

TATTENHAM & PRESTON
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2022

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Chair's Report - Summer 2022

Dear Residents....

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter which is now a bumper 16 pages thanks to the kind sponsorship of Steve Haydon, the owner of RSM Domestic Appliances, our local Domestic Appliance Retailer. We are very grateful for his financial support which has enabled us to publish a bigger newsletter which we hope you will find more useful and informative.

RSM took over Howards Electrical three years ago which had served the community for the past 45 years and was well known for its friendly helpful service.

This has continued under Steve's leadership. So if you are looking for a new domestic appliance think of RSM. They belong to the Euronics marketing group so their prices are competitive and they offer a comparable repair service.

Distribution

This newsletter is delivered to over 4,000 homes in the Tattenham and Preston Area three times a year. We also have a monthly email bulletin, T&PR eNEWS, which is circulated to subscribers at the beginning of each month.

We have a team of Road Stewards who help us to deliver this newsletter but could always do with more. If you think you can spare an hour or two, three times a year to help us, please get in touch to discuss the roads needing to be covered. If you email info@tandpr.org.uk with your contact details someone will call you to explain what is required.

Election

Congratulations to Nick Harrison who was re-elected at the local election in May. Nick received 60% of the vote, up 3% on last time even though the turnout was lower than usual.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

Over the Jubilee weekend quite a number of roads in the Borough held Street Parties; the weather held so no one was rained out. As part of the celebrations the RA along with the Tattenham & Preston Community Group organised a flagpole which now has pride of place at the seating area at the junction of Tattenham Crescent and Downland Way. In due course a sign will be made identifying that it was put in place to celebrate the Queen's 70th year as our monarch.

Highways

Two items that never go away, condition of our roads and planning applications. Our councillors do monitor these closely to be able to keep residents updated. There is a new roads contractor for Surrey and it is believed their approach will be to change to fix multiple potholes in a given area, not just one at a time. There is now a contract for funding in 2023 for Chewode Road repairs, which people using this particular road will be very pleased to hear. Most of the problems on the main roads in the Borough have been addressed and attention is now being directed to smaller residential roads.

Planning

The application to demolish 6 bungalows at **23-33 Great Tattenhams**, and replace them with 39 flats in 4 blocks was originally refused by the Council, but then approved by the Planning Inspectorate. Due to legal errors by the Inspector, the Council pursued the case to the courts and the decision of the Planning Inspectorate has itself been overturned. As a result, the appeal will be reconsidered by a new Planning Inspector. The deadline for comments was 14 July 2022, so we wait again for the outcome.

The proposed **Tattenham Corner phone mast** was rejected by the council officers last year after many residents complained quite forcibly against it. There has been an appeal by H3G who had persisted with their application. We believed that there were other locations to place a mast rather than this well used area by the shops. We are pleased to advise that we heard that this appeal had been dismissed. A victory for the community but H3G may come back with an application for a smaller mast. We will continue to monitor the situation.



Planning (Continued)

Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) has made an application for the erection of a single storey building for mixed restaurant and hot food takeaway use in part of the Burgh Heath Asda car park. This will incorporate a dedicated 'drive-thru' facility and the associated reconfiguration of the existing car park layout. This application is still on-going, but has just short of 300 adverse comments on the Council website.

Preston

Mark Sparling has been a much valued member of the Residents Association for a number of years and sadly for personal reasons has had to step down from the committee. Mark has worked tirelessly to look after the area and help residents with a range of issues. Thank you Mark for all you have done, we will miss working with you.

Planters

A number of the committee refreshed the planters at Tattenham Corner along with the flower bed close to the station. New planters are being put in the Circle where the new flagpole has been sited and we will be planting these up in due course. If you would like to be involved in some urban gardening, please contact Jill Bray or myself.

Preston Fair

A note for your diaries - Preston Community Fair 10th September.

*Best wishes
Kathryn Chattelle*

New Planning Application

We have a new planning application which is very close to the Tattenham Corner Shops. The developer plans to demolish 181 and 183 Great Tattenhams and replace them with 13 one-bed and one two-bed properties.

