the objective of achieving net zero carbon local authorities leading by example in promoting sustainable practices across their operations, estates, and vehicles.

In its [October 2021 Net Zero Strategy](#), the Government said that “devolved and local government play an essential role in meeting national net zero ambitions” because it “is best placed to integrate activity on the ground” and to inspire “action by, local businesses, communities, and civil society”. More information on the role of local government in reaching net zero in this [Commons Library Research Briefing](#) (June 2023).

Sector	Strategy and policy	Enabling and communication
Surface transport	<p>Ensure that policies and plans support walking, cycling and public transport.</p> <p>Work jointly with bus operators to provide a bus network that is rapid, reliable and affordable.</p> <p>Use parking powers to repurpose parking spaces for car clubs, cycle parking and Electric Vehicle (EV) charging; scale parking charges to promote the use of public transport.</p> <p>Implement Low Emission and Clean Air zones and Air Quality Management Areas to reduce polluting traffic.</p>	<p>Communications and conversations with residents and businesses on their travel and transport needs to prepare the way for changes.</p> <p>In rural authorities reduce car reliance, promote EV use and support innovations in rural bus services and shared transport.</p> <p>Reduce business and customer travel to council services.</p> <p>Promote EV uptake by installing EV charge points, switching fleets to EVs.</p> <p>Support logistics improvements to reduce heavy goods vehicle emissions using traffic powers; restricting vehicle type, weight and delivery times in specific areas.</p>
Buildings	<p>Develop an energy efficiency and decarbonised heat strategy and action plans for delivery in the 2020s.</p> <p>Update carbon reduction plans for the council estate to bring them in line with net zero.</p> <p>Local planning authorities currently developing Local Plans should gather evidence to support policies that require developments to exceed current building standards.</p>	<p>Provide advice and information for residents and businesses on energy efficiency and low-carbon heating options.</p> <p>Invest in energy, housing and environment staff and skills.</p> <p>Raise awareness and engage key staff across the whole council.</p> <p>Build capacity to partner in research, demonstration, pilot and pathfinder projects.</p> <p>Housing and Economic Development teams should collaborate to provide support to the local supply chain in the building and installer sectors.</p> <p>Identify areas suitable for heat networks, which are effective in providing low-carbon heat to dense areas.</p>
Waste	<p>Planning ahead to ensure emissions are locked out rather than locked in at procurement, as 10-year waste contracts with renewal options are in place in many local authorities.</p> <p>Procure electric or hydrogen-fuelled waste and recycling vehicles when vehicles need renewing.</p> <p>Collection authorities should prepare to provide or continue to provide separate collections for recyclable/compostable materials.</p>	<p>Include waste minimisation messages in climate emergency, public health and resilient recovery communications.</p> <p>Local authorities should ensure their Local Enterprise Partnerships support the development of a circular economy, including supporting resource efficiency and materials processing and reuse.</p>

The table here summarises the key actions that the Climate Change Committee considers Local Authorities should take to progress towards net zero (Source: National Audit Office summary of Climate Change Committee report: Local authorities and the 6th Carbon Budget, December 2020)

Table 1: Opportunities for Local Authorities to progress towards net zero in key Sectors:

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is at a unique point in that the Local Plan is still being finalised and there are therefore important and significant measures it can adopt to support net zero objectives.

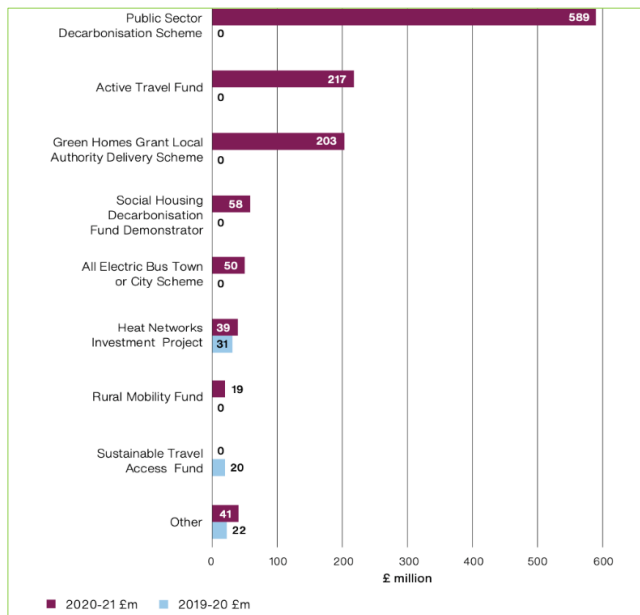
Such measures should and could include:

