

# Prospective Candidates Evening

## October 2018





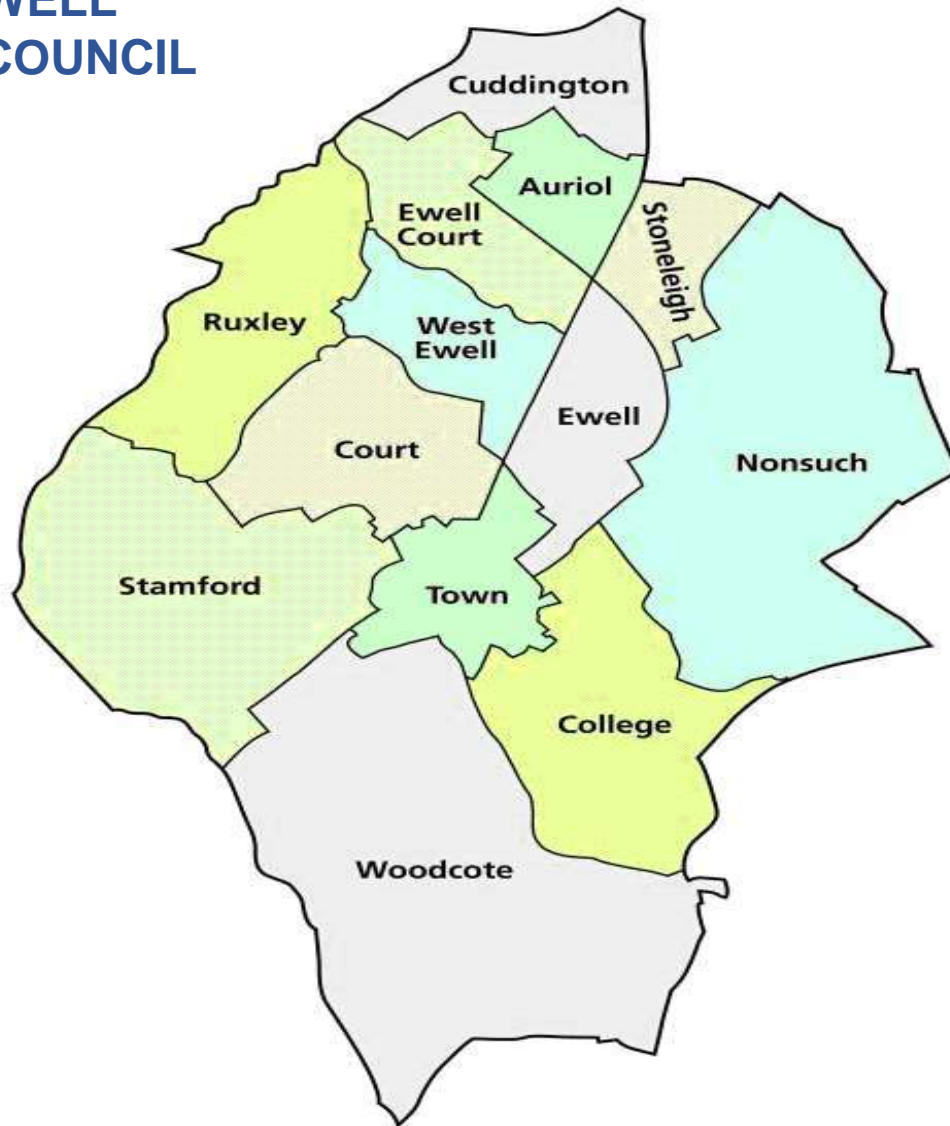
Kathryn Beldon, Chief Executive

Eber Kington, Ward Councillor and Chairman  
of Strategy & Resources Committee

Amardip Healy, Chief Legal Officer



# EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL



# What Does the Borough Council Do?

- Recycling Centres
- Planning Applications
- Elections
- Bin Collection
- Community and Wellbeing Centre
- Allotments
- Children Services
- Homelessness
- Grass Verge Cutting
- Parks & Playgrounds
- Pest Control
- Adult Social Services
- Collect Council Tax
- Cattle Management
- Housing Benefits
- Building Control
- Road Maintenance
- Car Parking
- Licensing
- Schools
- Theatre
- Community Safety
- Stray Dogs
- Street Cleansing
- Food Hygiene
- Countryside Management
- Physical Activity Programmes
- Community Alarm
- Transport from Home
- Handyman Service
- Epsom Market
- Street Naming
- Meals at Home
- Graffiti Removal
- Libraries
- Cemetery