This is the site of the old Downs Cottage Nursing Home but in recent years it has been used as a house of multiple occupancy which has caused some issues with neighbours. The building is in poor condition.



The proposal is for 10 one-bed and one 2-bed apartments facing on to Great Tattenhams with a further three 1-bed "mews houses" to the rear of the site. The footprint of the new building is similar to the original properties and parking arrangements seem slightly better than is available at present. There would be some accommodation in the roof, which may cause additional overlooking.



To review and comment on this application visit Reigate & Banstead's website and look for planning application 22/00982/F or scan this QR Code:



Residents Association Councillors do have teeth!

By Cllr Nick Harrison

Our Residents Association Councillors pride themselves in that community takes priority over party-politics. But even if we are only a minority group in the overall Council (both Borough and County), our Councillors can still impact major policy issues.

Surrey County Council has 16 Residents Association and Independent Councillors - as large as the Liberal Democrat and Labour groups put together - and is thus the main opposition group. Whilst trying to avoid blatant political issues, we do, however, play a key role in the cross-party scrutiny of the Council, shining light on the quality of services, their effectiveness and spending budgets.

One recent example where the RA group has been able to keep the Council and the ruling group in check concerns the closure of a Children's Home where the reasons for its closure were obscured.

Proper scrutiny requires access to information, and opposition Councillors have complained about a lack of transparency and reporting on the "significant failings" at one of the council-run children's homes. The home was closed immediately after an OFSTED inspection in February, which found staff shortages and management failings left the children at risk. In March, a different explanation was provided when the Council claimed the home was closed because the building was no longer fit for purpose.



Full Council in session at County Hall Reigate

We were only notified about issues months later when they were raised through media reports on OFSTED findings. The children's select (scrutiny) committee, and the corporate parenting board should have been informed as soon as possible. The role of the corporate parenting board is to provide "robust assurance of the whole corporate parenting system, ensuring Surrey is an outstanding corporate parent to its children."

At the full council meeting in March, my fellow RA councillor Fiona Davidson said: "We were told that the Children's Service improvement journey required the active participation of councillors in their scrutiny role. And I don't understand how (we're) not being made aware of this information, and yet being asked to undertake that (parenting) role."

At a meeting of the Council's cabinet, questions were raised by an RA & Independent councillor about the closure and the "efficiency and transparency of the children's service." Cllr Tim Oliver, the Conservative Leader curtailed discussion and said it was an "operational matter" and not appropriate for discussion.

At May's annual general meeting of the Council, Cllr Oliver had second thoughts, and said "it is fair to say that communications could have been better, needs to be better and will be better." A special meeting of the scrutiny committee was hastily arranged for councillors to understand the OFSTED report on the care home and the Council's response and actions.

What this shows is that opposition matters, even if we are in a minority. Surrey's goal should be for all our Children's Homes to achieve a "good" OFSTED rating, not hide behind excuses. Yes, your RA Councillors are here to represent our local community, but we are also prepared and will act on the bigger issues that matter.

HELP REQUIRED

Can you spare some time to help TPRA?

We are looking for Road Stewards who will deliver our newsletter to their neighbours and act as a collection point for membership subscriptions (which are put through your door in an envelope which will be collected from you). This involves only a few hours of your time and would be a great help to us. If you are interested please call **07941 6762 561** or email us at **info@tandpr.org.uk** and we will contact you.

Hello from RSM

Owner Steve Haydon took ownership of RSM Domestic Appliances in 1999 and has successfully grown the company to be one of the largest independent Eurionics dealer in Surrey.

RSM sells, repairs and installs a wide range domestic appliances from five locations across the county (Knaphill (Woking), Epsom Downs, Bookham, Ashted and Guildford).

In case you didn't know our 10 Tattenham Crescent store recently underwent a complete renovation and now displays over 175 products including a wide selection of built in and free standing appliances.

