



# **College Ward Residents Association**

**Spring 2009 Newsletter**

**&**

**Notice of AGM**

**to be held at**

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

**on**

**Wednesday 1st April**

**7.45pm for 8.00pm**

**Guest Speaker: Peter Coles (interim CEO)**

**Theme: Epsom/St Helier Trust Plans**

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 1st 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 30th April 2008
3. Approve & adopt the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2008 and to appoint an Auditor
4. Election of the Committee for 2009/2010
5. Reports from Chairman and County Cllr Chris Frost
6. "Local Needs, Local Health"  
Speaker: Peter Coles- acting CEO St Helier/Epsom Trust
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 18th March.

***A Happy Easter  
to all  
College Ward Residents***



## This 'n' That . . .



**Potholes** - yes the state of the roads and footpaths are dreadful and the recent cold weather has exacerbated the problem. It is NOT Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's responsibility - despite what you may have been told by the Conservatives. One of our residents was so incensed at the untruth in 'In Touch' that he protested in writing - an extract of which follows.

"While it is essential to have an opposition to any Council or Government it is also essential for the opposition to be correct in its facts. In this edition of 'In Touch' I believe that some of the facts are incorrect. On the first page you accuse the Residents Association of being responsible for Epsom having the worst pavements in Surrey-68% worse compared to last year. I agree with you that the pavements in Epsom are in a disastrous state and in a number of cases are very dangerous but I do not see quite how you can blame the Residents Association for this. In fact on page 3 the Government is blamed for not providing enough funds to Surrey County Council to keep the roads and pavements in good order."

"I might also add that the problems which currently exist in Surrey County Council do not allow me and many other people to have any confidence in the Conservative Party being able to change anything in Epsom. I can only hope that nationally eventually they will make a better job of National Government."

The letter writer - whose expertise makes him highly qualified to comment, also highlights the inaccuracies of the Conservative Party statements concerning the Borough's recycling record. Unfortunately, space prevents us from publishing the entire letter at this time but if you wish to read it, please email the Secretary.

### **CWRA tells you the truth without Political bias!**

#### **Stir . . .**

No, this is not related to the previous item! We refer to the recent Licencing Application for the premises at 4 East Street.

The Licencing Committee granted permission for limited, restricted, provision of adult entertainment which stops at 10.00pm. The licence will be subject to over 30 additional conditions including, restricting access to over 21s when adult entertainment is taking place, enhanced CCTV provision and ensuring the area where adult entertainment is taking place is not visible to passers by. The application to extend the hours of operation was not granted, to alleviate possible noise or anti-social behaviour late at night.

The Council had hoped that the Licencing laws were to be strengthened in December 08 but this did not materialise in time to prevent the application in its entirety. Meanwhile they have imposed the strictest conditions allowed within the law as it stands.

## Recycling . . .

Your RA Borough Council is introducing changes that will not cost the council taxpayer any extra and Epsom and Ewell will continue providing one of the most cost effective recycling services in the country. The Council's aim is to recycle between 50 - 60% of all household waste. You will be given a leaflet explaining the new arrangements.



- \* This **May**, you will be able recycle the following:-
- \* Kitchen waste will be collected every week in separate bins.
- \* Cardboard and plastics bottles only (not trays) will be collected every fortnight.
- \* Paper, glass and cans and textiles will, as now, be collected fortnightly
- \* Fortnightly Green waste collections continue if you've opted into the service.

When we've knocked on doors during our trawls, you've said you want more convenient ways to recycle. If we don't recycle more, the Government will hit us hard with a landfill tax plus additional fines. **Failure to recycle more will push up your council tax.**

We haven't done it before because we've dovetailed the new service to coincide with the end of our transport fleet contract, enabling us to purchase a new set of custom fit, state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly refuse collection vehicles.

Any political party in Epsom and Ewell that says they would have introduced the new services earlier **should** explain how they would have found the huge extra costs involved in employing additional crews and using old vehicles to provide collection services for which they were never designed.

