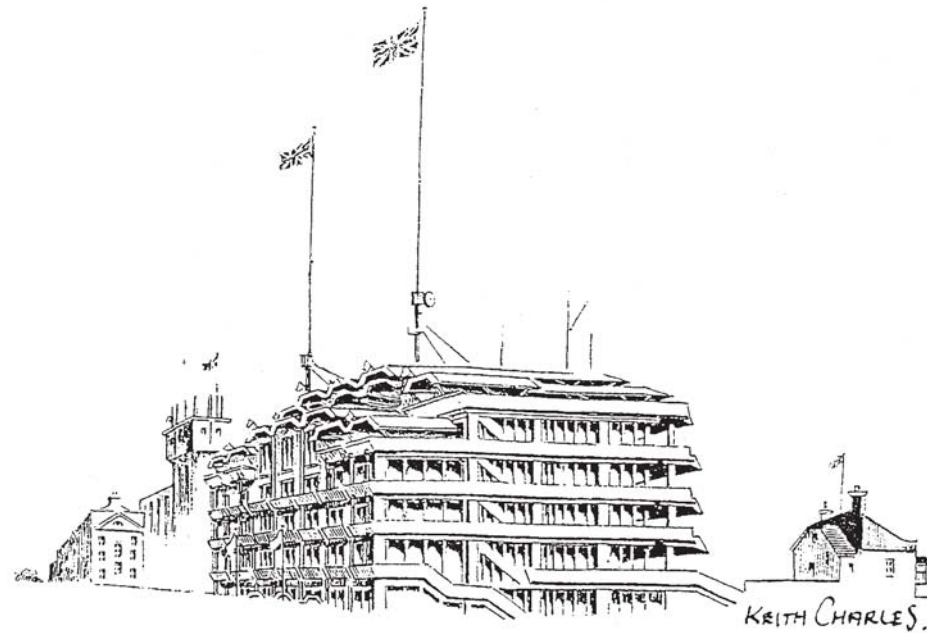


# **WOODCOTE (EPSOM) RESIDENTS' SOCIETY**

*Proud to represent the whole of Woodcote Ward*

## **SUMMER 2007 NEWSLETTER**



**Election Success for our Borough Council Residents'  
Association Candidates Teresa Cass and Mike Richardson**

*Thank you for your support at the election*

*Visit our website on:*  
[www.epsom-ewell.co.uk/wood.php](http://www.epsom-ewell.co.uk/wood.php)



## Committee for 2007/08

<i>Officers</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Tel</i>	<i>Email</i>
<b>Chairman</b>			
Rob Blackwell	113 Grosvenor Road, KT18 6JF	274995	robert.blackwell@talk21.com
<b>Hon Secretary</b>			
Kathy Belcher	4 Whitehorse Drive, KT18 7LY	728534	jbka@onetel.com
<b>Hon Treasurer</b>			
Ian Allely	2 Chalk Paddock, KT18 7AT	726627	IanFTN@compuserve.com
<b>Committee Members</b>			
Grant Bilham	17 St. Margaret's Drive, KT18	724756	grantbilham@msn.com
Linda Blackwell	113 Grosvenor Road, KT18 6JF	274995	
Hazel Morgan	18 Chantry Hurst, KT18 7BW	720375	hazelinthegarden@tiscali.co.uk
Brian Saxby	59 Sunnybank, KT18 7DY	725915	saxby@kingston.ac.uk
Emma Swan	6 Sunnybank, KT18 7DX	729258	mark.emma@virgin.net
Tracey Whittington	10 Dudley Grove, KT18 7NB	725522	kaw1@talk21.com

### **President - Margaret de Lyon**

Margaret de Lyon 15 Dorking Road, KT18 7JR

### **Hon Auditor**

C J Bevis FCA 19 Wilmerhatch Lane, KT18 7EQ

### **Our Woodcote Ward RA Borough Councillors**

Teresa Cass	1 Headley Parade, Langley Vale Rd, KT18 6AW	tbc	tcass@epsom-ewell.gov.uk
Mike Richardson	23 Hambledon Hill, KT18 7BZ	745784	mrichardson@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

### **Our RA Surrey County Councillor**

Chris Frost Oak View, 8 Warren Hill, KT18 7BX 720430 c.frost@surreycc.gov.uk

## Chairman's Introduction

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our two new Residents' Association Councillors and to wish them well in their role for the next four years. I would also like to thank those of you who voted for the RA for your support.