But that is not all... we are very excited to let you know about the opening of our second shop at number 1 Tattenham Crescent. This will be a dedicated Cooker Centre offering Gas and Electric cookers from all the top brands! After an extensive refurbishment, the opening will be at the end of July 2022.

This will make us your largest Appliance retailer for miles around.

So whether it's a replacement appliance or a new kitchen you need, our expert sales staff will guide you through making the best choice to suit you and your home.



10 Tattenham Crescent



7 Tattenham Crescent

Giving back to our community with the RSM Community Support Scheme

As a long established independent retailer, RSM has always valued it's place in the High Street and the importance of being part of a Community. So as a way to give back something to our loyal customers and local Community we decided to create our Community Support Scheme.



Steve Haydon with the Mayor of Woking



This was launched back in 2017, and means that each month we help someone who might be going through a trying time by donating either an appliance or electrical goods. To date we are proud to tell you we have helped over 150 people. These are people known to us or identified by our Charity partners.

RSM sees its Community Support Scheme as an extension of going that extra mile to give excellent customer service but always with that personal, friendly touch. You can find out more about our scheme by visiting our website.



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The Beacon School now has its own Beacon



A few years ago, before Covid, Gary Eversfield, a Beacon parent, approached the Beacon Friends Association (BFA) with an idea. Why not install a Beacon at the Beacon School? After all, The Beacon School was named after the nearby Tumble Beacon, an ancient burial ground, which was also the site of a beacon to warn of the Spanish Armada.

He came to a meeting of the BFA Trustees with a model of what he had in mind, a sprayed upturned shuttlecock on a piece of wood set on a square of artificial grass.



Gary Eversfield's Prototype

His homemade prototype convinced the Trustees that this was a great idea and they set to work on planning and financing the project.

They successfully applied for a £3,000 grant from the Co-op Community Fund and a further £500 was donated by local estate agent Sasha Scott.

The school's design students designed the beacon's basket. Four aluminium name plates were cast by students and mosaics to celebrate the school's four houses (Endeavour, Discovery, Atlantis and Explorer) were made by one of the BFA members.

The school's Year 7 students asked for an eco-solution rather than a real flame. This was achieved with a waterproof dome incorporating thousands of low voltage LED lights creating an amazingly realistic flickering flame.

The project was delayed due to Covid, and the cost increased when the price of steel went up. So further fundraising was required. This was raised by a sponsored walk from the Ditchling Beacon in Sussex to the Tumble Beacon.

And when the Beacon was installed a stainless-steel time capsule was buried at its base containing topical memories of today including a face mask and lateral flow test!

It took three years to complete the project, but on the Summer Solstice, the 21st June, the Beacon was formally lit by Paula Ghinn, Chair of BFA with Cllr Frank Kelly, Mayor of Reigate & Banstead in attendance.

The BFA see the beacon as adding a bit of history to their school. Paula Ghinn said, "It will shine brightly on special occasions for everyone to see. And the "Beacon Shining Light Awards" will be given annually at prize giving to two students who have overcome adversity or been kind and helped someone out."



Cllr Frank Kelly Mayor of Reigate & Banstead with Paula Ghinn and Maria Newson, Community Development Worker



Paula Ghinn Chair of BFA with Gary Eversfield designer & inventor of the Beacon

The Beacon Friends Association is a registered charity. It has five trustees made up of parents, friends and staff, and all parents, carers and staff are members. Its simple objective is to advance the education of pupils at the Beacon School.

This is achieved by developing effective relationships between staff and parents and others associated with the school and by engaging in activities, providing facilities and equipment which support the school and enhance the education of students.

Borough Election Results

At the last local council elections, held on the 5th May, we are pleased to announce that Councillor Nick Harrison was re-elected as our representative for the Tattenham Corner and Preston Ward of the Borough of Reigate and Banstead.

The results were as follows:

Nick Harrison [Residents Association]	1243	60%
Aaron Doherty [Conservative]	412	20%
Steve Boeje [Labour]	304	15%
Alistair Morten [Green]	114	5%

The turnout was lower than usual at 29%.

