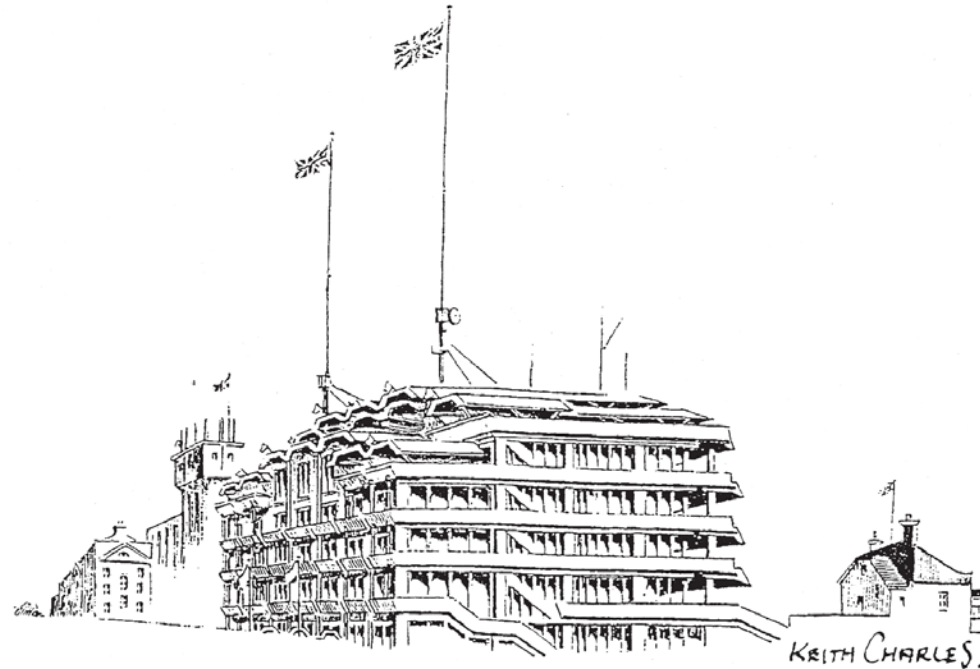


WOODCOTE (EPSOM) RESIDENTS' SOCIETY
Representing the whole of Woodcote Ward

**SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER
& NOTICE OF AGM**



**The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on
Monday, 23rd March 2009 at 8pm**
Venue: St Martins C of E Junior School, Ashley Road, Epsom

Visit our website on:
www.epsom-ewell.co.uk/wood.php



Committee for 2008/09

| <i>Officers</i> | <i>Address</i> | <i>Tel</i> | <i>Email</i> |
|---|---|------------|--------------------------------|
| Chairman | | | |
| Rob Blackwell | 113 Grosvenor Road, KT18 6JF | 274995 | robert.blackwell@talk21.com |
| Hon Secretary | | | |
| Kathy Belcher | 4 Whitehorse Drive, KT18 7LY | 728534 | jbka@onetel.com |
| Hon Treasurer | | | |
| Vacant | | | |
| Committee Members | | | |
| Linda Boddy | 3 The Hayes, KT18 6HB | 279699 | lindaboddy@rocketmail.com |
| Saskia Jordan | 5 Barons Hurst, KT18 7DU | 726666 | saskia@jordanmail.co.uk |
| Brian Saxby | 59 Sunnybank, KT18 7DY | 725915 | BJLSaxby@yahoo.co.uk |
| 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 | 270495 | 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 |



Teresa Cass
RA Borough Councillor



Mike Richardson
RA Borough Councillor



Chris Frost
RA Surrey County Councillor

Message to potential advertisers - reach local customers in an efficient & cost effective manner

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact Tracey Whittington on Epsom 725522. This newsletter usually goes out three 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.

Chairman's Introduction

The WERS committee and our two RA Borough Councillors Teresa Cass and Mike Richardson have again been busy since our last newsletter, dealing with the many planning applications in Woodcote Ward and also keeping an eye on other applications throughout Epsom.