# Key decisions

- Agree long term plans - Vision, Local Plan
- Corporate Plan
- Medium Term Financial Plan

## How decisions are made



# The Role of a Local Councillor

Borough Councillor Eber Kington



- First elected in May 1987
- I represent Ewell Court
- I am a Residents Association Councillor
- Current Role - Chairman of Strategy & Resources

Surrey County Councillor for Ewell Court, Auriol and Cuddington



# The Role of a Local Councillor

## What does a local councillor do?

1. Casework - helping people who want advice about local services, action to deal with nuisances, or information requests
2. Speak for, and campaign on behalf of, your local community
3. Sit on Committees making policy decisions about the services which the Borough Council provides
4. Work with other organisations to improve the lives of local people e.g. police, SCC, voluntary groups
5. Civic & Ceremonial Events
6. Maybe, undertake other voluntary activities

# The Role of a Local Councillor

## What does a local councillor do?

1. Casework - helping people who want advice about local services, action to deal with nuisances, or information requests
  - Parking on a grass verge
  - Anti-social neighbour - Advice on Mid-Surrey Mediation Service
  - Fly-tipping
  - Faulty streetlight on EEBC land
  - Noisy party
  - Request to clear weeds and dog mess from an alleyway
  - Help with housing
  - Suggestion about Borough Council flower beds
  - Street cleaning request
  - Advice on advertising local community events
  - .....and anything else that comes your way

# The Role of a Local Councillor

## Time - Council Meetings (Mainly Evenings)

- Council Meetings - Five
- Strategy & Resources Committee - Five
- Standards Committee - None
- Briefing Meetings - Seven Programmed
- RA Group Meetings - Eleven

28 evening meetings across 365 days

Time - Ward Issues & Casework

Time - Other meetings/activities

# The Role of a Local Councillor

## Engaging with the community

- Email - vast majority - use out-of-office
- Telephone - a separate council telephone line?
- Letters - very few
- iPad - Mod Gov
- Social Media - Twitter, Face Book, Instagram

# The Role of a Local Councillor

Can you make a difference?

- Do you want to?
- But I may be in a minority on the Council.....
- Officers are here to help
- Ask existing councillors
- Share the workload with your ward colleagues

# The Role of a Local Councillor

Any Questions?





# Next steps for standing as a Councillor

# The Election Process

- Get involved as soon as possible
- Check if you are able to stand
- Deadline for Nominations
- Nomination Form and accompanying paperwork
- Election Agent
- Campaign/spending limits
- Verification and Count
- Useful sources of information



# Requirements to stand

Must on the “relevant day”:

- NOT be disqualified, AND
- Have attained the age of 18, AND
- Be a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or a relevant citizen of the EU, and
- Be (and continues to be) a local government elector for the area of the authority, OR
- Has occupied land or other premises in the Borough for the previous 12 months, OR
- Have lived in the Borough for the previous 12 months, OR
- Have his/her principal or only place of work in the Borough

# Disqualified from standing

Cannot stand for election if:

- Holds any paid office or employment with the Council
- Is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
- Has within 5 years before or any time since the election been convicted of an offence and sentenced to 3 months or more in prison
- Has been found guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice in relation to a previous election

# What happens after you are elected?

- Declaration of acceptance of office
- Set up as a Councillor
- Committee meetings are in the evenings and they normally start at 7.30pm
- Induction & training programme
  - You will need to make yourself available to attend mandatory training in May 2019
  - Councillor briefings are in the evenings and start normally at 7.30pm
- Vacation of Office by failure to attend meetings

Questions?