Thank you again to everyone who voted and supported Nick's re-election.



New Jubilee Flagpole

The Residents Association (TPRA) together with Tattenham & Preston Community Group (TPCG) have financed and installed a flagpole on the green opposite the Tattenham Corner Shops. We felt this would be an opportunity to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee but also to establish a community asset that can be used to celebrate and recognise local and national events for years to come.

As anyone who has passed the flagpole will have noticed, we currently are flying the Union Flag along with the flag of Ukraine to express our solidarity with their citizens during the Russian invasion.

We also are planning to develop a Tattenham & Preston flag and will be organising a competition to design such a flag with local schools.

TPCG is a local voluntary group that provides help to the community and organises community events. Their activities have included the organisation of the Summer Fairs and Christmas Markets held on the Tattenham Village Green.



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TPRA Annual Membership Subscription Due

May we remind you that the £3.00 annual membership fee is now due.

If you received an envelope with this magazine, the easiest way to pay is to pop £3 in the envelope and post it through the door of your local road steward.

But as not everyone has a road steward you can also arrange a bank transfer or set up an annual standing order to the following account:

TPRA

Sort Code: 30-93-08

Account No: 0021807

Ref: Your House number & Postcode

You can also pay by **Paypal** sending to **"tattpra@gmail.com"** - in the message box add your house number and post code and then select payment type "Friends & family" (which avoids charges).

Thank you for your support which helps us to finance our activities in the community.

The Lost Manor of Preston Hawe - an insight into our local history

If you cross the road from the Marbles Way Shops in Preston towards Preston Lane, you will see a sign providing information about The Lost Manor House of Preston Hawe.

This marks the location of a medieval manor house dating back to the 12th and 13th Centuries. The development comprised a gatehouse, stables, a manor house, a communal hall and kitchen for the Lord of the Manor's retainers and an enclosure for cattle. This was surrounded by a bank and moat. Outside the enclosure was a chapel and burial ground.

We know this because an archaeological dig was carried out in the early 1950's by the archaeologist Brian Hope-Taylor to investigate the site prior to the housing development that is now Preston.

It is estimated that the site was established during the 12th century and flourished well into the 13th century but was then deserted by the early 14th century. It probably achieved its wealth from cattle trading which were held in enclosures on the site before being driven to market in Croydon.

The excavation uncovered a skeleton with a pewter chalice suggesting it was the body of a priest. It is thought that the chapel may have dated back to before the manor house. The name Preston is derived from the Old English words "præost" meaning 'priest' and "tūn" meaning 'settlement' thus Priest Town. The suffix "Hawe" appears to relate to an enclosure.

The earliest documented reference to Preston Hawe dates back to 1316-17 when the manor was in the possession of John de Chetwode although a Ralph de Chetwode is recorded as living in the area a century earlier.



Brian Hope-Taylor with the pewter chalice found during the 1953 dig



Local residents at the 2011 dig



Sign on the corner of Preston Lane & Marbles Way



Because Brian Hope-Taylor never fully reported his findings from the 1950's dig, we only have a partial understanding of the Preston Hawe settlement.

In 2008 a local group of volunteers, assisted by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, started to piece together the 1950's archive to try to make sense of it. A further dig was also organised in 2011 which involved local people and school children in a dig following the traces of the earlier 1950's excavations that were still accessible. Some of the findings are on display at The Tadworth Leisure Centre.

Local residents, Antoinette and Wayne Scivier, who took part in the latest dig, hope that more findings from this last investigation will be published and it is hoped that The Surrey History Centre may soon be publishing more information about the history of Preston Hawe.

Map showing the Manor House location with current roads

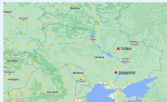


Welcome to our Ukrainian Neighbours

Two Ukrainian families visited Tattenham Library recently to meet UK families. Maryna and her son, Denys are refugees from Poltava and Kateryna and her daughter, Mariia from Zelendolsk.