The downgrading of Epsom Hospital remains an ongoing issue. The two day concert which was to be held on the downs in June 2009 has now been postponed until June 2010. We have also been actively monitoring license applications for local bars, parking problem areas and speeding on our Woodcote roads.

Chris Frost our RA Surrey County Councillor has been working hard in the interest of Epsom and Ewell on many issues that affect our daily lives. We are delighted that Chris has agreed to stand and represent Woodcote Ward again at the forthcoming Surrey County Elections on 4th June 2009.

Please join us at our AGM at St Martin's Junior School on Monday 23rd March at 8.00pm. This is your opportunity to meet your RA Councillors Mike Richardson and Teresa Cass and Surrey RA Councillor Chris Frost. We are very

pleased that Michele Moran, Project Director for the Local Needs, Local Health Review has accepted our invitation to speak and take questions on the future of Epsom Hospital at the beginning of our AGM. The Local Health Review is looking at the way the Trust is configured with a view to establishing whether there is a better way of managing the hospitals.

As a society, we are here to help the residents of Woodcote Ward so if you have any questions please feel free to contact anyone on the committee. It is important that we all support local representation in order that we can retain control over our environment. The Residents' Society is made up of volunteer committee members and Councillors who live in, and care about the Ward of Woodcote covering the Woodcote and Ebbisham Estates and Langley Vale. We still need more road reps, committee members and other helpers, and we would welcome anyone who can spare just a little of their time. If you would like to help in any way then please contact myself or any one of the committee members.

Chairman. W(e)RS
Rob Blackwell

Surrey County Council Election 4th June 2009

I am very pleased that the Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society and the two Residents' Association committees in my County Division have all asked me to stand for re-election at the County Council elections on the 4th 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).

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.

Those of you who live around Epsom hospital will know that in addition to local politics one of my interests is in helping to maintain the land behind the hospital, known as the Woodcote Millennium Green.

Chris Frost



Chris Frost standing by the gate in Chalk Lane that he paid from his Members' Allowance.

County News

The bad weather and the terrible state of our roads: The responsibility for roads

lies with the Tory controlled County Council; it has nothing to do with the RA controlled Borough Council. The Tories policy on salting/gritting our roads is to treat main roads, and routes to hospitals and some schools. Of the 3000 miles for which the County Council 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 that the salt melted the first snow to fall. The water thus produced dissolved the remaining salt, and this runs 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. They did three runs of 1,120 miles while the snow was falling, but it still wasn't enough. The council also coordinated 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

Chris Frost, RA County Councillor

filling them, but with so many to deal with it will take time.

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 (c.frost@surreycc.gov.uk Epsom 720430), and I will give you some information about what is involved. It is a very worthwhile and enjoyable role. At the time of writing, I am looking for a Governor for The Vale Primary School in Langley Vale.

Epsom & Ewell Local Committee paying to improve Epsom town centre:

As Chairman of the County's Local Committee, I have overseen the allocation of £60,000 to improve the appearance of Epsom town centre. Street lighting will be improved, helping residents feel safer. Railings between the pavement and the road will be repaired, along with some road signs. The council will also reduce some of the signs causing clutter. This will be done by moving some signs on to other existing signposts to reduce the number of posts and by getting rid of signs that are no longer needed. Around the Spread Eagle junction the bodies of the illuminated 'keep left' bollards are to be replaced with heritage-style equivalents more in keeping with the area's historic character. Many residents cycle into Epsom and cyclists can look forward to more cycle stands, especially near the station and around the

market place. Some of the paving will be repaired, especially in locations where puddles form when it rains. It is hoped that all of this work will be done by late spring. The council also plans to repaint some of the railings and lamp columns but will wait until the weather is suitable later in the year. We hope to give similar attention to other areas; this will be discussed shortly after the County elections on the 4th June.