We have all been very busy with the elections and have enjoyed meeting many of you whilst we were out canvassing around the ward. It is back to business as usual now and we are keen to recruit some new committee members and road representatives to help share out the work of the Society. Please consider whether you could help out. You do not need any previous experience, just an enthusiastic approach and a willingness to get involved in local issues.

Please contact me or Kathy if you are interested.

*Rob Blackwell, Chairman*

### **Come to a Committee Meeting**

As a member of the Society you are very welcome to attend the open session of our committee meetings, between 8 and 9pm – we want to hear about queries or issues that you may have.

Our meetings are usually held in the Epsom Sports Club (in Woodcote Road) but we are planning to have them elsewhere in the ward too.

Please call our Secretary (Kathy Belcher) to confirm the next meeting date and venue if you plan to come along.

## From the Chairman of the Election Sub-Committee

We are delighted to report that we now have two Residents Association Councillors in this ward, Teresa Cass and Mike Richardson. We were disappointed that our third candidate, Rob Blackwell, was not elected as we had hoped to have our RA team of 3 to represent residents.

Evidently some of the votes were split (i.e. not all 3 votes were cast or they were cast for candidates from different parties) and this has resulted in only two of our three ward councillors being RA. We can only encourage you to use your three votes to

support the whole residents team in future borough council elections.

Our third candidate, Rob, did come in a close fourth in a very tight contest as you will see from the result below. Rob is going to continue as the Chairman of the Society, so we will have good continuity on the committee which is great.

Everyone involved worked really hard and we would especially like to thank our Road Reps for their support with delivering leaflets and helping out on election day. *Emma Swan*

## BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULT FOR WOODCOTE WARD HELD ON 3RD MAY 2007

Trevor BARKER	Liberal Democrat	271
<b>Rob BLACKWELL</b>	<b>Woodcote (Epsom) Residents Society</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>Teresa CASS</b>	<b>Woodcote (Epsom) Residents Society</b>	<b>881 ELECTED</b>
Richard CHINN	The Labour Party Candidate	65
Paul LINSKOTT	Liberal Democrat	275
Tina MOUNTAIN	Conservatives: Stop The Hospital Cuts	813
Timothy MURPHY	Liberal Democrat	253
Gareth QUESTED	The Labour Party Candidate	66
<b>Mike RICHARDSON</b>	<b>Woodcote (Epsom) Residents Society</b>	<b>839 ELECTED</b>
Sean SULLIVAN	Conservatives: Stop The Hospital Cuts	845 ELECTED
Rob WEBB	Conservatives: Stop The Hospital Cuts	766

**Key Facts:** No. of seats: 3; Electorate: 4,251; Election turnout: 47.49%

### **“Paper” Candidates**

There were a number of “paper” candidates standing in the recent elections. These are people who stand as potential candidates but in fact have no real intention or desire to be elected. They appear to do this for one of two reasons. Either they are trying to promote their political party by putting up lots of candidates throughout the borough or they are trying to take votes away from other candidates even though they are not actually interested in being elected.

We feel that this completely detracts from those genuine candidates who wish to stand as councillors and it is wrong to seek votes from residents who believe they are choosing someone to represent them when that person is not in the slightest bit interested in being their local councillor. We only ever put up candidates that we believe are suitable and are genuinely committed to representing local residents. Watch out for “paper” candidates standing for national political parties at future local elections and don't waste your votes.

## Welcome to our New RA Borough Councillors

### Teresa Cass

Well, what a busy couple of months it has been!



It was an honour to be elected especially as I was a latecomer to the election race and relatively unknown outside of Langley Vale. Thank you to all of you who felt you could trust me to represent you, which I promise to do to the best of my ability.