Remember, our collection service is, and will continue to be, one of the most cost-effective nationally. The Residents' Association Borough Council is committed to improving services in a cost effective way, to ensure our new service meets your needs without becoming a council tax burden. These are the facts:

- \* We're on course to introduce a whole new range of recycling services at no additional cost to our residents.
- \* We're still going to be offering one of the most cost-effective recycling services in the whole of the country.
- \* Unlike our neighbours running Mole Valley for example, kitchen waste will be collected WEEKLY.
- \* We'll now be collecting cardboard and (recyclable) plastic bottles from the doorstep.
- \* We've dovetailed the new service to coincide with the ending of our transport contract enabling us to purchase custom fit, state-of-the-art vehicles which are also designed be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- \* Unlike other Councils we are not putting micro-chips into bins to check on our residents recycling habits.
- \* We aim to be one of the top performing recycling areas in the country.

## Subscriptions - still only £3 per household!

A bigger heading this year because you told us last year that you couldn't find it and it's a big issue for us too!

As you know, we rely heavily on your contributions to maintain CWRA's ability to inform and help you have your say in the way our community develops. Unlike the main Political parties, we do not receive any funding from a central body. For example, Conservative MP's receive £20K for publicity in their constituencies. If only we had 25% of that sum - coloured newsletters, flyers and ...; (stop dreaming Gill!) so we need your subscription to help us give you a clear, unbiased, truthful picture of local affairs and 'fight our corner' in Local and County elections.

This year we've re-designed our subscription envelope to draw attention to the importance of your contribution.

When the RA first started in 1937 the annual sub was 1/-, decimalisation in the 70's raised it to 50p and despite the huge increases in the cost of living during the intervening years, we've consciously kept subs at a rate that everyone can afford - **£3 per household** equates to less than 1p per day per year.

**So Please, look out for the larger white envelope in this Newsletter, pop in your £3 and drop it through the door of your Road Rep, you can find a full list on page 14.**

### Talking of Road Reps. . .

They are an integral part of the way in which we, as a community, function. They're YOUR neighbours, they understand your issues which they relate directly to us; they are what makes us so different, and effective, in getting news to you, and the national Political parties cannot replicate our unique infrastructure. During our trawls last year, several residents came forward with offers of help.

#### New Road Reps



Windmill End. Tom Henessy Little Foxes  
Windmill Close. Ronald Vaz 3  
The Roseberys. Suryan Wirya Simonovic 12  
Downs Avenue (& The Oaks). Valerie Barrett 9  
Chelwood Close. Malcolm Lawther 11  
Highridge Close. Ian Twyford 5  
Mospey Crescent. Francis Conlan 51  
St Martins Avenue(odd). Valerie Fisher  
St Martins Avenue (even). Ros Hallett 12  
Bridge Road. Janet Allen - Bridge House

We have so little control over our lives why not become more actively involved in something we can shape. In these troubled times, community cohesiveness is yet more important. I look forward to seeing you at The Queen's Stand on April 1st.

Gill Heym

CWRA Secretary & Treasurer pro tem.

## Snow, snow, snow !



The responsibility for roads lies with the Tory controlled County Council and their policy on salting/gritting our roads is to treat main roads, and routes to hospitals and some schools ; it has nothing to do with the RA controlled Borough Council.

Of the 3,000 miles of roads for which SCC is responsible, about 1120 miles are treated. The council's salting activities had already consumed 4,300 tonnes of salt before the really heavy snowfall. The salting vehicles had been out 33 times in our part of Surrey. They spread about 10 grams per square metre for frosty weather, and about 20 gsm for snow.

The problem with such a long lasting snowfall was; the salt melted the first snow to fall; the water thus produced dissolved the remaining salt, and this ran off down the drains. The process of melting the snow reduces the temperature of the road surface, so that when all the salt has been dissolved the snow still falling, can settle.



The County Council's teams did three runs of 1,120 miles while the snow was falling, but it still wasn't enough. SCC also co-ordinated help from both the Army and the voluntary sector to help public sector partners including the NHS. Nevertheless, despite all the effort, many pavements and residential roads were not treated, which I don't think is acceptable given how long the cold weather lasted.

I will be pressing for a review of the current policy and amount of equipment available, as the overall service was very poor. The bad weather has created many very dangerous potholes, and so the County Council has gangs of staff going round filling them, but with so many to deal with it will take time.

## and more snow !

The familiar becomes a beautiful, slightly eerie, wonderland when it's hidden under a layer of snow.

Silent streets, save for the excited chatter of children, and adults, as they make their way to play on the snowy wasteland of the Downs.