- Implementing and enforcing minimum energy efficiency standards for new builds that exceed current building standards.
- Shaping housing, infrastructure, and renewable energy development in their area
- Developing and delivering heat network action plans (associated with funding, communication, and implementation strategies)
- Encouraging active travel, decarbonising public transport, and installing public charge points for electric vehicles. This is particularly relevant to Epsom and Ewell as it prepares and finalises its Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure Plan (a key requirement under SCC's greener future strategy).
- Expanding and improving waste management strategies to increase recycling and composting for both residents and businesses.

The [National Audit Office's report](#) 'Local government and net zero in England' published in 2021 examined how effectively central government and local authorities in England are collaborating on net

zero. The report concludes that whilst there remain significant issues on the clarity of the role of local authorities and the relation with central government and the many government departments involved in reaching net zero, there has been an upward trend in funding available to local authorities for net zero activities as demonstrated below. (Source: National Audit Office summary of Climate Change Committee report: Local authorities and the 6th Carbon Budget, December 2020)

Table 2: Dedicated net zero funding for local authorities, 2019-20 and 2020-21



Funding provided for net zero activities was over 16 times higher in 2020-21 than in 2019-20

Having a robust Local Plan associated with a net zero road map is therefore key in order to access funding from central government from relevant funding pots to deliver on our Borough's net zero obligations.

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council have a very important role and duty to deliver and adopt a Local Plan that is clear, ambitious and with sufficient detail to deliver on national objectives to achieve net zero. This will require policies consistent with reduction in GHG emissions as well as policies associated *with adaptation* and mitigation.

As residents, business owners and civil societies and groups, we also have responsibilities to participate and respond to the Local Plan development to ensure it can deliver on these challenging objectives.

Aurélie Paoli

THE DOWNS

There was a meeting of the Epsom & Walton Downs Consultative Committee on 16 October, which I attended on behalf of the Society as an 'invited representative'. The agenda, relevant papers and draft minutes can be found on the Council's website [here](#). There is also a recording of the meeting available on [YouTube](#).

On the Society's behalf I added three items to the agenda for discussion:

1. Noticeboards content: The new large noticeboards and display boards were installed well over a year ago but still have no content on them - just graffiti! We were assured at the meeting that the printed inserts will be installed shortly. Apparently, the ground staff need to undertake tasks of this sort in the winter months when other maintenance work tails off. The wood of the boards will also be treated to maintain their condition. So hopefully not long to wait now....



Empty noticeboards are now defaced with graffiti on the Downs

2. Spoil heaps: There has been a proliferation of these over the past couple of years as the surface of the various training tracks has been renewed and the old surface material has been dumped on parts of the Downs and in the Seven Furlong (top) car park. Apparently, the Jockey Club has also been



Photo: Spoil heaps on the Downs

ferrying in similar material from other courses. We were assured that there is a plan to use the content of the spoil heaps on various tracks around the Downs, and that surplus material will be removed completely. A welcome start already seems to have been made on moving some of the most recent spoil heap at the top of the path from Ebbisham Lane.

3. **Incorrect signs:** As well as the large noticeboards, a significant number of smaller boards have been installed that mainly provide information for users of the Downs on the dangers posed by (and to) racehorses in training. Some of these are oddly positioned and have confusing wording - for example warning about a gallop (but not necessarily one right next to the sign) and then referring in the text to a 'track' - which could be the 'gallop' itself or possibly one of the other paths near to it. These signs tend not to mention training hours, so could be taken to apply restrictions at all times. The content of these signs frequently contradicts other portable signs used at various track crossing points.

In particular, many of the new signs state: "before noon all dogs to be kept on leads". This generated the most discussion at the meeting, since technically the bye-laws just require dogs to be kept under control at all times, rather than on a lead in the morning. So, despite their wording, the content of these signs is actually advisory rather than mandatory - particularly outside of racehorse training hours (6.00am-noon Monday to Saturday, 8.00am-9.30am on Sundays).



