



WARD PROFILE

TOWN



Epsom Town Centre

February 2005



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Notes and Definitions

Ward profiles have been compiled using information from the 2001 Census of Population and other sources for example, Local Knowledge website, Housing Needs Survey 2004 and the Crime Audit 2004.

A household comprises one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping – that is, sharing either a living room or a sitting room or at least one meal a day.

All people who were working in the week before the Census or were looking for work and were available to start work within 2 weeks are described as economically active. Full time students who are economically active are included but are identified separately in the classification. The economic activity questions are only asked of people aged 16 to 74. The proportion given is the percentage of the population aged 16-74.

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) provides an indication of socio-economic position based on occupation. It is an Office for National Statistics standard classification. Not classifiable for other reasons includes people who have not been coded and those who cannot be allocated to an NS-SEC category.

A dependent child is a person aged 0 to 15 in a household (whether or not in a family) or aged 16 to 18 in full-time education and living in a family with his or her parent(s).

An overcrowded household has an occupancy rating of -1 or less. The Occupancy rating provides a measure of under occupancy and over crowding. It relates the actual number of rooms to the number of rooms 'required' by the members of the household (based on a relationship between them and their ages). A rating of -1 means that the household has one too few rooms.

Households lacking amenities are those without central heating and/or without sole use of bath/shower and toilet.

The DETR Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 calculates values for the relative level of need, derived from 6 main indices. Higher values indicate greater need. The UK average is 21.67. The 7 domain indices are: income, employment, health deprivation and disability, education skills and training, barriers to housing and services, living environment and crime.

NB. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Where data has not been sourced it is from the 2001 Census. Data not from the Census is sourced separately underneath the corresponding data.

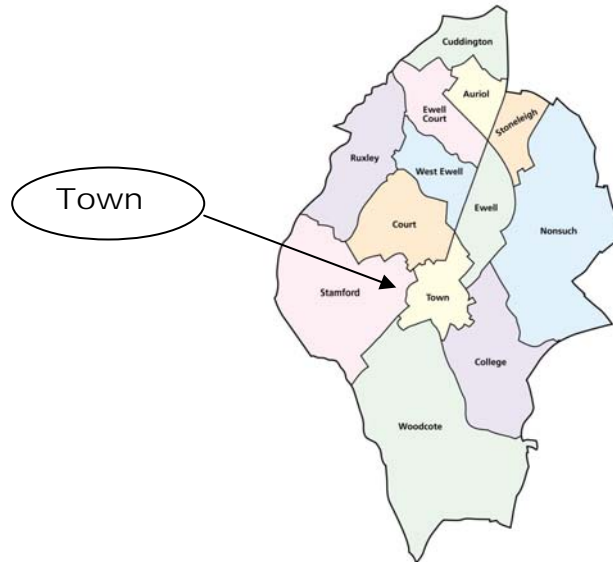
If you have any comments or queries on any aspect of the profile, please contact Sara Childs or Kate Cheminais in the Service Improvement Unit on 01372 732000.

Summary of Town Ward

Location of ward in the Borough	Centre
Population	5347
Population density	39.9 people per hectare
Size of Ward in Hectares	136
Age profile	Greatest age group proportion 30-44 (24.6%)
Ethnicity	10% ethnic minorities
DLA claimants	21.02 people per 16+ population
Long-term Limiting Illness	17.2% of population
No of households	2612
Average number of people per household	2
Tenure	70.6% owner occupier
Accommodation type	37.4% purpose built flats or tenement
Economically active	73.4%
Occupation	19.2% managers and senior officials
Industry	20.2% real estate, renting and defence
Share of district employment	8.28%
Level of degree+ qualification	35.22%
Social deprivation DETR Index	9.52
Car availability	0.97 cars per household
Proportion of 2+ car households	21.02%
Travel to work	41.9% car or van
Proportion of Crime	33% of all crime committed in the Borough

1. Introduction

Town ward is in the centre of the Borough, covering the town centre area of Epsom. It shares borders with Stamford, Woodcote, College and Ewell wards.



The origins of the name 'Epsom' are open to debate, but one popular theory is that it derives from 'Ebbi's ham' (Ebbisham), Ebbi being a Saxon woman about whom little is known and 'ham' meaning village or small town. The Saxon village originated in the late sixth century and it is likely to have been associated with Roman Road Stane Street,

Until 1620, Epsom was a small rural community, much smaller than neighbouring Ewell. However, the discovery in 1618 of Epsom salts on Epsom common led to the rapid expansion of the town as people travelled to take the waters. A second well was discovered nearer the town centre, at South Street, where Symonds Well pub stands today.

The spa brought many notable people to the town. Samuel Pepys recorded visits to the well in 1663 and 1667 and in 1672, King Charles II was entertained by Thomas Shadwell's play 'Epsom Wells', depicting the less salubrious aspects of the spa town. In his book 'Tour through Great Britain' published in 1724, Daniel Defoe describes Epsom as wholly adapted to pleasure, rural and wide open in contrast to the confinement of London.

After many years drawing crowds, the popularity of the spa declined in the mid 18th century. However, the 19th century saw a revival of fortunes for the town, due to the popularity of the Derby and the arrival of the railway in 1847. The town attracted wealthy London merchants who set up home there and commuted daily to the capital. By the beginning of the 20th Century the races, improvements in public health, the railways and the position as a shopping centre for the surrounding areas, brought prosperity for Epsom.