Time to take a magical walk in what has become

the snowy tunnell of Chalk Lane, and though we should be going about our normal

business, we don't feel *really* guilty about having 'down time' for just one day!

But reality sets in on day two.

The 'joie de vivre' rapidly dissapates and we're frusrated when we can't get to work or school, go shopping, or engage in all those things so necessary to every-day living.

For one day, our cares about the 'credit crunch', unemployment, dwindling savings etc., were forgotten, neighbours were just that- neighbourly - something that's not often in evidence these days.

My thanks to Les Harvey and Marisol Cavia for the evocative photos on these pages.



Gill Heym

## Council Tax . . .

Epsom & Ewell - 3.9% rise = 11p extra per week at Band D

Remember only 11% of council tax goes to EEBC and provides for:

●Affordable Housing ●Housing Advice ●Rainbow Leisure Centre ●Children's Playgrounds ●Longmead Social Centre ●Recycling ●Concessionary Bus Passes ●Meals on Wheels ●Refuse Collection ●Graffiti Removal ●Parks and Open Spaces ●Streetcare and much more.

The Audit Commission in Feb 2009 says EEBC has above average services at lower than average costs and is one of the better performing level 3 Councils (very few councils get level 4). NB. EEBC is not exposed to the Icelandic Banks.

Surrey C. C. - 2.9% council tax rise = 60p extra a week at Band D.

76% of your council tax goes to Surrey County Council

The Audit Commission has just announced that Conservative controlled Surrey County Council has been given a **one-star rating**, placing it alongside some of the worst performing local authorities in the country.

It is the lowest rating that can be handed to a local authority.

## No Cold Calling Zone . . .

I have been working with Surrey County Council's Trading Standards, Surrey Police Service and Neighbourhood Watch to look at ways of reducing the levels of distraction burglary and doorstep related crime within our area. One of the initiatives being considered is the implementation of a New No Cold Calling Zone in Epsom and Ewell.

No Cold Calling Zones previously established elsewhere in Surrey have shown significant reductions in this type of crime by raising residents' awareness and empowering them to be more confident when dealing with unwanted doorstep callers. They also help to reduce the number of callers that residents receive as the zones have No Cold Calling Zone road signs erected at various entry points which act as a visible deterrent.

I am please to say that all of College Ward is included in the proposed zone, along with parts of surrounding Wards.

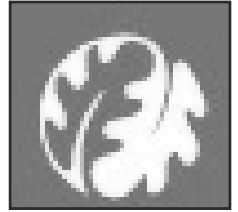
For more information on the zones and how they work please go to the Surrey County Council website Trading Standards pages on [www.surreycc.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/tradingstandards).

During the initial phase of this process the County Council wants to be able to consider all points of view about the proposed zone, both from residents and local businesses whose activities may be affected.

To submit your views by 9th April - please email [nccz@surrey.cc.gov.uk](mailto:nccz@surrey.cc.gov.uk) or telephone - Consumer Direct on 08454 040506.

Chris Frost

## **We want fairer funding for Surrey... Do you?**



The County Council has decided to increase its part of your Council Tax by 2.9%. It is also urging residents to sign an online petition, on the website of the Prime Minister's Office, demanding fairer funding levels for Surrey.

The petition was launched after the Government's latest settlement effectively left the county council in a worse financial position for the fourth financial year in a year in a row since the Government changed the funding system in 2006/07.

The County Council's Government grant for 2009/10 will increase by a mere 1.75% when most other English counties received 4%. SCC is calling for an independent commission to take the politics out of distributing funding to local authorities so they can offer the same level of service to their residents as each other.

In the current financial year, the Government gave Surrey residents - £205 funding per person for services, way below the national average of £595. The Government's limited funding means residents' council tax has to pay for 81 per cent of services.

The County Council's petition states: "We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to urgently review funding levels for local government in Surrey".

To sign the petition go to:

**<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/Surrey-Funding>**

## **Surrey County Council Election 4/6/09**



I am very pleased that the College Ward Residents' Association and the other two Residents' Association committees in my County Division have all asked me to stand for re-election on the 4<sup>th</sup> June.

I was first elected to Surrey County Council in May 1997. Currently there are only 10 County Councillors who have served for longer than me, and some of them are standing down this year. This is because of natural retirements and the changes in political fortunes over the last decade. For example, the LibDems have less than half the number of Councillors they had in 1997, the Tories have more and the RA County Councillors have increased from 6 to 8 (10% of the total). With this experience I know how to get things done.

