

## ADVERTISEMENT

Two key NHS reports to be published this summer will determine the future of both Epsom and St Helier hospitals, as well as other hospitals in Surrey and South West London. Fears are growing that the proposals will include the downgrading of Epsom into a community hospital.

It's also reported that St Helier hospital may lose its acute services to St George's in Tooting and that the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford may also be downgraded, with its services switched to St Peter's at Chertsey.

The changes are part of a major NHS restructuring designed to save £120 million from health budgets in Surrey, and to make additional savings in London. The plans will also involve moving some services out of hospitals into the community.

Epsom and Ewell MP Chris Grayling and other Surrey MPs have already met the Surrey Primary Care Trust, which will decide the future of services in the County, to



# Hospital faces crunch report

raise their concerns about the likely impact of the changes on patients in Surrey.

Chris and the cross-community Hospital Campaign Group are to organise a further protest in support of Epsom Hospital on Saturday 5th May. A small group of protestors will be marching from St Helier

to Epsom, leaving at 9.15am with small rallies in Nonsuch Park at 10.45 am, and in Rosebery Park at 12.30. Please come to one of the rallies or watch us along the way.

For further updates, please visit Chris's Hospital Campaign website which can be found at [www.epsomhospital.com](http://www.epsomhospital.com)

FROM THE  
**Clock  
Tower**



APRIL 2007

'From the Clock Tower' is a twice yearly update from your local MP Chris Grayling.

The Epsom and Ewell parliamentary constituency covers the Borough of Epsom and Ewell, Ashted, Nork, Tattenhams and the Preston area of Tadworth.



You can write to

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# The future of Nonsuch Mansion

*Reassurance over future of historic building*

Chris has called on Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, Sutton Council and Surrey County Council to work together to secure the future of Nonsuch Mansion.

The move follows a row between the County Council and the joint Committee which runs the Mansion because of the fact that parts of the building are falling into disrepair.

“Nonsuch Mansion is an extremely important part of our local heritage,” says Chris, “and its future must be protected. I have received an absolute assurance that, despite all the rumours, there is no question of selling it off to developers. I think it’s extremely important that everyone involved sets aside short term disputes, and works together to resolve the problems.”



Chris in Nonsuch Park

## MP to challenge Government over Surrey funding squeeze

Local MP Chris Grayling is challenging Ministers to visit Surrey to see the consequences of funding cuts for the County’s public services. Surrey Police, the NHS and the County Council all face tough decisions about service cuts after another year of tough grant settlements.

*Services all over Surrey are facing cutbacks*

Surrey MPs have been warned by Chief Constable Bob Quick, by County Council bosses and by local NHS chiefs that services are bound to suffer because of the level of grants coming from central Government

to areas in the south east.

“I’m worried that in the end we will be left in a position in Surrey where yet again hard choices have to be made locally between essential services and the Council Tax,” says Chris.

## Development battles

Chris is helping spearhead the fight against a number of controversial local developments. He has thrown his weight behind local protestors complaining about plans for a housing infill scheme at Dame Annis Barn in Epsom and against a planned supermarket development in West Ewell.

"The pressure for development seems relentless," he says. "We have to be constantly vigilant, and work together where new schemes are too big or wrong for an area."

## Declining Durdans

Chris has said that enforcement action should be taken to ensure that the historic Durdans riding stables in Epsom are properly maintained as listed buildings. Local councils have the power to require the owners of listed buildings to keep them in good condition.

"It's absolutely vital, if we are to maintain our local heritage, that local powers are used properly to prevent the deterioration of important buildings like the stables at the Durdans."

# MP in Roads Crisis Meeting



Pothole challenge

*Why aren't our roads being mended?*

Chris Grayling has met local roads contractor Carillion – and told them they have to do better in maintaining roads in the Epsom and Ewell area. He also said that they shouldn't hide behind the severe budget pressures on County Councillors as an excuse for not maintaining the roads properly.

But he's also warned that the budget pressures on Surrey mean that the County will struggle to deal with its roads programme in the coming years.

"Surrey has a huge problem with its roads. In the last few years, the Department for Transport has handed over responsibility for a large number of main roads to local councils, but in doing so, it has

not provided the same level of funding to maintain them as in the past. As a result, it's becoming more and more difficult for local councils to keep up with basic local repairs like pothole filling."

"It's a real problem in Surrey, and we are all concerned at the poor state of repair of many of our roads and pavements."

## Chris warns of overcrowding epidemic on commuter trains

*MP calls for better services on the railways*

Overcrowding on commuter trains into Waterloo and Victoria is set to get much worse in the next few years unless action is taken – says Chris, who apart from his role as constituency MP in Epsom and Ewell is also the Shadow Transport Secretary.

Official figures show a big rise in passenger numbers is expected in the next five years – adding to overcrowding.

Chris has also criticised South West Trains over its recent increases to off-peak fares. "I am worried that the Government and the train companies are using fare increases as a way of dealing with overcrowding – by making it more expensive to travel. How can we possibly persuade people to leave their cars at home if fares keep rising like this?"



# AROUND & ABOUT

Visiting local community,  
voluntary and charitable groups

Chris helps launch the Epsom Citizens Advice Bureau's new website



Keep updated



Chris's website, [www.chrisgrayling.net](http://www.chrisgrayling.net), contains information about the area, local news and details of how to contact him, as well as electronic copies of this newsletter. You can also leave your views on the special bulletin board.



At the Mayor's Civic Reception



Carol singing with the Rotary Club in Epsom town centre

## contact

### A visit from your MP

If you would like Chris to attend an event or to visit your organisation, please contact the constituency office at 212 Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted, KT21 2DB or telephone 01372 271036.

### Visits to the House of Commons

If you are part of a local school or organisation that would like to arrange a tour of the House of Commons, please contact Chris's office at Westminster. You can ring the office on 020 7219 8194 or write to Chris at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

### Surgeries

Chris holds surgeries every fortnight on a Friday afternoon. The venues rotate between the constituency office in Ashted, the Epsom Conservative Club, Stoneleigh Library and Tattenham Corner Library.

For details of the next surgery date and to book an appointment, please ring the constituency office on 01372 271036.

FROM THE  
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