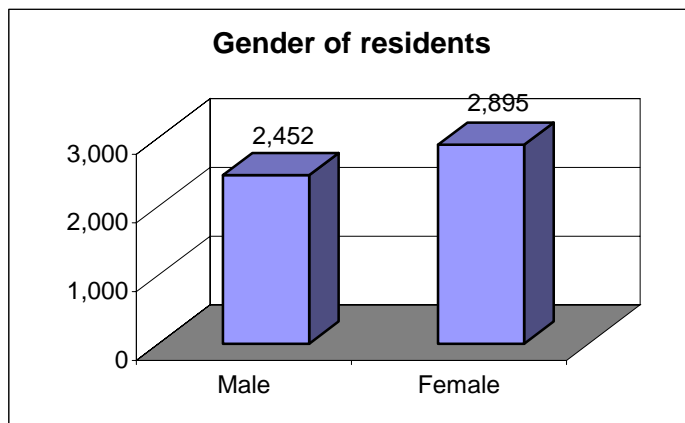
In 1933, the urban district council merged with that of Ewell, and in 1937, the Borough as we know it was granted its charter.

Today, the traditional market culture of the town promotes trade and adds to the atmosphere of an historic town. Epsom's famous clock tower overlooks the bustling square, where regular markets are held on Thursdays and Saturdays. The new Ebbisham centre, which includes a fitness centre and the local library, and the refurbishment of the Rainbow leisure centre in recent years have contributed to the improvement of the town centre area.

Since the 1991 census, Town ward has been affected by boundary changes. A small part has moved into Ewell ward, and small part of Court ward (the part of Hook Lane up to Pound Lane) has moved into Town ward. These changes are taken into account in the profile.

2. Population

Town ward has a population of 5,347 people, an increase of 3.1% from 1991. Females out-number males (a trend seen both Borough and county wide), with 2,805 females compared to 2,452 males. Town has the biggest difference between the sexes in the Borough.

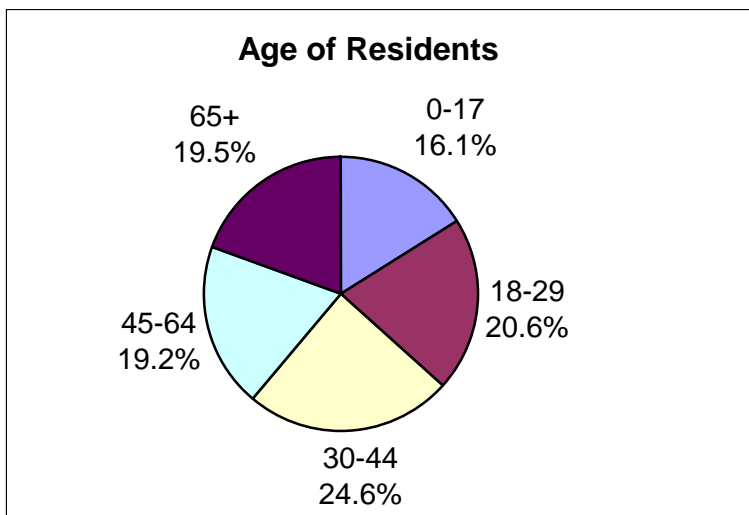


Please note that the 2001 Census data is the most current population data at ward level.

2.1 Population Density

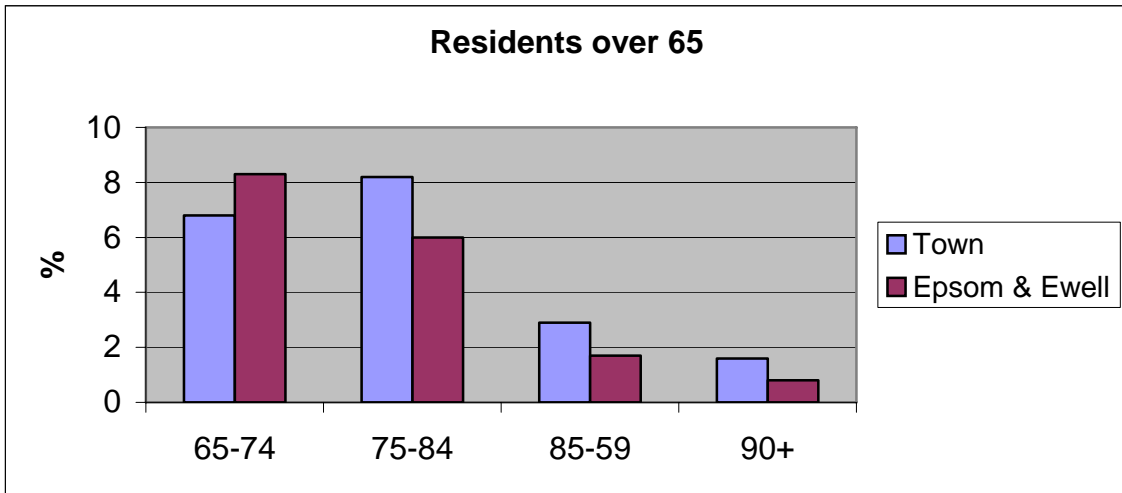
Town ward covers an area of 136 hectares and has a population density of 39.9 people per hectare. This makes it one of the most densely populated wards in the Borough.