Phone number change: Surrey County Council's phone number changed on December 1 from 08456 009 009 to 03456 009 009. Seven new 0300 numbers are being introduced at the same time. These will still go through to staff in the contact centre but will allow callers to bypass the voice messages on 03456 009 009 and go straight through to the team they need. These calls will be answered with the name of the service. These numbers are:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Libraries | 0300 200 1001 |
| Registration | 0300 200 1002 |
| Roads and transport | 0300 200 1003 |
| Schools | 0300 200 1004 |
| Adult social care | 0300 200 1005 |
| Children's social care | 0300 200 1006 |
| Jobs | 0300 200 1007 |

Epsom General Hospital/Surrey PCT news: The Surrey Primary Care Trust Board has confirmed its desire to commission maternity services at Epsom General Hospital. The board made its decision after taking into account all the latest evidence and best practice, including the most recent guidance from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on the future of small

maternity units. The fine detail of the commissioning plans needs to be worked through but all the evidence, including the views from the community, says this has to be the right way forward. Samantha Jones, Chief Executive of Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust, has said that they are pleased that the PCT has declared its desire to commission maternity services from Epsom Hospital for the people of Epsom and surrounding areas. They have yet to receive the finer detail of the PCT's commissioning intentions, including the standards they expect the hospital to meet, so the hospital has still to develop detailed service plans which are viable both clinically and financially.

Possible speed limit change for Reigate Road:

There have been a number of accidents along Reigate Road, particularly at the Nescot end of the road. With the possible rebuilding of the current Nescot facilities as well, the County Council's Highways Officers are looking into what can be done to make the road safer, and this may include proposing that the speed limit is reduced to 30 mph from the roundabout at the Ewell by-pass up to at least Longdown Lane North.

County council objects to parts of the South East Plan:

The County Council has called for an immediate review of the revised draft of the South East Plan. It has endorsed the South East England Regional Assembly's demand for the Government's revisions of the plan, which sets out the long-term strategy for future development in the region, to be examined. We oppose the introduction of minimum housing allocations in the plan. Local

authorities will have to provide even more homes than under the previous system of targets and this could mean building on green belt land. We are also against the removal of the conditional approach to providing infrastructure. Vital infrastructure must be provided at the same speed as new housing development in support of both new and existing communities and not after new homes are built. We want the Government's position on Green Belt development to be clarified. The Government has put forward conflicting views – stating that it wants to protect the green belt while also saying it can be built on when it is the most sustainable alternative.

Audit Commission report backs energy from waste technologies: The Audit Commission has issued a report stating councils face millions of pounds worth of fines unless they keep up efforts to encourage people to reduce the amount of waste they produce and maximise recycling. European directives mean councils face huge fines if they do not divert waste away from landfill, but the Audit Commission argues efforts to maximise recycling will not be sufficient. It says that investment in waste disposal technologies that convert waste into energy or fuel will have the most significant impact on landfill reduction and that delays to the projects currently underway pose the greatest threat to achieving the target.

Planning News

Saskia Jordan, Woodcote Residents' Society

The Durdans & Lavandou Stables

On 28 January 2009 the long awaited planning application for a change of use of the Durdans and Lavandou stables in Chalk Lane was considered by Epsom and Ewell's Planning Committee. The proposal was to convert the stable blocks, yards and the Grade 2* listed riding school from equestrian use to residential and business use. Before the Planning Committee began the debate, seven objectors and the applicants agent were allowed to address the Committee. Chris Frost spoke against the application on highway grounds, this being a County Council responsibility.

To a packed public gallery Woodcote Ward RA Councillor Mike Richardson led the debate as a member of the

Committee. He spoke about the unproven need to change the current use, the detrimental impact upon neighbouring properties and the effect upon the Conservation Area and pedestrian and equestrian users of Chalk Lane all of which were against Council policies.

At the end of a four hour debate Cllr. Teresa Cass, Woodcote Ward, spoke about the traffic and the effect it will have on the surrounding area also the lack of parking on site. She also talked of the impact on the Conservation area, the destruction of a country lane and the impact on a very narrow series of roads which are already overstretched and have no available parking.

Teresa finished with an appeal to Lord

Halifax:-

“Finally I would like to address a comment directly to Lord Halifax . If this committee refuse this application which I sincerely hope they will please don't appeal against the decision. Take this as an opportunity to turn this all around. Restore these remarkable buildings and be remembered for generations to come for what you gave back to Epsom, not what you took away. Come and work with the people in this room who passionately believe that there is a future for this site in its current usage and perhaps if we all work together this site could become a jewel in your crown rather than a thorn in your side”.