It was good to meet so many of you whilst we were out canvassing - thank you for the warm reception we all received. Many of the issues you raised prior to the election have now been prioritised by the new council and we will keep you updated as to their progress.

As stated in our campaign literature, I currently have strong links with Langley Vale however I am looking forward to learning more about the other areas of the ward, meeting residents and working on the issues that are affecting you.

I am on the Social Committee, Leisure Committee and The Walton & Epsom Downs Conservators.

**Cllr. Teresa Cass**  
**RA Woodcote Ward**

### Mike Richardson

Firstly a great big thank you to all who voted for the Resident's Association candidates in the recent borough elections. This resulted in Teresa Cass being newly elected and me being re-elected to the Council.



It is, of course, early days in the life of the new Council and in the coming months the previous four-year plan with its key priorities

will be reviewed and updated for the next four years.

To date the Council has agreed appointments to the various committees and outside bodies for 2007/08 and mine are as follows:-

#### **Committees and Advisory Panels**

- Environment Committee (Chairman)
- Financial Policy Panel

#### **External Bodies**

- Surrey County Council Local Committee
- Business Partnership Board
- Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators
- Epsom Common Association
- Lower Mole Countryside Project
- Hospital Cluster Group (Chairman)
- Surrey Local Government Association Joint Waste Strategy Consultative Board

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Community Safety Group
- Capital Programme Members Group
- Historic Environment Champion

I will expand on the functions of these various bodies, plans, priorities and achievements in future newsletters.

During the next four years I, together with Teresa, will do our best to represent the interests of all residents of Woodcote Ward and to keep you informed of issues that may affect you. Please remember that although we have specific areas of responsibility both of us are here to represent all residents of this Ward on all council matters. Therefore, should you have any issues or concerns you can either contact us direct or via members of the W(E)RS committee (please refer to the Contact details listed at the front of this newsletter).

**Cllr. Mike Richardson**  
**RA Woodcote Ward**

## Epsom Hospital Update

### Maternity & Children's Services

The Society wishes to thank all those residents who responded to our appeal for attendance at the Epsom & St Helier Trust Board Meeting on 9th June. The attendance was in hundreds and many of you came along with young children who were no doubt born at Epsom Hospital.

We are disappointed to report, however, that the Epsom & St Helier Trust Board has decided to go ahead with its planned closure of a large part of Epsom Hospital's maternity and children's services. They have made this decision in spite of having large numbers of people attending the Board Meeting to show their objection to such closure. The final vote was 6 votes in favour of the motion and 2 against.

In their published statement, the NHS Trust has said:

*"The proposal is for all doctor-led births to move to St Helier Hospital, as would all children requiring an overnight stay in hospital for surgery or medical treatment.*

*The majority of patient care would stay at Epsom Hospital, including all prenatal and postnatal appointments. An extended-hours children's assessment unit would be created at Epsom, and home-birth capacity expanded."*

Their plan will now have to go to public consultation which means that, although the Board has approved the plan, we will have one last opportunity to fight the reduction of these services.

**There will be a public meeting on Wednesday June 20th at St Joseph's Church Hall, in St Margaret's Drive, Epsom, at 8pm.** The meeting will update people who were not there last Friday and will kick off the planned campaign against

the proposals.

Please do keep an eye out in the local press for details of what is happening and regarding the consultation process.

#### **Let's keep talking to Denbies**

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has criticised the Epsom & St. Helier Trust Board for their anticipated rejection of the bid from the Denbies Trust to purchase the Epsom Hospital site.

Council members and officers have been involved in discussions with Adrian White of the Denbies Trust over recent months and are shocked by the Trust Board's intention to reject the proposal.

In a recent letter, Adrian White has outlined potential benefits to the Trust through his offer to purchase the Epsom Hospital site and dedicate it to the community with the NHS occupying accommodation rent free. Potential savings identified include £7 million a year for service costs and internal recharges on areas not fully used and a total of £37 million on potential refurbishment, rebuilding and backlog maintenance costs.