Kateryna with her daughter Mariia and Maryna and her son Denys



Poltava is a town of 300,000 in Central Ukraine about half-way between Kyiv and the Russian border. Zelendolsk is a smaller town of around 14,000 in the South just north of Crimea.

Both Kateryna and Maryna have left their husbands behind in Ukraine and are now living with families in Tadworth and Kingswood. These families have kindly opened their homes to refugees who are now trying to adapt to life in a foreign land. The children will shortly be starting at local schools whilst their mothers are looking for work.

Central Government and our local Reigate & Banstead Borough Council are providing support to help refugees settle in the UK. To date almost 200 families have been settled in the Borough under the Homes for Refugees scheme, but homes are still desperately needed for families trying to escape the war in Ukraine.

The charity Opora [www.opora.uk] provides an excellent website that explains the commitment and acts as a communication channel between UK and Ukrainian families. There is also a government site that provides detailed guidance for anyone interested in providing a home for refugees [www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-sponsor-guidance].

Reigate & Banstead Council has also set up number of resettlement services for refugees and their hosts. They will:

- Provide money and benefits support from within their Money Support team
- Provide weekly drop-in support groups across the borough for Ukrainian guests and their sponsors
- Offer housing advice and discuss any needs arising from the new arrivals through their Housing team
- Support with access to their Voluntary and Community Support services
- Provide support to families through their Resettlement team and Family Support team
- Complete any necessary referrals to partners including health and school admissions

And you can still donate money and materials to help the Ukrainian people. **Surrey Stands With Ukraine** has its headquarters in Epsom's Ashley Centre. Set up by Nataliya Irvine, a Ukrainian who has lived here for 20 years.

They are still collecting for and sending aid to Ukraine. In particular they need first aid supplies, tinned and dried food (not soup) as well as financial donations. They would also welcome toiletries such as shampoo and shower gel which go to refugees living over here.



How 40 incredible men built their own homes

After WWII, Tattenham Corner and Preston was still mainly open farmland. The Council estate that now comprises Upland and Downland Way was about to be built but the Preston development was still years away. There were two adjoining plots of land for sale in what is now Ferriers Way and Chetwode Drive. This land became one of the country's most successful self-build projects.

This is a story of 40 men's determination to build their own homes at a time of severe housing shortage.

The "Banstead Self Build Housing Scheme" comprised a group of 40 local men who in their spare time built 40 three-bed semi-detached houses.

Each man agreed to work 20 hours a week on site, mainly at the weekend but those on shift work would put their hours in during the week. Note that with a normal 45 hour working week for their main job, these men were working 65 hours per week 52 weeks a year and only being paid for 45. Each man was allowed one weekend off per year but would work on bank holidays.



Some for the men relaxing in the hut.

The project started on a cold wintery morning. Their first priority was to install a site hut large enough for storage as well as for an office and canteen. It had to be conveniently sited for deliveries but not in the way of building work. Over the next few weekends the site was cleared and the foundations for the first two properties pegged out. Next footings were dug, and materials started to arrive. There were no lorries with built-in cranes in those days, so bricks were unloaded manually by a chain gang throwing three bricks at a time, quite a skill.

Eventually the first houses were completed and occupied usually in joining order. Those with a home continued working but increased their hours to 25 per week as they had no travelling time. They also paid rent of £2. 10s shillings (£2.50) a week until the whole project was completed.

With the first 20 houses almost completed there were concerns over the purchase of the second plot of land. This was delayed causing a six-month halt in the project. But negotiations were eventually finalised, and, after a delay, work started again on the second group of houses.

The project ran from 1951 to 1955 before the final homes were ready for occupation. At this time, the properties were still "owned" by the project but were then "sold" to the individual participants at a price based on the total project cost. Michael remembers obtaining a mortgage of £4,500.

The project was considered a great success and the site received many visitors keen to run their own projects. Sadly, few were as successful as this one. There was a celebratory party once the project was complete. A large tent was erected on an adjacent green space. With drinks and nibbles on hand, dancing took place to the tunes of Glen Miller.