At this point Cllr. Richardson summed up and called upon fellow committee members to support his motion for refusal. The Committee agreed and the Application was refused for the following reasons:-

- The overbearing impact of the new buildings on houses adjacent to the site.
- The unjustified loss of stable accommodation.
- Harm to the appearance and character of the Chalk Lane Conservation Area.
- Highway safety issues.

Planning Matters affecting our community but controlled by The Planning Inspectorate at Bristol.

Land at Hylands Mews, Dorking Rd – Going to Appeal
Erection of 2-bedroom, 2-storey detached property

The Council for the third time turned down this application primarily due to its cramped form and design which it considers will overdevelop the site and be detrimental to the visual amenity of the locality. An application for development has been turned down twice before on Appeal.

Comments must be received by 11th March 2009 addressed to Planning Inspectorate at 3/20 Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. Quote reference APP/P3610/A/09/2096105/WF.

8-12 Dorking Rd & 6 Elm Grove – Demolition & Replacement with Block A 30 Sheltered Apartments, lodge, manager's accommodation; Block B 5 self-contained apartments for the elderly.

Churchill Retirement Living Ltd were granted planning permission on Appeal by the Planning Inspectorate at Bristol in 2007. A long stretch of the Dorking Road is now boarded up. The site is dormant. 1 house has been let and the remaining are now derelict. The Elm Grove property has been let.

Housing development of Rosebery School field. Appeal granted in 2006 by TheBristol Inspectorate for 72 housing units & Public Footpath.

The site was sold on by Ruskin Homes to Crest Homes.

The site has had an entrance road built and the public footpath from White Horse Drive to Rosebank has been widened and tarmac resurfacing in 2008. The site is now enclosed with metal mesh fencing including the frontage along

Rosebank and lays dormant.

The Public Footpath from White Horse Drive to Rosebank floods when it rains at the traffic barriers at the Rosebank end. Chris Frost, our Resident's Society Surrey County Councillor, has reported this to the relevant department for attention.

Borough News

Mike Richardson, RA Borough Councillor
Teresa Cass, RA Borough Councillor

Epsom Playhouse 25th Anniversary

This year the Playhouse which is owned and operated by the Council celebrates its 25th anniversary. Over the years it has developed into a force in the entertainment world and is well known by residents to be one of the most popular multi-entertainment venues in the region.

The Playhouse has an ethos of commitment to young people and provides a venue through which young people can showcase their talents. Recently, the Council has made a number of significant improvements to the Playhouse, refurbishing the foyer and booking office, increasing seating capacity and introducing online ticketing for example. For booking information call 01372 742555/742227 or email playhouse@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Recycling Update

In recent Newsletters I have written about the new recycling service to be introduced this year. The key points are that:-

- Food waste will be collected weekly in separate bins
- Cardboard and plastic bottles will be collected fortnightly
- Paper, glass and cans and textiles will continue to be collected weekly
- Garden waste will continue to be collected fortnightly for those who have opted into the service
- The remaining residual waste will be

collected fortnightly

A phased introduction will start in the next few weeks for those households in the north of the borough. Households in the southern area, which includes Woodcote, will be introduced in May/June with flats throughout the borough starting in September.

The new set of bins when they are delivered later this year will contain a three-quarter size dark grey bin for plastic and cardboard, a food waste recycling container (approximately the size of a bucket) with lockable lid and a small kitchen caddy. Together with this will be an information booklet containing details of both new and existing service, what can and what cannot be recycled and collection arrangements. In addition there will be information for the few households that still use black sacks rather than wheelie bins and about a children's disposable nappy service.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we introducing the new service?
Firstly, because many residents have asked us to do so. In preparation for the launch we consulted widely. Around 30,000 questionnaires were distributed via Borough Insight, the Citizen's Panel was consulted and 22 roadshows were staged all of which contributed to shaping the new service. Secondly, there are sound environmental and cost reasons. Rotting food and other bio-

degradable material put in landfill sites generates around a quarter of the UK's methane emissions which has over twenty times the impact of carbon dioxide on the environment. Also by not sending so much to landfill we reduce the amount that we pay in Landfill Tax plus receive an income from selling the recyclables that we collect. A real benefit to the council taxpayer.