2.2 Age Profile

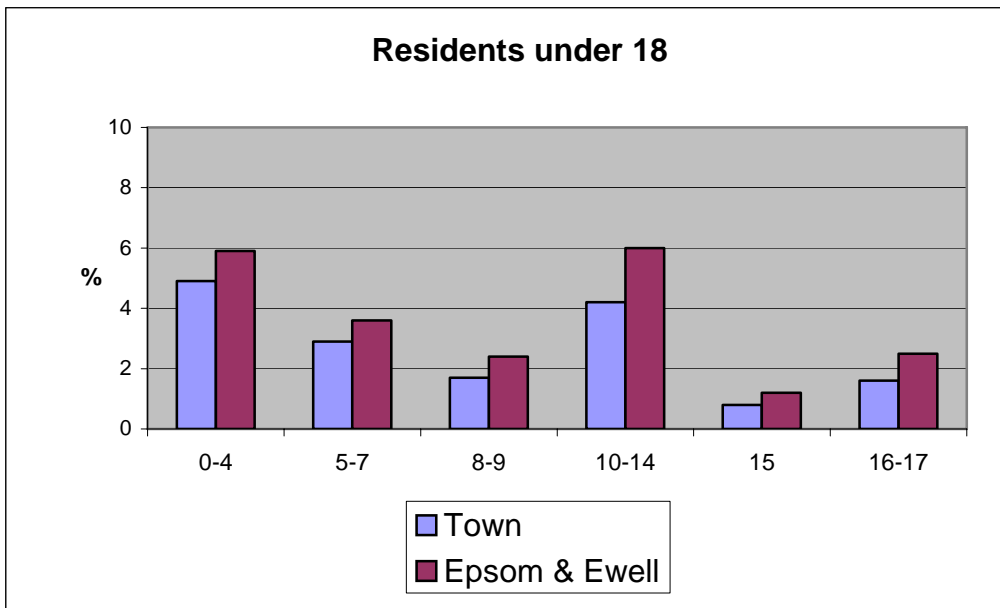


Town ward has the highest proportion of young adults (aged 18-29) in the Borough, significantly higher than the Borough average of 12.8%. Town has the lowest proportion of residents aged between 45-64 in the Borough.

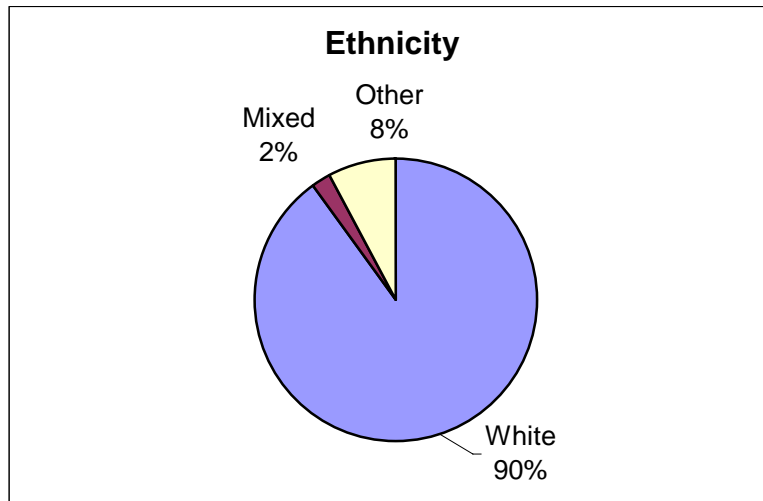
Town ward has more residents aged between 65 and 89 compared to the Borough average. Though there are a low proportion of people aged between 65 and 74, there are the highest number of residents over the age of 74.



Town ward has by far the lowest proportion of residents aged under 18 in the Borough. 4.9% of residents are pre-school age (0-4) and 14.5% of residents are under the age of 16.

