



# College Ward Residents Association

## **Spring 2008 Newsletter**

**&**

## **Notice of AGM**

**to be held at**

**The Queen's Stand, Epsom Racecourse**

**on**

**Wednesday 30th April**

**7.45pm for 8.00pm**

**Guest Speaker: Jon Sharpe**

**Theme: Recycling**

The College Ward Residents Association is an organisation dedicated to you, the local resident. Every year we hold an AGM at the Queens Stand at Epsom Downs Racecourse, where we present a record of our work and achievements for the year.

As a resident of College Ward, you are cordially invited to join us, to listen to our presentation, and to participate in that most enjoyable pastime, local debate. You'll enjoy a glass of wine and nibble too!

If you think local politics is dull and unimportant - think again! What you think is important, and in the CWRA you have a genuine opportunity to express your views - don't waste it!

See you at the AGM, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7:45pm. We look forward to your company.

# Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chairman
2. Approve the minutes of the AGM held on 14th March 2007
3. Approve & adopt the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2007 and to appoint an Auditor
4. Election of the Committee for 2008/2009
5. Reports from Chairman and County Cllr Chris Frost
6. "What a load of Rubbish" -  
Come and hear Jon Sharpe's talk all about recycling.
7. Open Forum
8. Closing Summary by the Chairman

**Please stay for a drink and a chat after the meeting**

Membership of CWRA Committee is open to any College Ward resident and we welcome applications.

Nominations should be received by the Secretary (see page 12) no later than 15th April.



Sadly, David Staples, Committee Member & Bob Flew and Margaret Robinson, Road Reps, have had to retire and we would like to thank both of them for their invaluable contribution to the work of CWRA over the many past years. We wish them well for the future.

## **Surrey County Council Tax Increase**

As you know, the Borough Council collects Council Tax on behalf of S.C.C and the Police, as well as for itself. The County Council set a Tax rise of 4.8% for its component of the tax at a meeting in early February despite pressure from the Residents' Association Group of County Councillors, for a rise no greater than 4% (RPI figure at that time). However the Conservative Councillors outvoted us despite our explanations as to how we would cut costs.

The treatment of Surrey, and other southeast England councils verges on the scandalous. Overall, English councils receive 75% of their funding from the Government. Surrey receives just 25%. SCC will get a £2m increase on a net budget of £600m, but the increased rate of Landfill Tax will cost an extra £3m a year. So not only will we receive no additional money, we will actually be receiving less.

Each person in Surrey receives £205 from the Government towards all local government services. The average person in England gets £595, and in Manchester that figure increases to £856.

**Surrey County Council Contacts - Telephone: 08456 009 009**  
**Email: [contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk)**

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## **Do you need help getting out and about?**

**If you qualify, this may be the answer!**

If you live in the Borough and have difficulty travelling or are over 60, you may qualify for Route Call.

If you need to get to an appointment, want to go shopping or are just looking for a great day out, Route Call, with its friendly and helpful drivers, offers the easiest solution at very reasonable rates.



Route Call's door-to-door service is convenient, reliable, and a wonderful way to make new friends. Buses run Monday to Friday with a limited service on Saturday.

As part of the co-ordinated service Route Call operators offer, Borough residents may also be able to take advantage of a number of other services. These include Meals on Wheels, the Community Alarm service and the Shopping Service.

If you think we can help you or someone you know in any of these areas please don't hesitate to contact us to find out more on: **01372 732000**

**Epsom & Ewell - 01372 732 000 : [contactus@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@epsom-ewell.gov.uk)**

## **The Residents Association is unique -**

For over 70 years it has provided Epsom with a form of local government free from political dogma. It allows every one of us to have a say, working through a system of "Road Reps" (i.e. "neighbours") who carry our messages to the committee.

The RA isn't primarily concerned with national or international issues; its raison d'être is you, your local community and what is best for all. The Residents Association is a significant contributory factor as to why Epsom is such a popular place to live - it's no coincidence!

The local elections of 2007 were a stark reminder of the essential difference between The Residents Association and national political parties. By deciding to field three candidates in College Ward, the Conservative Party split the RA vote, allowing the Liberal Democrats to win the ward, albeit with a very small majority. Whatever your political persuasions nationally, this demonstration of "party politics" was an untimely reminder of the risks of applying national political systems to local government.

However you vote in General Elections, by voting Residents Association locally you are making a clear statement of independence and rationality, and are upholding the values of decency and dedication that have consistently made Epsom one of the most desirable places to live in the United Kingdom.

The Residents Association is something special, because it is about us - don't give it away by voting for a national party in local elections - they just don't care for local issues in the same way that the RA does!