Why have we not started these changes earlier?

There is a very important reason for this. We have dovetailed the new service to coincide with the ending of our transport fleet contract in November 2008, enabling us to purchase a new set of custom fit, state-of-the-art refuse collection vehicles which are also designed to be as environmentally friendly as possible. To do so earlier would have incurred huge extra costs in employing additional crews and using old vehicles for a service for which they were never designed. Our collection service is, and will continue to be, one of the most cost-effective nationally.

Why collect recycling in this way?

Putting recyclables into different containers helps to separate materials efficiently before sending them to recycling companies. This produces a clean, sorted recycling which is regarded as a premium product by industry and, therefore, has a greater value, particularly in today's economic climate, when we sell it. Again this helps us to provide one of the lowest cost waste collection services in the country. Authorities that collect mixed recycling (e.g. Mole Valley) before using a semi-mechanical process to separate the individual constituents produce an inferior end product. Prices and demand reflect this.

Can I recycle all my plastic?

Unfortunately it is complex and expensive to sort and process the many types of plastic in use and, therefore it is only plastic bottles which can be recycled at present.

Why will the Borough Council collect residual waste from my green bin on a fortnightly basis?

Once food waste, cardboard, plastic bottles, paper, glass, textiles, cans, and garden waste has been removed from your normal green bin there is very little left to collect and what remains is inert. Collecting the residue waste fortnightly will, therefore, keep costs down and saves vehicle miles. Collecting weekly will add at least £100,000 to the council tax bill.

All round the country local councils are making changes to their recycling services. As a Residents' Association Borough Council committed to improving services in a cost effective way, our aim has been to ensure our new service meets your needs without becoming a council tax burden. The facts are these:

- We are on course to introduce a whole new range of recycling services at no additional cost to our residents
- We are still going to be offering one of the most cost-effective recycling services in the whole of the country
- There are only twelve authorities in the country that collect food waste borough-wide and we will be the first in Surrey
- Having removed food waste we will collect residual waste fortnightly unlike our neighbours in Mole Valley where food waste is collected fortnightly as part of their residual waste
- We will now be collecting cardboard and (recyclable) plastic bottles from the doorstep
- We have 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 to be as environmentally friendly as possible

'Stir' Bar – Planning Application

Despite strong opposition from Councillors, the planning application for Lap Dancing to

take place at 'Stir Bar' in East Street, Epsom, was granted. Unfortunately, because of the nature of Licensing Laws, there was little Councillors could do to stop a License being granted. With the strength of feeling however, Councillors fought to scale down the application so that table side dancing would not be permitted, private booths would not be allowed and the dancing will now be ancillary to the existing licensed premises. The extended hours of 2.00am Sunday to Thursday were rejected by the

committee and the Bar will therefore close at 23.00. There will also be no advertising allowed within Epsom and Ewell and the new name of 'Fillies' is not allowed. The premises will also be closely monitored to ensure compliance with all the conditions imposed.

Two Day Concert – Epsom Downs

Due to the current financial climate the two day concert planned to take place on Epsom Downs in 2009 has been postponed to the Summer of 2010.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 23RD MARCH AT 8PM St Martins C of E Junior School, Ashley Road, Epsom

AGENDA

| |
|--|
| <h1>1. Future of Epsom Hospital Speaker – Michele Moran Project Director for Local Needs, Local Health</h1> |
|--|

2. Opening Remarks
3. Apologies for absence
4. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 31st March 2008*
5. Approval and adoption of the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2008**
6. Election of Committee and Hon. Auditor for 2009-10***
7. Reports from you RA Councillors
8. Any other business

*Copies of the minutes are reproduced elsewhere in this Newsletter.