New signage but mixed messaging on the Downs.

The Society fully understands the need for dogs to be fully controlled when there are racehorses (and other horses) about, as the risks to everyone - particularly the riders and the horses themselves - are very serious. Apparently, there is a

good level of voluntary co-operation with keeping dogs on leads, but, if necessary, there is a separate bye-law preventing interference with racehorse training that would give the conservators powers of enforcement during training hours. It was confirmed that well-controlled dogs could actually be off the lead after 9.30am on Sundays. I did point out that having misleading and mis-placed signs could actually be counter-productive, since those not familiar

with the Downs could assume that, if they are being ignored at some times of the day or week, they can be ignored at others as well. However, it seems unlikely at the moment that the Council can be prevailed upon to improve both clarity and positioning. They claim that the content was carefully considered, and I suspect they lack the funds for rewording them now. We will keep the position under review and seek to intervene again if problems emerge.

On a separate matter, the new children's Poppy Play Area in the Woodland Trust's Langley Vale Wood has now been fully installed and is open for use. Details [here](#).



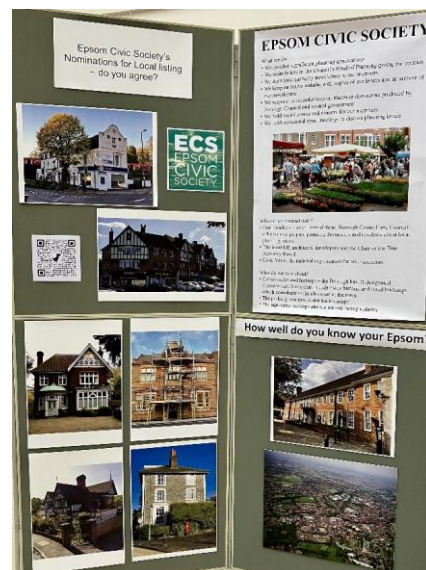
Incorrect signs pose danger: This 'Look Right' is placed with the gallop on the left.

Nick Lock

AT THE ASHLEY CENTRE 18 NOVEMBER 2023

The Society's Autumn display in the Ashley Centre had **heritage and local listing** as its main theme, featuring a selection of our nominations for local listing to Surrey County Council. Thanks to everyone who dropped by to say hello and find out more about us, and a warm welcome to our new members who joined. If you know someone who would like to join please refer them to our [website](#).

Local heritage listing is a planning mechanism for acknowledging the value of locally significant historic assets (buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas, historic parks and gardens or other designed landscapes) and to a limited extent, protecting them. These lists can be used in two ways: 1) to support the development of heritage policies in Local Plans; and 2) strengthening the role of local heritage assets as a material consideration in the planning process. We previously wrote about local listing in our Spring 2021 and Winter 2021/22 newsletters, available [here](#) and [here](#). Two years after we submitted our nominations, we are still waiting to find out which, if any, have been successful. Surrey County Council's involvement in this project has now come to an end, and decisions now rest with EEBC. We'll keep enquiring.



Our display showed our selection of candidate buildings for local listing.

NORMAN DEMPSTER: A TRIBUTE



We feel so sad about the loss of Norman who died on Monday 16 October 2023 aged 90, his wife Moya having predeceased him by two weeks, and we send our condolences to their son and daughter. Norman was a member of the Epsom Civic Society Committee for eight years from 2001 - 2009 and organised our 2009 trip to Chantilly.

Norman was a proud Scot married to Moya in Perth in September 1957 but happy to live with we English as his work directed. His work with Atkins (Consultant Engineers) involved some time in Ethiopia where Moya joined him, and work on major steelworks in Wales and Sheffield. He retired as a Senior Director of Atkins and in retirement organised Xmas parties at the

Epsom Club for retired colleagues.

They were our neighbours in Sandown Lodge for many years and I knew Norman through our membership of The Epsom Club where we met every Friday. We also met at Cuddington Golf Club every month for a meeting of Epsom Probus. Norman told me that he spent time in the Falkland Islands working with the RAF to ensure that, during the war with Argentina, the landing ground was safe for the increased use by the RAF and against potential bombing by Argentina.

We will miss him.

Harry Corben

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

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