RA Councillor Chris Long, Chairman of Epsom & Ewell Social Committee, said: "I cannot understand how the Trust Board can reject out of hand this offer which could produce such significant financial benefits. I am sure that there are many details which still need thrashing out but the Denbies Trust has given the assurance that this is a purely charitable donation and, for the benefit of all our local residents, I call upon the Trust not to reject the proposal but to enter into serious discussions with the Denbies Trust on how their donation could be used for the improvement of health services to our community."

## *Planning Issues*

EPSOM & EWELL COUNCIL HAVE REJECTED THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN WOODCOTE WARD:

**THE DEVELOPERS, RUSKIN HOMES, HAVE APPEALED AGAINST THE DECISION TO REJECT THE DESIGN OF THE 65 FLATS & 7 HOUSES ON THE ROSEBERY PLAYING FIELD. THE APPEAL IS TO BE DECIDED BY WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE & A SITE VISIT.**

Council refused for the following reasons:

- i) The design and external appearance of the development would be out of keeping with the character of development in the immediate area, contrary to Policies BE1, BE19iv, v, vi and DCii of the Local Plan 2000.
- ii) The provision of parking spaces close to trees on the north west boundary of the site would threaten the retention of these trees, contrary to Policies NE5 and NE8 of the Local Plan 2000.

The Society has noted that there is no pedestrian guard rail or staggered cycle barrier at the Rosebank entrance to the footpath which is 3M wide and will be open to motorcyclists use and cars parking, creating danger to St Joseph's & Rosebery school children and pedestrians using the public footpath.

There are 3 long blocks of 3 storey, flat roofed flats with lift housing extending above the blocks with masts on top, in

white brick and glass, and a terrace of flat-roofed houses. One block is approx. 44m along the length of the footpath, which will seem almost the whole length of the development, another right across the field, another along the railway embankment, thereby offering no sight line to the giant oak tree enjoyed by the public at present.

Residents can write to the Planning Inspectorate with their comments.

***All written comments must be received by 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007.***

*Correspondence should quote the Appeal reference No. APP/P3610/A/O7/2043456. Address: Planning Inspectorate, 3/20 Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. Full plans and details are available at The Town Hall for viewing.*

**THE DEVELOPERS, CHURCHILL RETIREMENT LIVING, HAVE APPEALED AGAINST THE DECISION TO REJECT THE DEMOLITION OF NOS. 8, 10, 12 DORKING ROAD & 2 ELM GROVE & REPLACEMENT WITH BLOCK A - 30 SHELTERED APARTMENTS, LODGE, MANAGERS ACCOMMODATION & COMMUNAL FACILITIES, PLUS BLOCK B - 5 APARTMENTS FOR THE ELDERLY & 12 CAR PARKING SPACES.**

The Appeal will be heard by a Bristol Planning Inspector at a Public Inquiry - date to be announced and held at Epsom Town Hall.

Council refused for the following reasons:

- i) Proposed development due to its siting, size and bulk would seriously harm the character and appearance of the area contrary to Policies BE1, BE19, HSG6, HSG11, DC1 and DC14 of Local Plan 2000.
- ii) Block A due to its siting, size and bulk would adversely affect the outlook of No.14 Dorking Rd and The Bell House contrary to Policies DC1 and DC14 of Local Plan 2000.
- iii) The proposals fail to make provision for necessary off-site open space and recreation supporting infrastructure and facilities as required by Policy DC2 of Local Plan 2000, Policy DN1 of Surrey Structure Plan 2004 and Policies CS14 and CS15 of Epsom & Ewell Core Strategy Submission Document June 2006.
- iv) The proposals fail to provide affordable housing on site as required by Policy HSG5 of Local Plan 2000, Policy DN11 of Surrey Structure Plan 2004, Policy CS11 of Epsom & Ewell Core Strategy Submission June 2006 and PPS3 Housing.

To quote from the Society's original objection:

"With regard to Block A, it is still predominately 2.5 storeys in height. The adjusted roof line along Dorking road still fails to fit in with the domestic house feel of surrounding properties and would dominate. The amount of accommodation proposed dictates this domination and minor adjustments to one storey at the extremes of the building do not mitigate the effect.