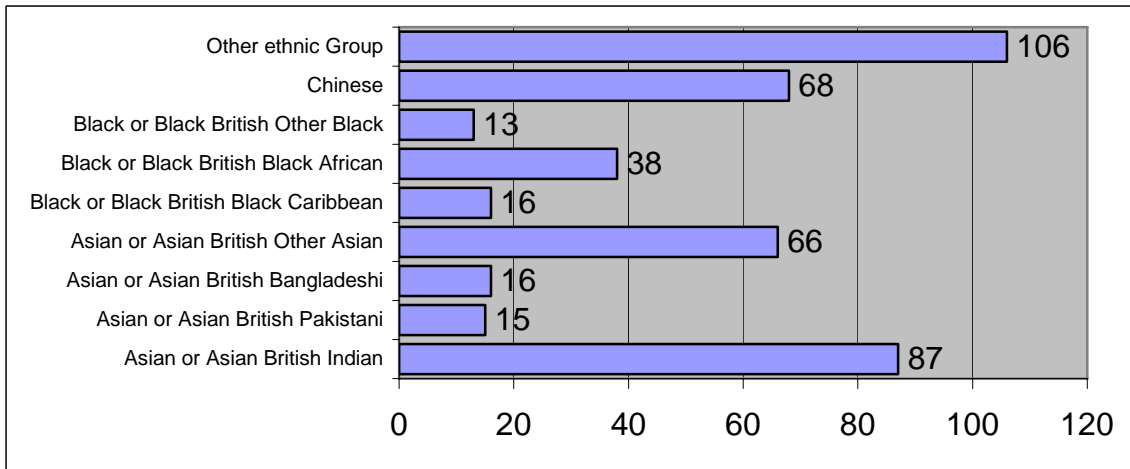


2.3 Ethnicity



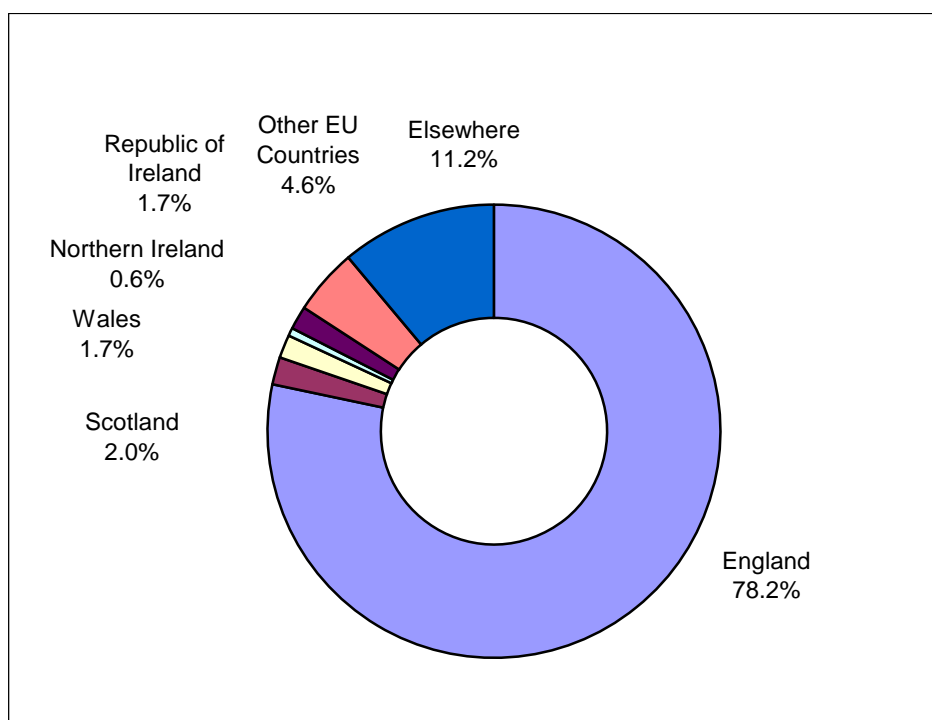
10% of the population of the Borough do not class themselves as white, which includes 2.1% that are of a mixed race background. This compares with 8.7% (including 1.8% mixed race) in the whole Borough.

The table below shows the breakdown of residents by ethnic origin in terms of absolute numbers.



The highest proportion of people belong to an 'other' ethnic group, who make up 2.0% of the total population.

2.4 Country of Origin



The majority of residents in Town ward (78.2%) were born in England, though this is lowest proportion in the Borough. 11.2% were born outside of the European Union. Town has the highest proportion of residents born in other EU countries in Epsom & Ewell (4.6%, the average is 2.3%).

2.5 Religion

Religion	Town	Epsom & Ewell
Christian	69.7%	73%
Buddhist	0.7%	0.5%
Hindu	1.4%	1.8%
Jewish	0.4%	0.4%
Muslim	1.8%	1.9%
Sikh	0.2%	0.1%
Other religions	0.3%	0.3%
No religion	16.7%	14.8%
Religion not stated	8.7%	7.2%

There is a lower percentage of Christians in Town ward than in Epsom & Ewell as a whole, with the ward having the second lowest proportion in the Borough. There is also a high proportion of residents stating they have no religion.

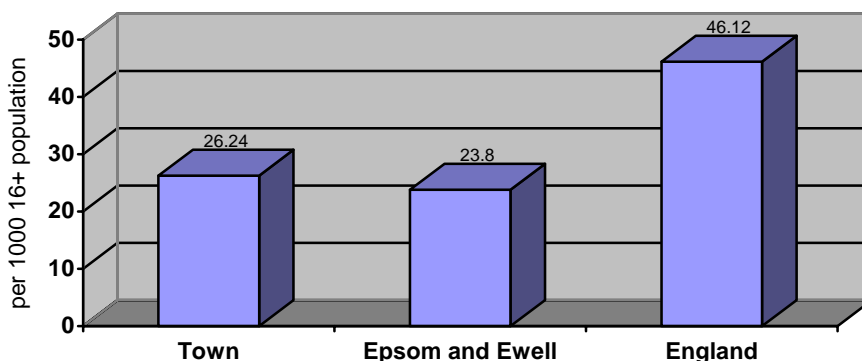
2.6 Health and Provision of Care

17.2% of residents in Town ward have a limiting long-term illness. This compares with 14.3% in the whole Borough. There are fewer people judging their health as good in Town compared to the Borough (70.8% compared to 73.8%), though the proportion in good health here is more than in England as a whole (68.8%).

	Town	Epsom & Ewell
All people who provide unpaid care	8.2%	9.8%
All people who provide unpaid care: 1-19 hours a week	5.8%	7.6%
All people who provide unpaid care: 20-49 hours a week	0.9%	0.9%
All people who provide unpaid care: 50+ hours a week	1.6%	1.4%

8.2% of Town residents (738 individuals) provide unpaid care, with a 86 individuals (1.6%). providing it for over 50 hours a week

2.7 Disability Living Allowance Claimants



Town ward has a higher proportion of Disability Living Allowance Claimants than the Borough average but is significantly lower than the national average.

Source: Local Knowledge Website, December 2004

3. Household Information

3.1 Number of Households

There are 2,612 households in Town ward, with an average of 2 people per household (this is the lowest in the Borough where the average is 2.5).

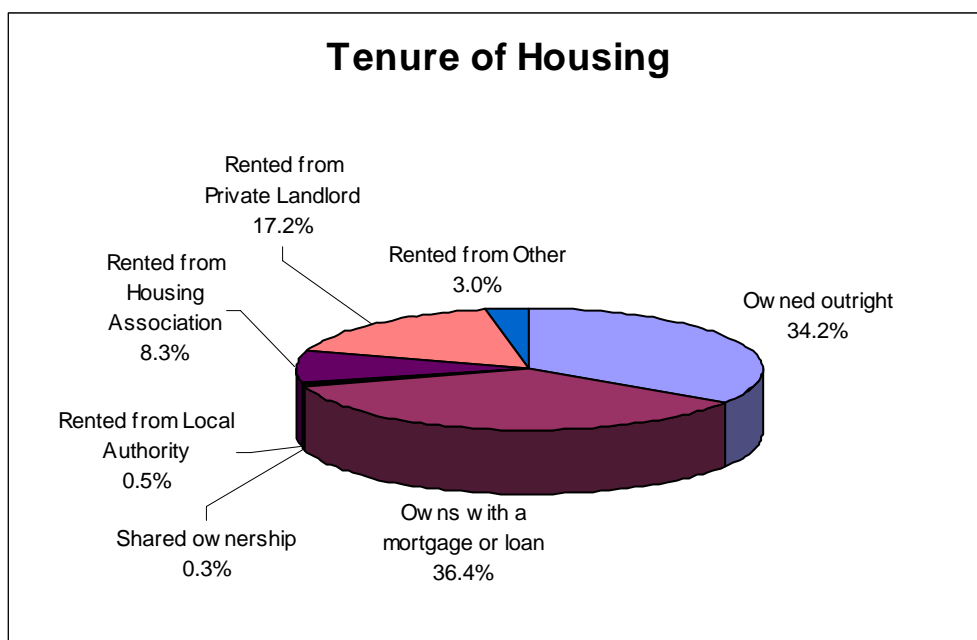
3.2 Household Composition

Households Comprising	Town	Epsom & Ewell
One person: Pensioner	22.2%	14.9%
One person: Other	19.9%	12.0%
Households with pensioners only	29.1%	25.5%
Lone parents with dependent children	4.4%	4.6%
Households with dependent children	19.0%	29.6%