**Copies of the accounts will be provided at the meeting .

***If you would like to stand for Committee, please obtain a nomination form from the Chairman or Secretary. Completed nomination forms should be returned by 16th March.

Can you help?

Your local resident's society needs more committee members

The Woodcote Resident's Society exists to safeguard and promote the Woodcote Ward's resident's local interests. We are here to help with any local concerns that residents might have, to help build a local community, and to make sure that resident's views are heard by the Council.

In order to do this effectively we need the following committee members:

Treasurer Committee Members

It takes only a few hours each month. We meet every two months to hear what the Councillors have to report about local issues, to raise any queries from the residents, and to arrange social events. There is very little time commitment and all help is welcomed. If you are interested in becoming a committee member please contact any of the members on the front of the newsletter. Why not come along to a meeting to see if it is something that you could help with?

Minutes of AGM held at St Martin's C of E Junior School 31st March 2008

Committee Member Brian Saxby chaired the meeting attended by 32 Members and friends of the Society. Both Cllr Mike Richardson, Woodcote Ward Residents' Association Borough Councillor and Cllr Chris Frost, our RA Surrey County Councillor were present to report to the meeting and answer questions.

Cllr Teresa Cass, our second Ward Borough Councillor was unable to attend and sent her apologies. Apologies were received, also, from Margaret de Lyon (President) due to illness and Sue White.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5th MARCH 2007

Adoption proposed by Ed Chiswick, seconded Chris Frost. Adopted unanimously.

ADOPTION & APPROVAL OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2007

Ian Allely reported that the fall in income was due to some roads losing Road Representatives and these not being replaced, thereby residents not being asked for their subscriptions. A list of roads requiring Road Representatives was displayed and Members asked to help strengthen the important link between residents and the committee by becoming a Road Representative.

Despite the reduced income the Treasurer recommended that the membership fee remained @ £2 per year, £20 life membership.

Ian Allely informed the meeting that the Auditor, C J Bevis, had agreed to continue in office and thanked him for his work.

Ian Allely informed the meeting that due to his Church commitments he could no longer continue as Treasurer to the Society and, therefore, was resigning. Peter Goss had agreed to accept the position.

Chris Frost on behalf of the retiring Committee and the Society thanked Ian Allely for his two separate stints in office, first making a commitment to the Society in 1980 and giving his unfailing support in canvassing and informing new residents of the work of the Society in supporting local residents; advising on aspects of his legal knowledge and unstinting work on the accounts. The meeting conveyed their appreciation by applause.

The election of C J Bevis as Auditor was proposed by David Driscoll and seconded by Emma Swan and accepted unanimously.

The Chair proposed that the meeting accept the nominations for the new Committee by a show of hands – officers to be agreed at its first committee meeting. Unanimous.

Committee Members:

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Monica Ball | 2 | Kathy Belcher |
| 3 | Rob Blackwell | 4 | Linda Boddy |
| 5 | Peter Goss | 6 | Saskia Jordan |
| 7 | Brian Saxby | 8 | Tracey Whittington |

Hon Auditor: C J Bevis FCA
Woodcote Ward RA Borough Councillors Teresa Cass Mike Richardson
RA Surrey County Councillor: Chris Frost
President elected 2007(3 years): Margaret de Lyon

REPORT FROM RA SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLOR, CHRIS FROST

Parking congestion & yellow lines:

Cllr Frost informed the meeting that extra yellow lines to alleviate road congestion had been approved all over the borough, in particular affecting Woodcote Ward – Dorking Road, Chalk Lane, Hylands Mews & Emslie Close.

Libraries: The hours had been extended and in Epsom the library would be open from 9am until 7pm Monday to Friday.

Kiln Lane Link: Surrey County Council were in favour of its go-ahead but the Government had not made promised funding available.

Chalk Lane Gate: Cllr Frost had made the financial cost from his allocated Local budget and it should shortly be in place.

Concessionary Bus Fares /Over 60 years: Surrey residents could travel free after 9.30am.

Epsom Council had agreed Borough residents could travel free after 9am.

Street Lights: Within Surrey the decision had been taken to replace a good number of street lights. Old street lights were proving uneconomical to repair and constantly failing.