I have lived in the area since 1976, so know the area well. I qualified as an Industrial Chemist but spent the majority of my professional career in Human Resources. I was a Human Resources Manager for BP prior to retirement, which I took just after being elected in order to devote time to my role as County Councillor.

*Chris Frost*

## CWRA OFFICERS & MEETING DATES

Chairman:	Mark Walter	mark@one2seesigns.co.uk	0777 083 6457
Vice Chairman:	Colin Bird	vandcbird@tiscali.co.uk	01372 723 443
Treasurer:	Vacancy		
Secretary:	Gill Heym	gillheym@ntlworld.com	01372 811 135
Road Reps Liaison:	Maureen Mullins		01372 722 912
Distribution:	Brenda Linney	brenda.linney@hotmail.co.uk	01372 721 446
Electoral Roll:	Chris Allen	krisaltips@yahoo.co.uk	01372 727 507

### 2009 Meeting Dates

May 13th    June 10th    July 8th  
September 9th    October 14th    November 11th

We meet at South Hatch Restaurant at 8.00pm on every second Wednesday of the month apart from August and December.

Any paid up RA member is welcome to attend our meetings and raise any local issue. It's helpful if you email or telephone the Secretary before the meeting.

### CWRA Email . . .

Last Spring we gave you a temporary email address - this is our permanent one!  
**[cwra@forthwith.co.uk](mailto:cwra@forthwith.co.uk)**

**Want to know more about the Residents Association?**

Visit their website at- **[www.epsom-ewell.co.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell.co.uk)**

### 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@forthwith.co.uk](mailto:cwra@forthwith.co.uk)** Use the phrase "Email Newsletter" in the subject line and we'll need to know...

- Your full name
- Your address
- Your email address

### Derby Concert . . .

As you know when we informed you via a leaflet drop last year, 2 day concerts were planned to take place on the Downs. However, they will not now take place this year due to the current financial climate but we hope to see them in the future-it's a good opportunity to raise Epsom's profile, not just amongst the racing fraternity.



## Gloomy, troubled, times . . .

### Supporting Surrey in the down turn:

A new feature has gone live on the County's web site to help residents and businesses.



'Supporting Surrey' is a guide to help people through the recession. The new web page aims to provide useful information and signposts to sources of advice and support - pages include information on housing issues, budgeting, accessing benefits, redundancy and much more. Use this shortcut address to find the page.

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/supportingsurrey](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/supportingsurrey)

*Chris Frost*

### Epsom & Ewell Citizens Advice Bureau:

Don't forget, to visit Epsom & Ewell Citizens Advice Bureau for advice and guidance.

They are to be found in The Old Town Hall in The Parade. Opening hours are Mon, Tue, Thurs and Fri 10 - 2.30 and Wed 10 - 12.30. Telephone 01372 720205.

Although benefits, debt, housing and employment are the main enquiry areas, they are available for all manner of problems. In the next few months they hope to be able to extend their services somewhat with special government backing for the frontline work of CABs throughout the country.

*Colin Bird*

### A Word from the Membership Secretary

We have recently reorganised ourselves and I'm delighted to say that Brenda Linney has taken over the distribution of the Newsletters & Flyers. Generally I will continue to liaise with you but of course there will be some occasions when, of necessity, there will be an overlap of our respective roles. We're very pleased to welcome 10 new Road Reps but there are still a few vacancies which need filling, even in roads which do have a rep (especially a long one) - an extra pair of hands is helpful! Please contact me for details on 01372 722912.

*Maureen Hetherington*

### Familyline Surrey

FamilyLine Surrey is a local telephone helpline service for families experiencing difficulties, freephone **0808 800 5678**, weekdays from 10am - 7pm. FamilyLine listens to callers with problems on parenting, children's behaviour, teenagers, adult relationships, grandchildren, isolation etc:- [www.familyline.org.uk](http://www.familyline.org.uk).

FamilyLine is well supported in the community and due to an increase in callers, they are looking to recruit more helpline volunteers. The next training course is due to start mid-April and will give volunteers the necessary skills to talk to callers. Opportunities to work from office or home.

For further information please contact Tracy on 01306-743 233.

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