The above table does not add up to 100% as it contains only the information thought to be significant.

Town ward has by far the highest proportion of one-person households in the Borough. Although there are only slightly fewer households comprising of lone parents with dependent children, the proportion of households with dependent children is much lower than all other wards in the Borough.

3.3 Housing Tenure



Town ward has the lowest proportion of households occupied by their owner (70.6%) in the Borough (where the average is 82.3%)

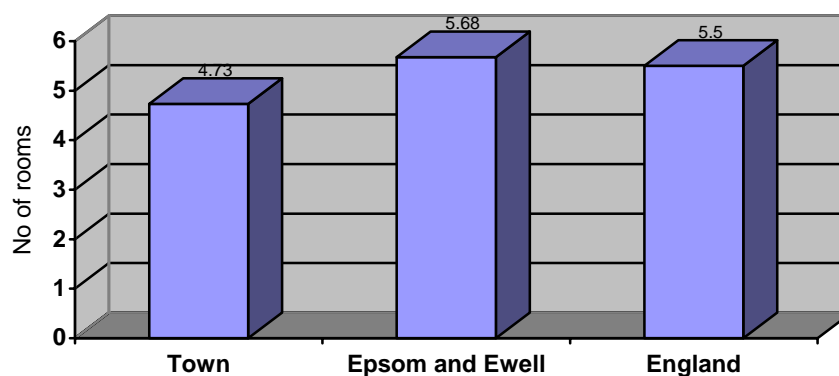
Town has a high proportion of rented properties, with the highest proportion (17.2%) rented from a private landlord or letting agency.

3.4 Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Town
Detached	9.4%
Semi-detached	31.5%
Terraced	17.2%
Purpose built flats or tenement	37.4%
Part of converted house (including bed-sits)	5.8%
In commercial building	2.5%
Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	0.2%

Town ward has a particularly high number of properties that are purpose built blocks of flats or tenements, only Ruxley ward has a higher proportion. Town also has the second highest proportion of flats that are part of a converted or shared house (including bed-sits) in the Borough.

3.5 Average Number of Rooms per Household



Town ward has a lower average number of rooms than the Borough and national averages. It has the lowest number in the Borough.

Source: Housing Needs Survey, 2004

3.6 Communal Establishments

Communal establishments include hospitals, retirement homes, other medical and care establishments (for example nursing homes or hospices), hostels and prisons.

There are six communal establishments in Town ward with 68 residents. Five of these residents are in psychiatric care; the remainder in nursing or residential care homes. 58 residents living in medical and care establishments have a limiting long-term illness.

4. Employment and Socio-Economic Groups

4.1 Economic Activity

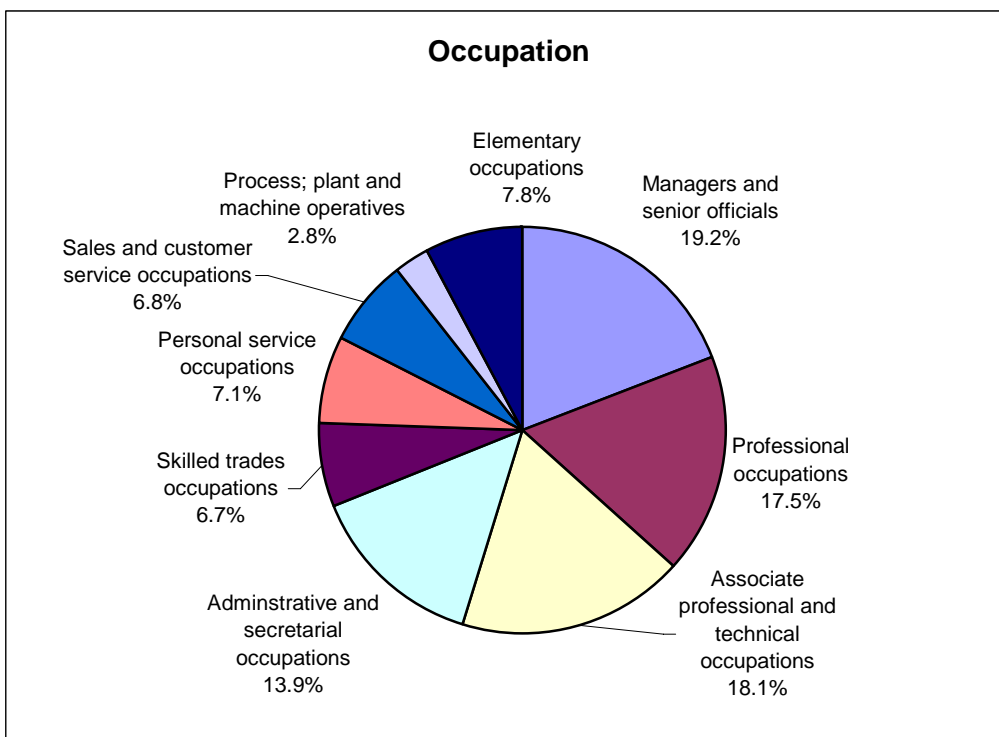
	Town	Epsom & Ewell
Economically active: Part Time	8.3%	11.7%
Economically active: Full time	49.2%	43.9%
Self Employed	8.3%	10.3%
Unemployed	2.3%	1.8%
Retired	11.4%	14.1%

The above table does not add up to 100% as it contains only the information thought to be significant.