REPORT FROM RA EPSOM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR, MIKE RICHARDSON

Cllr Richardson thanked all members for their support in the Council Elections May 2007 when, with Teresa Cass, they were elected to serve on Epsom & Ewell Borough Council as the Woodcote Ward Residents' Society Councillors to represent local residents interests with no political bias.

Key Priorities of the newly elected Residents' Association Council had been agreed as:

- 1) To tackle anti-social behaviour
- 2) Increase re-cycling in a cost effective way
- 3) More resources for street cleaning – giving a cleaner neighbourhood by tackling dog litter/fly posting.
- 4) Targeting known graffiti persons
- 5) Supporting the retention of Epsom Hospital

Recycling of Waste

As Chairman of the Environment Committee, Cllr Richardson was over-seeing the implementation of Recycling and Waste collection in the Borough. The new collection services would be introduced in February 2009 to parts of the Borough. There would be green bin, brown garden waste fortnightly; newspapers bag, green box glass & cans, new plastic bottle collections and a new food waste collection weekly.

Many questions were raised from the floor:

Ed Chiswick (Secretary, Epsom & Ewell Energy Group) stated fluorescent tubes and energy efficient light bulbs could be disposed of at the Blenheim Road site.

Emma Swan considered pressure should be put on Supermarkets. Mike Richardson replied the Council was working in partnership with Supermarkets.

Cllr Richardson emphasised that food waste if dumped in landfill was creating methane and having a greater impact than carbon dioxide on the environment and global warming.

Cllr Richardson also informed the meeting that if the Council did not reduce its landfill, Government

would impose a fine of £150 a ton on the Council – necessitating an increase in Council Tax. Nick Russell was insistent that the Council was diverting from a promised weekly collection. David Driscoll emphasised that EEC intended fining the Government if waste was not managed effectively and that the fines would be passed to Councils in 2010. Councils could not bear such fines. This statement silenced the opposition to the Council's plans to collect waste in a cost effective way.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cycling John Bird was concerned at the dangerous pot-holes in Langley Vale.

Cllr Chris Frost replied that road-resurfacing in Surrey should start in the summer 2008.

It was important that persons report to Surrey County Council the location of holes that are potentially dangerous. Epsom & Ewell Cycling Action Group should also be informed and it is important to obtain a reference number from the Council when making a complaint.

Flower-beds in Epsom & Ewell

Praise was received from the floor and warmly endorsed for the very attractive flower beds within the Borough – the statement was made that the Borough Council should receive an accolade.

Epsom & Ewell Energy Group

Ed Chiswick (Secretary) had information on the disposal of energy efficient light bulbs, free re-cycling site for televisions and on their web site information on insulation.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Social News

Linda Boddy, Woodcote Residents' Society

'History on our Doorstep'

Despite gale force winds and rain, Woodcote Residents showed what a hardy breed they are and turned out in force to attend our 'History on our Doorstep' talk by Ian West on Thursday 23rd October. With ever increasing numbers arriving for our talk, concerns behind the scenes turned to 'will we have enough chairs' and 'will there be enough car parking spaces'. In the end there was and we squeezed just over 100 people into St Martin's Infant School hall for a very enjoyable and informative evening.

Ian West led us, with an illustrated talk, through the architectural history of the many important and unique buildings in Chalk Lane. His excellent presentation demonstrated how, with each new generation, the residents left their mark on these houses. As architectural

fashions evolved, new facades were erected, windows changed, walls moved and the plumbing updated! Each modification reflected a new period in the social history of the area. As one resident commented on our evaluation form, 'I enjoyed the talk so very much. Really appreciated. Please let's do this again!' Our minds invigorated by our new knowledge of local history, we were ready for some refreshment. The wine flowed, old acquaintances were renewed and new friends made. Thank you to everyone who came out in such terrible weather and I hope that we all agree that it was worth it!