Ferriers Way under construction



One of those 40 men still lives in the house he built in Chetwode Drive almost seventy years ago. Michael Ewen, along with his friend, fellow builder and neighbour, Dennis Dawson, wrote a detailed account of their challenge and achievements. The full story is available on our website. Use your phone to scan the QR Code below



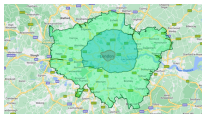
Ferriers Way today

ULEZ

What does this mean?

ULEZ stands for "Ultra Low Emission Zone". This is currently in place in the Inner London Area (see map below) and is a charge made on vehicles entering the zone that do not comply with modern emission standards.

In simple terms this is petrol vehicles registered after 2005 and diesel vehicles after September 2015. It covers all vehicles from a moped up to a large van although there are some exemptions including taxis, vehicles for disabled people and mini-buses used for community transport. Buses and HGV vehicles are also exempt.



All vehicles not exempt have to pay a charge of £12.50 per day every day except Christmas Day. And if the fee is not paid there is a penalty of £160 (reduced to £80 if paid within 14 days).

Its purpose is to reduce toxic air pollution in London. The objective is to reduce harmful nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels by around 30% by penalising older vehicles that do not comply to modern emission standards.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, plans to increase the ULEZ area to cover all of the Greater London Area in 2023. This will mean that a journey to Sutton or Kingston would require a £12.50 payment to non-exempt vehicles.

Concerns have been raised that this will have a serious impact on people driving to work within the area, making hospital visits and driving children to schools. The point has also been made that public transport south of the river is poor compared to the North with only one underground line which only goes as far as Morden.

What you should do now? It's too late to raise objections to the extended scheme, but we suggest you check whether your vehicle is exempt. You can do so in seconds by visiting:

tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/

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2022-2023 Committee

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Vice Chair	Martin Beard	6 Sherborne Close KT18 5UU	01737 216555
Hon. Treasurer	Richard Mantle	27 Shawley Way KT18 5PB	01737 357055
Hon. Secretary	Jill Bray	27 Shawley Way KT18 5PB	01737 357055
Committee	Caroline Baldock	32 Watermead KT20 5HB	01737 377525
	Bob Harper	68 Upland Way KT18 5ST	01737 211315
	Nick Harrison	105 Tattenham Crescent KT18 5NY	01737 215405
	Asad Jamil	1 Oaks Way KT18 5PU	07544 939240
	John Kemp	82 Upland Way KT18 5ST	07941 672561
	Ian Mockford	1 Heathside Place KT18 5TX	barassie@gmail.com
	John Smith	16 Merland Green KT20 5JB	07767 362088

Borough Councillors

Jill Bray	27 Shawley Way KT18 5PB	djr.bray@reigate-banstead.gov.uk	01737 357055
Bob Harper	68 Upland Way KT18 5ST	bhms.harper@gmail.com	01737 211315

County & Borough Councillor

Nick Harrison	105 Tattenham Crescent KT18 5NY	nicholas.harrison@surreycc.gov.uk	01737 215405
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A chance to visit our local racing stables

Here is a chance to learn what Epsom Downs is famous for and visit some of the trainers that are based around The Downs. There are six racing stables located in our area, the nearest being Tattenham Corner Stables owned and run by Michael Attwater.



Michael started his racing career as a jockey working for trainer Gary Moore in Sussex. He later became Head Lad at John Akehurst's Epsom stable. He then moved into training and has been based at Tattenham Corner since 2007.

On Sunday the 11th September all six yards based around The Downs will be open to the public to raise funds for Racing Welfare, the charity that supports people working in racing. There will be a display on the Gallops (behind the racecourse) at 8.00 am and all six stables will be open to the public from 9 am to 1 pm. A free shuttle bus will be available to travel between stables. We recommend you start at Tattenham Corner Stables.