Block B will still adversely affect the amenity of the surrounding houses in Elm Grove.

Residents may have additional objections to those they originally made and can make further written objections to the Planning Inspectorate.

***All written additional comments must be received by 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007.***

*Correspondence should quote the Appeal reference No. APP/P3610/A/o7/2043238/NWF. The Inspectorate has asked for 3 copies of all correspondence Address: Planning Inspectorate, 3/20 Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. Full plans and details are available at The Town Hall for viewing.*

**LAVANDOU STABLES, THE DURDANS, CHALK LANE**

Some of you will be aware that the owner of Lavandou Stables, Lord Halifax, is once again apparently intending to submit a planning application to develop the site into housing. Lavandou Stables has been under threat for a number of years now and we have always kept a close watch on this historic set of buildings, most especially the Riding School.

As no formal application has yet been received by the council, there is little to actually report here but we have made sure that residents in the surrounding area are aware of the potential application and all of our local RA Councillors are aware of our concerns and will be watching out for any formal application.

We will keep residents posted on any developments.

## News from Surrey County Council



### **Road deaths in Surrey**

An average of one fatality a week occurs on Surrey's roads according to latest figures published recently.

In 2006, 52 people died on Surrey's roads. The good news is that this figure is the lowest on record.

### **Parking and Highway schemes approved for 2007-8**

Work on a scheme for Downs Road is

again under way, and feasibility work on the Chalk Lane scheme will start shortly. Parking restriction proposals will be considered and consulted on in at least parts of the following roads in my Division this year: Albert Road, Chalk Lane, Chartwell Place, Dorking Road, Downs Road, Hylands Mews, Pitt Road, Squirrels Way, and Worple Road.

Chris Frost  
RA County Councillor

### **School Governors Wanted**

One of the duties of a County Councillor is to appoint Local Education Authority school Governors. Vacancies arise from time to time, and when they do, need to be filled promptly. If anyone is interested in becoming a Governor do contact me, and I will give you some information about what is involved. It is a very worthwhile and enjoyable role.  
Chris Frost/Epsom 720430 [c.frost@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:c.frost@surreycc.gov.uk)

## Noticeboard

### **Planning**

Although we have no Councillor standing on the Planning Committee, it does mean that we have two councillors who can speak out and lobby for Woodcote Ward. Councillors on the Planning Committee, because of Government legislation, are not permitted to discuss planning applications with the public as they have to remain impartial until evidence is put to them at the Planning Committee meetings when they can vote.

During the last 4 years, Mike Richardson has served on the Planning Committee and has successfully persuaded the

committee to reject some of the large Woodcote Ward planning applications in local residents' interest. A number of these ended up going to Appeal to Bristol. Nevertheless, it was very frustrating that he could not talk directly to the residents on these matters. It is now anticipated that his sensible approach to planning applications can still be conveyed to the Planning Committee, yet he is now also free to express opinions in public. In addition, we now have Teresa Cass to speak out for Woodcote Ward.

We believe we are in a very strong position to make residents' wishes clear to the Planning Committee.

### **Wanted – New Treasurer**

We received a lot of positive feedback whilst out campaigning but, in order to continue looking after all residents' interests, we need a strong and active committee.

We are very keen to recruit some new committee members to help us. In particular, our Treasurer, Ian Allely, is planning to retire from the committee so we are looking for someone to replace him as soon as possible. Ian assures us that the role of Treasurer is really straightforward and that anyone with a good head for figures or basic bookkeeping skills could take this role on.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Kathy or Ian (see contact details on page 2).

### **Message to potential advertisers – reach local customers in an efficient & cost effective manner**

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact Rob on Epsom 274995 This newsletter goes out three or four times a year to over 1,500 households in the ward.

### **Message to residents – please do mention this newsletter when using the goods or services of the companies that support our Society**

Please note that, whilst the support of our advertisers is much appreciated, the Society cannot endorse any of the goods or services advertised herein.