Bluebell Walk – Sunday 26th April 2009 (See advert opposite)

Please join us for a Guided Walk from Langley Vale to Headley via the lovely Bluebell Woods on Sunday 26th April. We

are delighted that Nick Owen from the Lower Mole Countryside Project has agreed to lead the start of the walk through The Warren. We will be looking at the bluebells and other wildflowers in the context of the history of the woodland and its current conservation status, plus future conservation plans for the area. Hopefully, the Bluebells will be out in full bloom and we should see them at their best. The walk starts at the top of Beaconsfield Road by the alley next to

the Vale School. We shall walk through The Warren onto the Downs and then via public footpaths onto Headley. The walk is only about two and half miles but it is quite hilly. We shall finish at the Cock Inn at Headley where we can purchase our own refreshments. Transport will be arranged for the return back to Langley Vale. There will be a small charge of £3 per person to cover costs. We will collect this at the beginning of the walk.

Bluebell Walk
A Guided walk from Langley Vale to Headley



Sunday 26th April 2009
at 11.00a.m.

Start point: Top of Beaconsfield Road
By The Vale School, Langley Vale

Please join us for a guided walk with Nick Owen (Lower Mole Countryside Management Project), through the historic Warren and then onto Headley via the Headley Bluebell Woods.

(About 2½ miles cross country)

We will finish our walk at The Cock Inn at Headley where we can enjoy some refreshment. (Own cost).

Transport will be provided to ferry people back to Langley Vale.

£3 charge
(payable on day)

All Welcome

In order to gauge numbers please reply:

by email LindaBoddy@rocketmail.com or by telephone: 01372 279699

or complete the tear-off slip below and return to:

Linda Boddy, 3 The Hayes, Langley Vale, Epsom, Surrey. KT18 6HB.

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Bluebell Walk - Sunday 26th April 2009

I look forward to joining the walk on Sunday 26th April 2009

Name:..... Numbers attending:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone Number:.....

**Woodcote Residents show their Community Spirit as
Record Snow Falls in February**

With the heaviest snow fall in years hitting the Woodcote Ward this February, residents showed that you only need to scratch the surface to find the community spirit reminiscent of the 'Blitz' lying just underneath. Residents took to the streets, built snowmen, threw snowballs, kept an eye on their elderly neighbours and enjoyed talking to people they had never met before. The much maligned 4 x 4 proved to be an invaluable aid in helping maintain supplies and essential journeys for people who would otherwise have been stranded. Having 'broken the ice' in this way, there is no reason why we should not continue with these new found friendships.



*The Recreational Ground
Langley Vale*

**Epsom Christmas Lights bring Cheer to Epsom
Thanks to Residents' Association**

Epsom celebrated Christmas in style this year, with our High Street lit from end to end with new Christmas lights. Residents' Association Councillor for Town Ward, Neil Dallen, planned a co-ordinated approach to raising funds for these lights. Some funding was provided by Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and Surrey County Council, and the balance was then secured in the form of donations from local businesses and the general public. Councillor Dallen also arranged collections in the Ashley Centre and bag packing in Sainsbury's by the Scouts until finally the money was raised and the Christmas Lights purchased.

Woodcote Millennium Green Trust – AGM
The AGM of the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust will take place at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday 12th March in the Epsom Sports Club, Woodcote Road, Epsom. All local residents welcome.

Membership and Subscriptions

Please note that your 2009 subs are now due.

Your local Road Rep or a committee member should be coming round to collect any outstanding subs but if you haven't yet paid, why not knock on your Road Rep's door to save them having to come to you!

The annual subs are a modest £2 per household and they help towards the cost of running the Society.

If you are new to the ward and you are interested in finding out more about this area and about your local Residents' Society, please do contact any one of the committee listed on the page 2 contact list.

Diary of Events

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| Monday 23 rd March 2009 at 8pm St Martins C of E Junior School | Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society AGM and Speaker Michele Moran Project Director for Local Needs, Local Health Future of Epsom Hospital |
| Sunday 26 th April 2009 at 11.00am Top of Beaconsfield Road, Langley Vale | Bluebell Walk (See advert) |

WATCH OUT FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

If you would like your community or club event mentioned in our forthcoming newsletter please email to lindaboddy@rocketmail.com or telephone 01372 279699