You can find out more and buy advance tickets by visiting www.epsomopenday.co.uk

Further information will be available soon on the website where you can also book early bird tickets for £7.50 (£10 on the day). Children under 16 are free.



Tattenham Corner Stables



T & P R e NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR TATTENHAM & PRESTON RESIDENTS

Tattenham & Preston Residents Association also publishes a monthly free e-newsletter. To sign-up all we need is an email address. It is free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Just visit our website www.tandpr.org.uk or scan this QR code





Our new hospital looks doubtful

Residents may recall that in 2020 the Prime Minister, to meet one of his election pledges, promised to build 40 new hospitals and allocated a budget of £3.7 billion to deliver them.

The good news, at that time, was that a new Critical Care Hospital would be built in Sutton to support the existing Epsom and St Helier Hospitals which would continue to provide a local healthcare service. It would be among the first of the promised new hospitals. This was after decades of local debate about whether consolidate services at Epsom or St Helier.



Since then we have had Covid and spent considerably more on ineffective PPE equipment. In fact the BBC reported that £8.7 billion that had been written off on Pandemic PPE spending.

Government has also developed a reputation for renege on electoral promises and frequently changing directions.

And, as no firm starting date for the new hospital has been announced we have been chasing our MP and Epsom & St Helier Trust for more information.

They have not been able tell us anything we didn't already know but at the end of June we had a statement from Ebony Lyons, Head of Communications and Engagement for Building Your Future Hospitals.

She said: *"The Building Your Future Hospitals programme represents the biggest investment in healthcare in the region for a generation. It will mean a brand-new Specialist Emergency Care Hospital in Sutton to care for the sickest patients, as well as significantly improving Epsom and St Helier hospitals, where 85% of patients will still be seen and treated."*

"The Government has said it is committed to the Building Your Future Hospitals programme, which is part of the national New Hospital Programme to build 48 new hospitals by 2030."

"The new specialist emergency care hospital is now expected not to be ready until 2027 at the earliest."

"Group Chief Executive, Jacqueline Totterdell, said: "While there are lots of benefits to being part of a national programme, it also means we are subject to national approval processes. We are waiting for feedback and confirmation of next steps from the national programme, which we expect to receive in the autumn following approval of the New Hospital Programme's business case."

"Everyone who works for the Trust contributes, every day, to delivering safe and effective care despite huge challenges in our hospital estate. Our patients deserve to be treated in a modern, purpose-built environment, with major inpatient services working from a single specialist site. And our staff deserve a better environment from which to deliver care."

Whilst quite a positive statement, looking at current political thinking we believe that our new hospital is highly unlikely in the foreseeable future. We will keep monitoring the situation and will keep you informed. We also wonder how much has been spent on plans that may not materialise.

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Are you a Litter Keeper or a Litter Spreader?

We are lucky in having an incredible group of Litter Pickers in our area. The Tadworth Walton & Burgh Heath Litter Pickers even won a national award this year. They do their best to keep our streets and open places clean and tidy.



But it is an uphill task because some people continue to spread their litter around our streets and open places rather than putting it in a bin or taking it home with them.

This is a photo of the Mound overlooking Epsom Racecourse. There is a bin literally 14 steps away.



And dog walkers, why do some of you pick up your dog's poo in a plastic bag and then leave the bag on the street or hanging on a bush?



Please please please find a bin or take your rubbish home!!!



Encouraging our children to read

Did you know that one in five children cannot read well by age 11? Reading for pleasure is more important for a child's academic success than their parents' education levels or socio-economic group.

These are shocking statistics from The Reading Agency, a national charity helping to improve reading skills. During the school holidays it organises The Summer Readership Challenge in partnership with public libraries to encourage our children to read.



This year's challenge started on 9th July and is entitled "Gadgeteers". With resources and activities developed by The Science Museum, it focuses on inspiring children to see the science and innovation behind everyday objects. The aim is to read at least six books during the Summer Holidays.

It is free to join at Tattenham Library which is also organising a free programme of events for children throughout August. Call in for further information.





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