73.4% of residents in Town ward are economically active, higher than the Borough average of 70.5%. This, and the relatively low proportion of retired residents reflects the younger age profile of the ward. Unemployment is high compared to the average for Epsom & Ewell.

4.2 Occupation

There are 2,750 people in employment in Town ward. The chart below shows the areas in which they work.



The highest proportion of people living in Town ward work as managers and senior officials (19.2%) and in associate professional and technical occupations (18.1%).

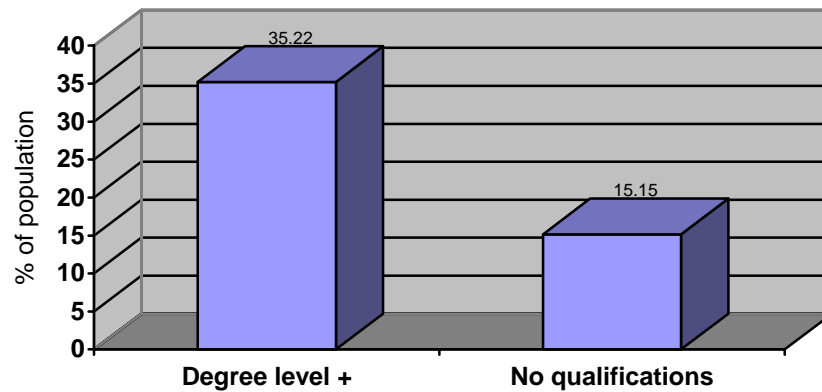
4.3 Industry

	Town	Epsom & Ewell
Agriculture, hunting, forestry	0.5%	0.7%
Mining & Quarrying	0.2%	0.4%
Manufacturing	6.8%	7.2%
Electricity, gas and water supply	0.4%	0.5%
Construction	4.5%	6.6%
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	14.2% (2)	14.9% (2)
Hotels and catering	4.7%	3.4%
Transport, storage and communication	6.9%	7.1%
Financial intermediation	8.8% (4)	8.1% (4)
Real estate; renting and business activities	20.2% (1)	18.9% (1)
Public administration and defence	5.7%	6.7%
Education	7.3% (5)	7.9% (5)
Health and Social Work	13.1% (3)	11.5% (3)
Other	6.7%	6.3%

Numbers in brackets denote top five areas of work

The highest proportion of people living in Town ward work in real estate, renting and business activities. Town has the second lowest proportion of residents working in public administration and defence.

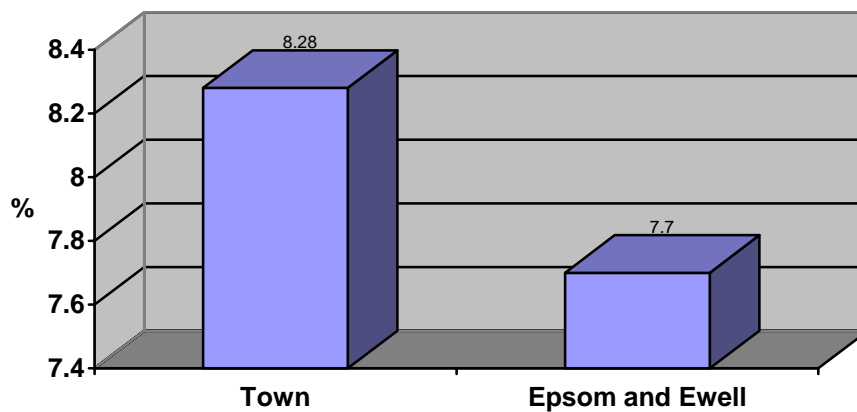
4.4 Level of Qualifications for Working Population



Town ward has a significantly higher proportion of people educated to degree level + than those with no qualifications.