### **You can now contact CWRA by email.**

The address is **[cwra@btinternet.com](mailto:cwra@btinternet.com)**. This is a temporary address but any messages will be responded to.

### **You can look into the history of the Residents Association...**

By visiting their website at **[www.epsom-ewell.co.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell.co.uk)** It's here that you can view the origins of the RA, how the organisation works, details of its current Councillors and current issues.

## **Want to receive CWRA Newsletters by email?**

**Do your bit for the environment** by receiving our newsletters via email.

You can register by emailing us at **[cwra@btinternet.com](mailto:cwra@btinternet.com)**. Use the phrase "Email Newsletter" in the subject line and we'll need to know...

- Your full name
- Your address (including postcode)
- Your email address

# Council Tax 2008/2009

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's charge for an Band 'D' property will be **£153.10**

- This is the equivalent of £2.94 per week
- It is a rise of 13p per week
- The EEBC council tax will remain the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest of the 11 Surrey districts

*Note: Council tax in Conservative controlled Woking and Elbridge are approx £190 per year, if Epsom charged that rate they would receive £1.1million more income.*

## **What services do our residents receive for £153.10p per year?**

Allotments, Cemetery, Community Alarm Service, Childrens' Playgrounds, Community and Day Centres, Concessionary Bus Permits, Council Tax and Housing Benefits, Discretionary Rate Relief, Ebbisham Centre (in partnership with others), Epsom Playhouse, Ewell Court House, and Bourne Hall, Environmental Health, Graffiti Removal, Gypsy Site Management, Housing Advice Service, Land Charges, Land Drainage, Licensing, Meals on Wheels and Route Call, Parking Enforcement, Parks and Open Spaces, Planning and Building Control, Rainbow Leisure Centre, Refuse Collection and Recycling, Sports Pitches, Sports and Leisure Development, Street Cleaning and Streetcare and Environmental Improvements, Support for Voluntary Organisations.

## **The Council Tax rise is 4.5%**

- The retail price index (RPI) showed a 4.1% increase for January 2008.
- Inflation has put up our (£37million gross expenditure) costs by £540,000
- We've only received £81,000 in additional grant (1% from Government).
- To make up funding shortfall - cost savings made, raised some charges and had to raise the council tax above the rate of inflation

*Note: Conservative controlled SCC have put up their council tax by 4.8%. LibDem controlled Sutton & Kingston Boroughs - up by 4.8% & "just under 5%" respectively.*

## **Efficiency Savings**

- £1 million efficiency savings achieved in three years.
- Committed to make further savings of £250K per year over next 3 years

## **New Services - Expenditure plans for 2008 include**

- £100K on an additional rapid response street cleansing team
- Finance an additional pavement sweeper, plus driver
- £20K on additional cleansing in our car parks
- Employ an additional Enforcement Officer
- Six additional CCTV cameras in the Ashley Centre Car Park

## **In 2009 the Council will also provide, at nil additional cost to residents:**

- a weekly collection service for kitchen waste
  - a two-weekly home collection of both plastic and cardboard
  - continued separate home collection of paper, bottle and glass
  - continued collection of green waste (brown bin) service
  - a new free collection service for disposable nappies
- (Jon Sharpe will touch on these issues in his talk at CWRA AGM)

# Surrey County Council News from Chris Frost



## **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)**

Your Residents' Association County Councillors continue to request Vehicle Activated Signs where residents have expressed concerns over speeding traffic. More are going to be installed over the next few months, in Alexandra Road, Ashley Road, Longdown Lane South and Woodcote Green Road. They are a reminder to drivers of the speed limit which the police monitor with their mobile enforcement units. You have been warned!

## **Kiln Lane Link**

Although the County Council supports this scheme, the lack of funding for regional highway schemes means that it is not likely to be built for many years. The Local Committee will be looking to implement some of the measures that are associated with the link, as a means of alleviating some current problems, mainly around the Kiln Lane/A24 junction.

## **Epsom General Hospital**

As a member of the hospital campaign group I am keeping a close eye on developments. The latest news is that members of the hospital Trust Board, together with NHS Officials, are still considering Adrian White's offer to purchase the site and run it for the NHS. At the moment, most of the services currently run in Epsom look set to continue. A major review of NHS services in London is underway, and it makes sense for the Trust Board to wait for this report before they decide what changes may be necessary for the Epsom & St. Helier Trust. The one significant question mark concerns maternity services. Members of the campaign group carried out a survey last autumn, to see where patients would choose to go if there were no delivery unit at Epsom. So few would go to St. Helier that the Trust would lose significant income. We hope this will persuade them to continue with a full range of maternity services at Epsom, especially since the birth rate seems to be rising again.

