

**SCHOOL SPEECHES:** Six pupils from Carshalton High School for Girls will perform public speeches at regional finals next month. The Year 10 finalists originally took part in a workshop delivered by the Speakers Trust, which aims to build confidence in speaking in public. The children will represent the school at a public speaking regional finals at Stanley Park High School on Tuesday, March 15.

**STAGE STARS:** A Greenshaw High School dance troupe performed at Epsom Playhouse and raised funds for the Children's Trust. Young performers from the school's team took part in a Stars of Tomorrow show where they raised awareness and funds for the trust. Head of Dance Miss Izzard said: "The company performed two dances and represented Greenshaw to a very high standard."

**SINGING STARS:** Nonsuch choristers will join other school-children at a music service next month. The Nonsuch Chamber Choir will perform at the Sutton Music Service where they will perform alongside primary and secondary school children from across the borough. The concert will be held at St Andrew's Church, in Cheam, at 7pm on Tuesday, March 15.

# Incinerator-linked scheme will be scrapped if key developer opts not to sign up

## Council 'forgot' to register energy network for months after launch

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SUTTON Council forgot to register its energy network as a company for months after launching it last year, it has emerged.

Construction of the Sutton decentralised energy network (SDEN), which will use heat from the planned Beddington incinerator to provide low-carbon energy for homes, is set to begin this year.

But the councillor overseeing the scheme was surprised to learn two weeks ago that the SDEN had not yet been officially launched in November.

Councillor Jayne McCoy, chair of the council's housing, economy and business committee, said: "It was thought that someone registered it a long time ago, and it wasn't until a few weeks ago that it was flagged up."

Conservative opposition leader, Tim Crowley, described the revelation as "ludicrous".

He said: "How can they forget to register a company they launched months ago?"

"I don't understand why you would launch a company that doesn't officially exist."

In further embarrassment for the council, Nick Matthey, the Beddington North councillor expelled from the Liberal Democrats party for opposing the incinerator plans, last week bought the domain name for the council's brand and is using it as a forum to oppose the plans.

Anyone logging on to sden.co.uk is now confronted with posts including references to "concerns about competition and fairness surrounding Opportunity Sutton Limited its relationship with Viridor and any potential developers of Felnex".

Cllr Matthey claimed he "didn't buy the domain to spite the council," but added: "The fact they didn't is ridiculous."

Barratt Homes, which plans to build 725 new homes at the Felnex site in Hackbridge and has been identified as the developer key to the success of the SDEN, is yet to sign up to the scheme three months after its launch.

Cllr McCoy admitted the developer was essential to the project



The Sutton decentralised energy network will take heat from the Beddington incinerator

and said the council would not pursue the project – which has been on their agenda since 2013 – if "hard figures" proved it would not break even.

She added: "If Barratt are not willing to deal with us then we'll walk away. They are key because we need them if it is to get off the ground in the next few years."

"If it doesn't go ahead and the project needs another site then another year of negotiations would probably be needed."

But she said she was confident SDEN would turn over £1.54 million in profit in 25 years after the council pumps £3.2 million into it.

Barratt confirmed this week it was still in discussions about signing up.



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## Hospital welcomes year's first triplets

THE first set of triplets born at St Helier Hospital this year are home in full health two weeks after they were born.

Alistair, Frederick and Finlay Campbell were all born within an hour and half, more than two weeks earlier than planned, on Monday 24 January to first-time parents.

The Carshalton couple's "little miracles" are a rarity, as just one set of triplets is born at the hospital within an average year.

The trio's father, Finlay Campbell, 32, said: "The boys are already showing their own

personalities.

"We have to upgrade the house, the car and the buggy, but we are really excited.

"The idea is that all of them wake up in the night at the same time, but that's really not the case. It's been tough in that respect, but it is absolutely amazing."

Mother, Emanuela Campbell, 32, said: "We were quite nervous when told we were expecting triplets, but since then we've spent a lot of time preparing and learning, and we feel like we are as ready as we'll ever be."



Triplets Alistair, Frederick and Finlay Campbell

## Finger-painter puts on show

A WORCESTER Park painter inspired by the beauty of sunsets and the convenience of finger-painting held an exhibition in Ewell.

Nick Benjamin, 45, holds an annual exhibition at Bourne Hall in which he displays his paintings – curving blocks of colour inspired by warm sunsets on the Epsom Downs and of the hills of South Wales

from his youth – and sells one-of-a-kind editions.

This year's exhibition opened on Tuesday, February 23 and ran until Saturday, February 27.

Mr Benjamin, from Avon Close, Worcester Park, has been oil painting for 20 years – with many of these years spent using his fingers. He explained: "It just means I can paint and blend a lot quicker and smoother."



Nick Benjamin's exhibition

### CONTACTS

Calls may be monitored for training purposes

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