Source: Local Knowledge Website, December 2004

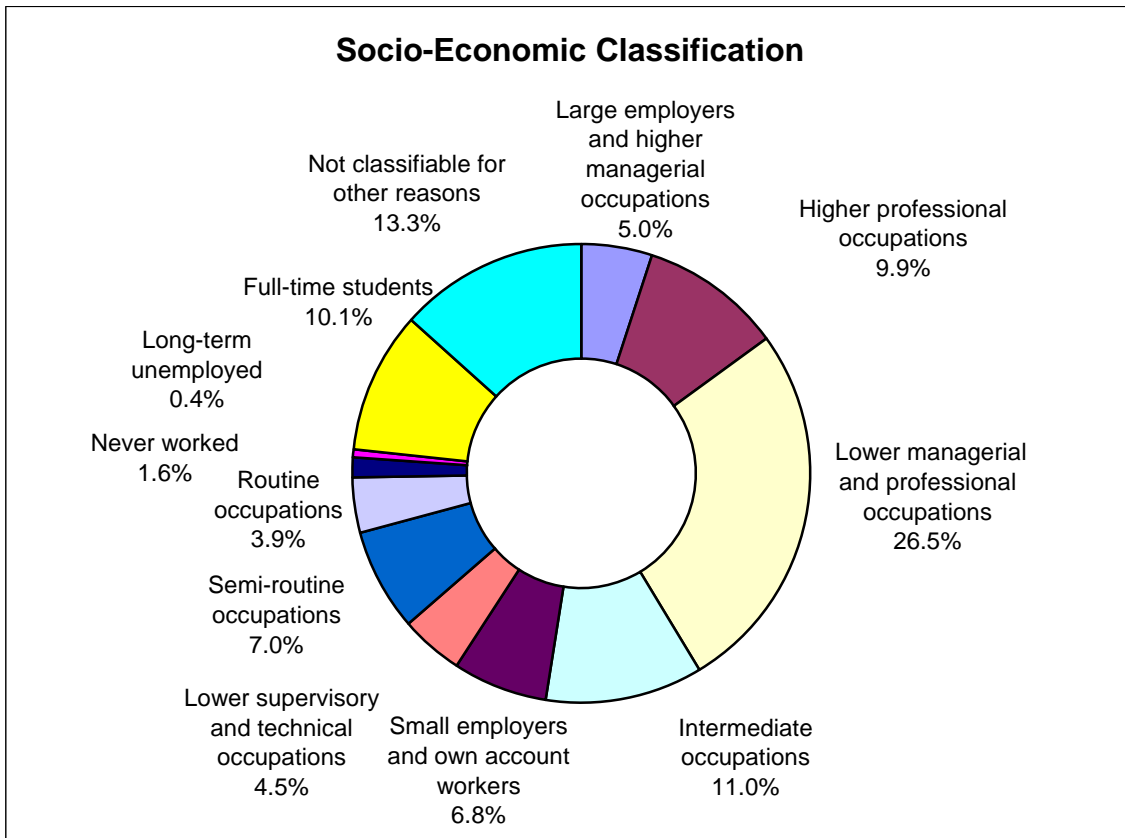
4.5 Share of District Employment



Town ward has a significantly higher share of district employment than the Borough average.

Source: Local Knowledge Website, December 2004

4.6 Socio-Economic Classification



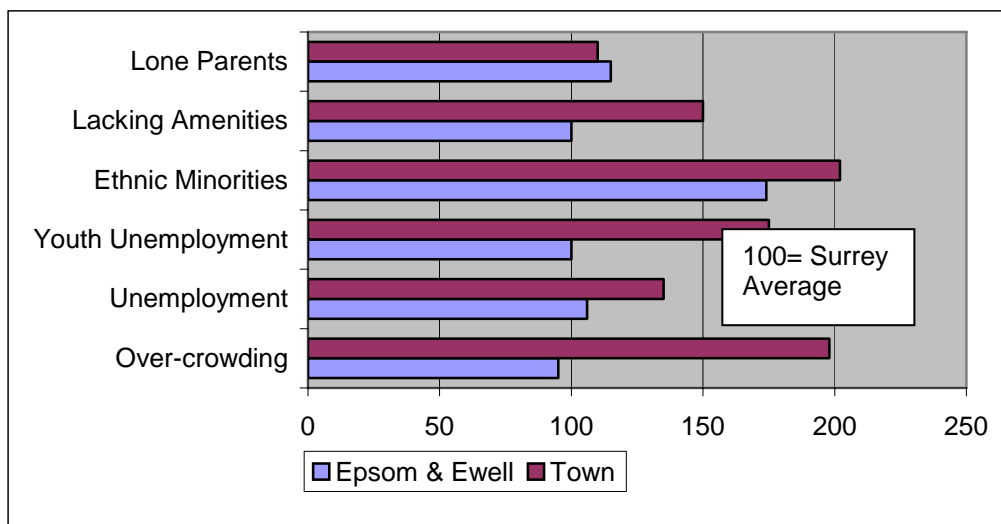
The table above shows the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification for the 3,895 people aged 16-74 living in Town ward.

Town ward has a fairly high proportion of residents working in higher managerial occupations compared to the Borough average (7.9), but low proportion of small employers and account workers (the Borough average is 8.1%)

Town has the second highest proportion of full time students in the Borough.

5. Social Deprivation

The table below shows indicators for social deprivation for both Town ward and in Epsom & Ewell as a whole, as compared to the Surrey average.



Using these indicators, Town ward does have a higher level of deprivation than both Epsom & Ewell and Surrey. There is a particularly high proportion of over-crowding, and youth unemployment is also high.

Town ward's score on the DETR index of deprivation is 9.52 higher than the Borough average (6.83). Using this index, Town is rated as the third most deprived ward in the Borough, and is within the top third of deprived wards in Surrey (67/207) i.e. there are 140 more deprived wards.

Town ward has been split up into four Super Output Areas.

Super Output Area	Rank in Borough (out of 44, 1=most deprived)
Town 1	9
Town 2	14
Town 3	4
Town 4	13

The ranks of Super Output Areas in Town ward do not show a great range, suggesting a relatively high level of deprivation across the whole ward.

Source: ODPM

5.1 Definitions of Super Output Areas by Road

Town 1

Chase End, Chase Road, Gosfield Road, Hazon Way, Hook Road, Horsley Close, Maidenshaw Road, Temple Road, Waterloo Road.

Town 2

Conifer Park, East Street, Farriers Close, Farriers Road, Kiln Lane, Leith Road, Linton's Lane, Middle Close, Middle Lane, Northfields, Portland Place, Stone's Road, Victoria Place, Weston Road.

Town 3

Adelphi Road, Ash Mews, Ashley Avenue, Ashley Court, Ashley Road, Church Street, Downside, East Street, Heathcote Road, Hereford Close, High Street, Hook Road, Laburnum Road, Little Orchards, Manor House Court, Mathias Close, Meadow Court, Rosebank, South Street, St James Close, Station Approach, The Parade, Upper High Street, Waterloo Road, West Street, Worple Road.

