



Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2024

Letter from the Chair

DEAR SUPPORTERS

As we approach our AGM, I am excited to share some progress and achievements from the past year.

Firstly, both the Long Grove and Ford Copse project applications were approved. We have also completed the planting of Ford Copse in Alexandra Recreation ground, in recognition of our founder Mike Ford's many years of dedication to the treescape of Epsom and Ewell.

Our tree planting and aftercare efforts continue to thrive. With funding obtained by County (and Borough) Councillor Steven McCormick, we sponsored applications for new Surrey County Council (SCC) street trees in cooperation with residents, working to raise awareness of the significant continued need for watering and aftercare to ensure the survival of the new trees.

We have also offered consultation and advisory services on tree species and conducted tree surveys for organisations and residents aiming to enhance the local treescape.

Additionally, we collaborated with Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (EEBC) to assist in protecting existing trees on council land and key trees on private land affected by planning applications. Our tree nursery supplied stock to various groups, including the Old Moat Garden Centre, a social enterprise, and Epsom College.

Finally, EETAB members are actively engaged in outreach, and raise awareness through community events, and helped update the Rosebery Park Tree Trail.

This year, we celebrate EETAB's 30th anniversary, a testament to our enduring commitment and collective efforts. Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we are making a significant impact on our community and the environment.

Howard Gregory

Chair, Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board

Our Mission

Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board (EETAB) is the Surrey Tree Warden Group for Epsom and Ewell,

The group will collaborate where appropriate with the Borough and County Councils.

EETAB is made up of volunteers. Any individual with an interest in trees is welcome to attend meetings and become involved in the activities of the group.

EETAB aims to:

- create an external forum that is instrumental in the addition, promotion, management and conservation of trees and hedgerows
- help secure strong tree policy, protection, and husbandry by participation in the planning consultation processes
- inform people, neighbourhood groups, schools and other groups about the importance and care of trees
- participate in working groups for tree care and planting projects.



The Year in Review

TREE PLANTING PROJECTS

Ford Copse Dedication and Tree Planting at Alexandra Recreation Ground



In early December 2023, the Mayor, local councillors, Friends of Alexandra Park, and EETAB gathered in a dedication ceremony to honour Mike Ford and recognise his many years of contribution to tree planting and conservation within Epsom & Ewell.

Mike Ford established and led EETAB for 25 years. One of Mike's first projects, a copse in the corner of Alexandra Park, subsequently named after him, features a variety of native trees amongst a rich wildlife habitat.



Following the dedication ceremony, volunteers planted an additional 30 saplings, all sourced from the EETAB tree nursery, to revitalise the copse and add more native trees, thereby supplementing the existing wildlife habitat and providing a succession of tree ages.

The recent plantings will rejuvenate the area and celebrate Mike's many years of dedication to Epsom and Ewell's treescape.

The Year in Review

STREET TREES WINTER 23/24



EETAB member and Surrey Councillor Steven McCormick used a portion of his County Council Community allocation from SCC to sponsor applications to SCC for street trees. Using this and working with residents, EETAB successfully submitted applications for over 37 street trees throughout the borough, and is working with residents on their aftercare to help ensure their survival. Surrey County Council also planted additional trees at locations requested by other residents, bringing the total to about 130 new street trees in Epsom & Ewell this year.

Consultation and Advisory services for Local Groups



We enhanced the hedgerows at St. Martin's School and offered consultation and advice on tree species for Downs Avenue, a private road. Additionally, we conducted a tree survey and provided management advice at Durdans. We support ongoing tree care at Auriol Orchard and continue our consultation work with Epsom Business Improvement District (BID). We also collaborated with the Ashley Centre management team to enhance the tree pit for the tree outside Metro bank.

The Year in Review



Collaboration with EEBC to Protect Existing Trees

Our collaboration with EEBC helped protect existing street trees, secure Tree Protection Order (TPO) status for a Veteran Oak and safeguard key trees in the borough affected by planning applications. We are also working with EEBC to help protect tree pits in the marketplace from misuse.

Raising Awareness and Engaging Local Communities

We constantly strive to promote tree awareness at community events. This year, the Rosebery Park Tree Trail was updated with new illustrations, and EETAB members gave talks on street tree planting and elm trees. It is vital to continue raising awareness of the significant ongoing need for watering and aftercare to ensure the survival of new trees. We also watered and mulched newly planted trees on Chantilly Way and introduced high visibility gear for volunteer safety.

Tree Nursery Provides Locally Grown Tree Stock

Our tree nursery, located at Councillor McCormick's allotment and worked by EETAB volunteers, continues to thrive, providing tree stock for our initiatives. Over 100 trees including elm trees from Elms over Epsom were donated to local projects such as the new Chamber Mead wetlands, The Old Moat Garden Centre, and Epsom College.

Finances

Over the last year (June 2023/24 EETAB) has raised £600 in donations and spent £1,611.03 – ending the 12 month period with a bank balance of £11,058 (down from £12,043.66 a year ago).

The main areas of expenditure covered the purchase of hi-vis safety/publicity jackets (£522) for volunteers; payments to EEBC associated with the Ford Copse in Alexandra Park (£500); the purchase of trees for planting projects (£288.79); public liability insurance (£157) and the printing of flyers & leaflets (£43.24).

During this period £100 was spent on SCC street tree planting applications – with the bulk of the £725 application fee expenditure on last year's plantings falling in April/May 2023. EETAB member and Surrey Councillor Steven McCormick used part of his Councillor allocation from SCC to sponsor these applications – meaning that, by working in collaboration with SCC's Highways Environmental and Epsom & Ewell residents, EETAB secured the planting of nearly 50 new or replacement street trees in November/December 2023.



Plans for the year ahead

SCC AND EEBC 22/23/24 TREE PLANTING WATERING AND AFTERCARE

Work with SCC, EEBC and residents to water, mulch and provide essential after care for the new trees from the last 2 or 3 years to help ensure their survival and consolidate on the success of getting them planted.

SCC AND EEBC WINTER 24/25 PLANTING SEASON

Work with residents and SCC to find suitable planting sites for new street trees, and with EEBC to find suitable planting sites on EEBC land.

Plans for the year ahead



TREE PLANTING PROJECTS

Long Grove Project

Work with AgeConcern to assist in this project where appropriate, such as helping to plant and care for the planned community beds, and assisting with watering and aftercare.

London Road Project

Work with EEBC where appropriate to help facilitate this potential planting in London Road Recreation ground.

Tree nursery

As the tree nursery is currently at full capacity, we aim to ensure our stock flourishes and to find suitable planting sites for them.

VETERAN TREE MAPPING

Work with EEBC to help map / verify veteran trees in the borough to help protect them from planning applications.

SURREY TREE WARDEN NETWORK (STWN)

Collaborate with STWN under the auspices of The Tree Council to help protect and promote Surrey's trees.

MIKE FORD

On Thursday 27th June 2024 Mike Ford, founder of the Epsom & Ewell Tree Advisory Board and Epsom's truest Tree Champion, sadly passed away following a short illness.

Mike's legacy and dedication to tree husbandry are evident across the borough, reflected through the results of the numerous projects he undertook over the twenty-five years he managed the group.

He will be remembered for this inspiring work, and sorely missed; we all owe him a great deal.



Mike Ford (our first Chair, on the right) with the current and past Chairs, Howard Gregory and Kevin Greening