## **Blenheim Road Community Recycling Centre**

Improvements to make it easier for residents to recycle more household waste at the Blenheim Road Centre are underway with:-

- An improved queuing system within in the site.
  - Creation of four split-level container bays accommodating eight large bins for wood, cardboard, residual waste and other bulky materials which will enable easier access to the recycling containers, eliminating the need for steps.
  - A dedicated HGV/trade customers entry/exit.
  - More parking will also be created, enabling more people to use the facilities.
  - More facilities to recycle additional materials such as bulky plastics.
- These include items such as plastic garden furniture and plastic toys.

The redevelopment programme should be completed by May 2008.

# WARD NEWS

## Planning Matters



**Yes it really does matter to you** - that's why we are very active in ensuring that any development conforms to the Borough's Policies, is sensitive to the character of the area and to neighbouring properties.

- we listen to residents
  - we liaise closely, with those who may be affected by the proposals.
  - we write, comprehensively stating reasons for amendment/refusal.

During this past year we've been involved in over 23 applications, successfully ensuring that your views are well represented to the Planning Committee.

**Denham Road.** As you know, we helped the Residents campaign against the threat of inappropriate development and it appears the developer has 'gone away' but we will continue to keep a watch on this area.

**Dame Annis Barn, Briavels Court, The Devonshires,** have all been stopped thanks to our vigilance.

### Highways

We've been working closely with Chris Frost (your RA County Cllr) in identifying parking issues and a possible extension of the yellow lines particularly in Ashley Road and Pitt Road. If you are badly affected with parking problems, please let us know.



The South Epsom area now has its own dedicated team consisting of:



- Sarah Campbell (07967 987765:FIN 3382)
- Becky Clarke (07967 987668:FIN 3009)  
and they are joined by your two PCSOs
- Shawkat Al-Hakem (07967 986122:FIN 12534)
- Stewart McKenzie (07772 222501:FIN 13019)

### Tree Preservation Orders

Many of our trees, including those in residents' gardens, are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Essentially this means the tree cannot be felled, or radically pruned, without planning permission. For most people this is not a concern, but it can cause worry or even neighbourly tension if the tree becomes large or overbearing.

If you want to find out whether any tree is the subject of a TPO you can now search for yourself by accessing the Borough Council's Website -

**[www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk)**

Just click on the Planning and Building Control area in online mapping.

If you don't have access to the internet, you can always telephone the Contact Centre on 01372 732000 and ask the customer adviser for the information.

## Alexandra Park

In late November the old playground was the scene of much activity by 'The Friends of Alexandra Park' (FOAP) who were full of enthusiasm and kitted out for a 'big dig'!

When FOAP expressed a wish for the old playground to be transformed into a wildlife area, CWRA approached Chris Frost who obtained a £500 grant from SCC towards the cost of turning the site into a wildlife area. Nine flowering trees were planted and these will greatly enhance the area.



Above L to R: Borough Ranger, Shirley & John Woodhouse(Chairman of FOAP)



Left: Mike Ford (TAB/CWRA Road Rep) & Chris Frost (RA SCC Councillor)

Below: Maureen Mullins (CWRA Membership Sec'y)

## Martial Arts Portacabin

The Council will be repairing the portacabin but the project has to join 'the list' and be assessed against competing priorities.

FOAP and the CWRA Committee continue to impress on the Council the importance of this facility in Alexandra Park, and we hope that this work will be done as soon as



