

Your Survey – Your Views

Recently the FOCUS team delivered 1500 survey forms covering most parts of College ward. Hundreds of comments and ideas have been received from those who responded. Thank you!

As expected there is a high level of concern over:

- ❖ the state of our roads. 82% of respondents said potholes were still a problem in their road or in the borough. Particularly bad at the time was Randolph Road. We are still reporting potholes. They are getting repaired, but slowly.
- ❖ the continued lack of progress with getting Epsom Station into Zone 6. Some were concerned that our local MP, since becoming Secretary of State for Transport, apparently had no power to progress the long-standing campaign for Epsom Station to be moved into Zone 6.
- ❖ a desire for a “Peoples’ Vote” on the terms of Brexit. 64% of those who responded to the Brexit question favoured giving the people the final say, compared to 36% who were happy to leave it to the politicians.
- ❖ NHS funding. 5% of our respondents had taken part in the Hospital Trust's survey. It was refreshing to see sensible comments about the need for more information on the proposed new acute unit and the need to trust clinical experts.
- ❖ Epsom town centre. There is a clear appetite for a better vision and for significant changes to planning, parking and retail usage. We will be developing your ideas and looking into what can be done.
 - ◆ 90% of you use Epsom town centre.
 - ◆ 64% said it needed improving.



The good news is that 36% of those who responded are happy with Epsom town centre as it is.

The bad news is that 10% of those who responded never use the town centre – and if it is the same across the whole borough, this means that thousands living relatively near Epsom never use it.

One respondent went so far as to say “Epsom is so far behind other towns, there is no thought, no creativity, no aim and no attempt to make changes”.

We will be publishing more results as space permits. We will be sending out the full results to those who asked for them.

Thank you very much for letting us know your views

The Greenbelt – Tory scare-mongering?

A leaflet “Save our Green Belt” has accused the Borough Council’s ruling Residents Association of planning “extensive building on our Green Belt”.

We don’t often defend the RA, but this simply is not true.

What is true is that the Conservative government is consulting on a change to the planning rules that would make it more difficult for councils to reduce their planning targets to protect sites currently classified as Green Belt.

What is important is to solve the housing crisis. This will mean building 300,000 houses per year for next few years. Every part of the country must play its part, including Epsom & Ewell.

But local councils must retain control over the type of housing built, to ensure that:

- ❖ it meets local needs, particularly for affordable social rented homes, rather than maximising profits for developers.
- ❖ the necessary roads, schools, doctor’s surgeries etc will be adequately funded.

There is a better solution.

Currently about 250 homes are built in Epsom & Ewell each year.

Sites are available for another 3,500 without any loss of Green Belt.

That’s enough for about 500 a year for the next 7 years.

Meanwhile the *Green Belt Study* will show if any of the current Green Belt designations are inappropriate.

In 7 years time the demand for new homes may be less and further brown-field sites may be available.

Plan for 500 new homes in 2019.

College ward FOCUS team: Alison Kelly, David Gulland, Julie Morris, Steve Gee

News from the Local Committee

Surrey CC's Local Committee is a joint organisation with Epsom & Ewell BC that meets quarterly to deal with highways, social services and various other matters.

There are opportunities for members of the public to ask questions and have a say on agenda items.

At the last meeting in June, College ward residents raised the timings of the large new Residents Parking Zone M.

They feel that the 8.00 pm end time to the restrictions needed at the Town ward end of Zone M, unduly penalises residents and their visitors in parts of College ward, where an end time of 6.00 pm may be sufficient, with no limits on Saturdays.

Julie is going to help canvass the views of those who are affected later in the summer.

Allotments Parking Success!

David and Julie went along to the Local Committee meeting in June where the new parking restrictions in Bridle Road were being discussed.



It was agreed to change the double yellow lines on the allotments side to a single yellow line restricting parking for 1 hour, probably between 9.00 am and 10.00 am. For the other 23 hours in the day, parking on this line will be legal.

This will be a great help to allotment holders, who had been left nowhere to park. The change will probably happen in the autumn after another round of public consultation.

The restrictions on the bend between Copse Edge Avenue and Bridle Road will stay, as parking there was dangerous.

Chartwell Place The revised proposals for Chartwell Place agreed at the June meeting, included a Resident's Permit Scheme to operate for 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon, to fit in with the school timetable and deter commuter parking, as proposed in a question from a FOCUS team member at the March meeting.

Alexandra Road

Parking "creep" is particularly bad in Alexandra Road, where all-day parking has started to become a problem.

Your FOCUS team has made sure that Alexandra Road is considered for restrictions next time.

Off Alexandra Road, the Recreation Ground car park is being abused by commuters. In response to a suggestion from a local resident, we have asked the borough council to consider a 4 hour time restriction on parking in this car park.

South Hatch Planning Application

The expected planning application for South Hatch Stables in Burgh Heath Road has been submitted, see "Planning" on the E&EBC website, application 18/00308/FUL.



The plan is to demolish the existing facilities and build new stables, machinery store, storage barn, therapy barn, stable staff accommodation and houses for a trainer and assistant trainer.

However, there would also be an enabling residential development with 47 apartments and residents of the area are concerned that 47 new dwellings may be too many in this location.

Comments can be submitted to E&EBC online.

"Failing Grayling"?

Epsom's MP is often criticised these days. Does he deserve this nickname? Links to some news items are listed at: <http://e-e.lib.dm/EMP>

Alternatively visit the Facebook page:

Epsom MP in the News

<https://www.facebook.com/Epsom.MP.in.the.News>

As a cabinet member, how will his experience at Justice and Transport guide the UK post Brexit?

We need a **People's Vote** on the final Brexit deal.

Epsom Town Centre

Disruption due to the 'Plan E' road works will continue until later this year. The RA believe that the eventual benefits will prove worthwhile.

The FOCUS team remain disappointed that RA councillors rejected the more ambitious Lib Dem plan for freeing the Market Place from through traffic, by making Ashley Avenue two-way as originally intended.

We Love our Market Place – but Does Anyone Else?



These pictures were taken early in the day during the May Bank Holiday.

They are just one example of the shocking state of our market place.

Litter bins full, the horse trough full of weeds, brickwork needing repair.

What was once the "best restaurant in Epsom" is now closed. It is destined to become something more mundane.

There was graffiti on the Clock Tower, a row of upturned wheelie bins, flower beds looking terribly unkempt, scaffolding, machinery and building plant everywhere, due to the road works in South Street.

We have complained to the council. The market place needs to be well kept so that people and shops want to be there.

Surrey County Council update

Conservative county councillors in Surrey recently voted to award themselves thousands of pounds in extra allowances, whilst at the same time proposing huge cuts to essential services.

This money could have gone to fix our crumbling roads or inadequate children's social services. **See:** <http://e-e.lib.dm/Pay>