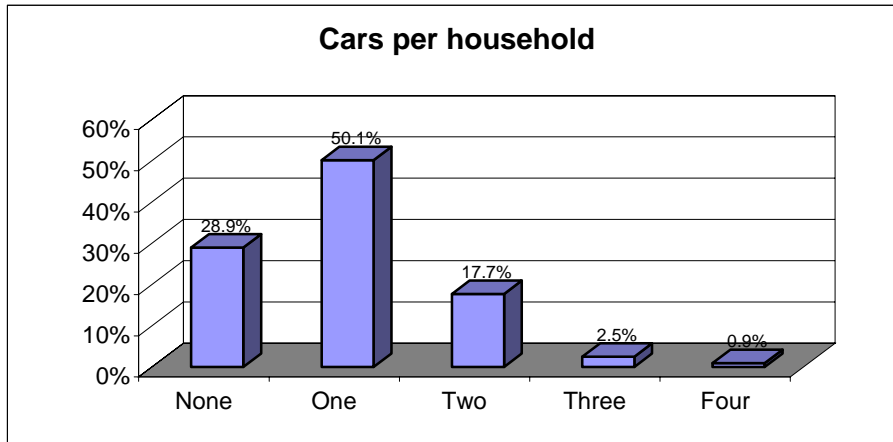
Town 4

Church Road, Church Street, Delaporte Close, Depot Road, Grove Avenue, Grove Road, Hawthorne Place, High Street, Pikes Hill, St Martin's Close, Stevens Close, The Grove, Upper High Street, Wimborne Close, Wyeth's Road.

Source: ODPM

6. Transport

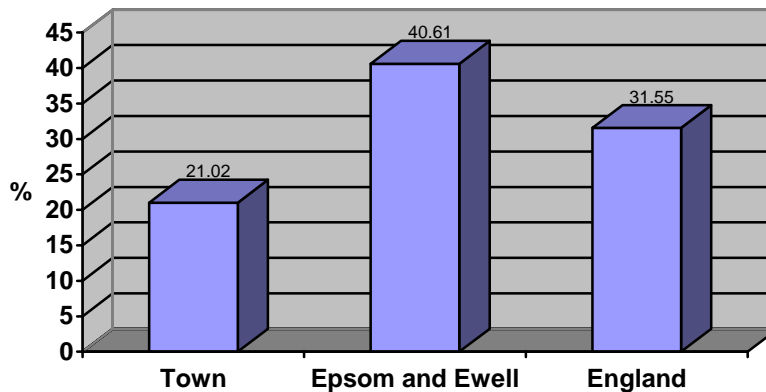
6.1 Car Availability



There is an average of 0.97 cars per household in Town ward, the lowest in the Borough, where the average is 1.37. There is the highest proportion of households with no cars in the Borough (the average is 15.3%).

Source: Local Knowledge Website, December 2004

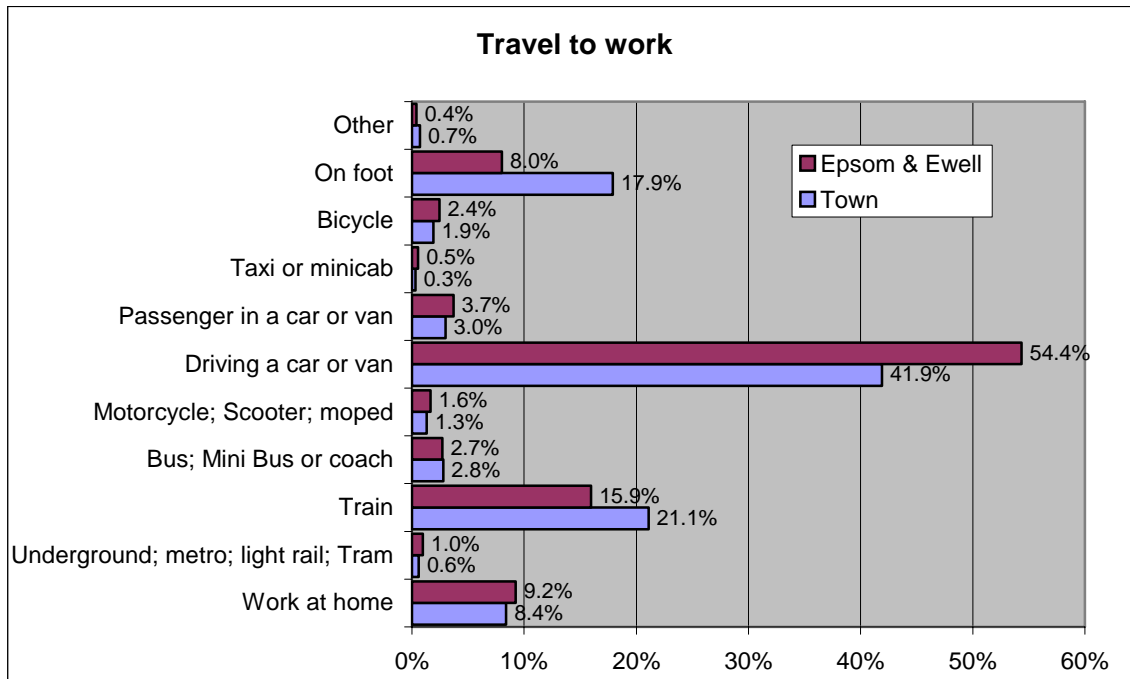
6.2 Proportion of Households with 2+ Cars



Town ward has a lower proportion of households with 2+ cars, than the Borough or national averages. It is the lowest in the Borough.

Source: Local Knowledge Website, December 2004

6.3 Travel to work



Driving to work is the most popular mode of transport to work for residents of Town ward. However, the ward has the lowest proportion of residents using this method in the Borough (which reflects the lower number of cars owned). Town ward has the highest proportion of people travelling to work by train and by walking in the Borough, perhaps due to the proximity of the train station and town centre.

Source: Local Knowledge Website, December 2004

7. Crime

33% of all crime in the Borough occurs in Town ward. It has the highest crime rate in the Borough. Town ward is a hotspot for most crimes in the Borough, which is not surprising in light of the proportion of crime committed in the ward.

Source: Crime Audit, 2004