# Small actions Big difference!



- **Use vegetable based cleaning products**  
*If every house in the US (sorry no UK figures available) replaced a 28oz bottle of petro' based dishwashing liquid-82,000 oil barrels per year could be saved!*
- **Use a microwave to heat small quantities of food.**  
*It's more energy efficient than a cooker.*
- **Fill kettle with just enough water for your needs.**  
*Boiling more than you need is wasteful of energy.*
- **Switch off extractor fans when they've done their job.**  
*They could empty a whole house of warm air in one hour!*
- **Use recycled paper - loo rolls, paper towels etc.**
- **Put - A) "Save a Flush" or B) "Hippo" in your cistern.**  
*A) saves up to 1lt. per flush = 2,000 lt. per person per year.  
B) for cisterns with 9lt. flush = saves 5,000 lts. per person per year.  
Both are free from [www.thameswater.co.uk](http://www.thameswater.co.uk).*
- **Shower rather than bath.**  
*1 bath = two 5 min. showers. But beware, power showers can use more than a bath!*
- **Install energy saving light bulbs.**  
*They're about 12 times longer lasting - saves up to £100 over bulb's life.*
- **Turn your boiler thermostat down 1 degree.**  
*Saving about 10% on heating bills - £40 per year.*
- **Top up your loft and/or install cavity wall insulation.**  
*Check if you're eligible for a grant at [www.eagagroup.com](http://www.eagagroup.com).*
- **Only print emails when you have to and use recycled ink.**  
*Make a conscious choice, recycled products now more generally available.*
- **Switch off computers etc and don't leave the TV on 'stand by'.**  
*Go to [www.tvec.org.uk](http://www.tvec.org.uk) and calculate your 'stand by' costs.*
- **Reduce your carbon footprint 10% - buy from local farmers' markets.**  
*[www.farmersmarket.net](http://www.farmersmarket.net);*
- **Shop for green products.**  
*[www.ecoptopia.co.uk](http://www.ecoptopia.co.uk); [www.Sheepdrove.com](http://www.Sheepdrove.com) and many more.*
- **Just "google" environmentally friendly products, for an amazing choice of sites!**

**Save ourselves - Save the planet**

## Did you know that...?

### Per Person - % of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions used

Space heating in the home	3%
Hot water	4%
Appliances in the homes	3%
Personal transport	18%
Energy to build a house	3%
Waste and consumer items	13%
Food	24%
Shared services (schools and hospitals) energy for running etc	12%
Shared infrastructure (Energy for constructing schools, hospitals etc)	20%

### If you want to calculate your carbon emissions visit [www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org)

- Glass is infinitely recyclable
- Every ton of paper used needs a forest the size of 5 football pitches.
- We consume 20% more of the earth's resources a year.
- The Ovaltine factory at Kings Langley is 100% carbon free.
- More energy is used in packaging many foods than the food itself.
- Goods transported by air release ten times CO<sub>2</sub> per mile than by road and 50 times more than by sea.
- Half the food consumed in the UK is imported.

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## CWRA OFFICERS & MEETING DATES

Colin Bird:Chairman	vandcbird@tiscali.co.uk	01372 723 443
Mark Walter:Vice Chairman	Mark@one2seedp.co.uk	07770 836 457
Ray Miles-Kingston:Treasurer	raymondo60@btinternet.com	01372 725 587
Gill Heym:Secretary	gillheym@ntlworld.com	01372 811 135
Maureen Mullins:Membership		01372 722 912

### 2008 Meeting Dates

May 14th      June 11th      July 9th  
September 10th      October 8th      November 12th

Any paid up member of the RA is welcome to attend our meetings and raise any local issue.

We meet at South Hatch Restaurant at 8.00pm on every second Wednesday of the month apart from August and December. If you would like to attend it will be helpful if you would please either email or telephone the Secretary before the meeting.

## Treasurers Notes!

Being a voluntary organisation, the College Ward Residents Association has a modest budget. Even so, it is important that all funds and transactions are accounted for correctly, we therefore present the accounts to the AGM annually and have them audited professionally. This year, we once again thank **Michael Burke & Associates** of Esher for volunteering their services free of charge - apart from a bottle of good Claret gratefully donated!



This year will see a review of how the CWRA is funded, and your opinions will be sought. The Subscription method is very important, as it provides the majority of working capital during the year but the CWRA has to move with the times and there may be several new ways of funding the organisation. In September 2007 the CWRA hosted a "Road Reps Party" at the South Hatch Restaurant sponsored by an individual company and this may be a demonstration of the way forward. If you have any ideas or experience please do get in touch and let us know.

In the meantime, the subscription envelopes will be duly delivered to your door during April and we really do appreciate the £3 annual subscription. You can also make a "one-off" donation to the CWRA in the envelope, of any sum, which will again be gratefully received and acknowledged.

*Ray Miles-Kingston*  
Treasurer CWRA

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## A Word from the Membership Secretary

This year, the message is short and clear -

***your Residents Association needs you!***

The RA is unique because of its structure; a non-political organisation that is based on the goodwill and dedication of local residents to assist in the running of local services. At time of writing, the CWRA is in need of new recruits in two key areas;

**Road Reps** - about 15 roads in the Ward require reps- please contact me for details of what it entails and where.

**Committee Members** - there are several spaces on the monthly committee and we need some new people and ideas - it's only a one meeting per month and we always make time for a glass of wine afterwards.

If you think you're too busy ...you're probably not! If you appreciate the benefits of living in College Ward and would like to protect and defend those values then the CWRA needs you. Again, please contact me for details - you will enjoy the experience.

**Maureen Mullins**  
Cwra@btinternet.com