



## **Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at The Hop House, The George Inn**

**Attendees:** Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Malcolm Leach, Christine Barber, Monaliza Cadwallader, Peter Eaton, Mike Brown, Martin Cabble-Reid, Ann Currie, Katie Leach, Wendy Rowland, John Rowland, Anthony Cove, Roger Marrett, Shahan Ledger, Derek Ledger, Dawn Palmieri, David Palmieri, Katherine Blightman, Mike Blightman, Margaret Hayes-Powell, Rowan Cole, Cllr Samantha Rayner.

**Apologies:** Ian Read, Teresa Read, Shirley Young, Alan Lawrance, Hardeep Virdee, Elizabeth McMahon, Karen Waller, Ben Willcox, Barbara France, Stewart Rogers, Katherine Rogers, Katherine Russell, David Waddleton, Sylvia Ellis, Roger Line.

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

A warm welcome was extended to our newest Eton Town Council member, Rowan Cole who is due to start his tenure on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

### **2. Minutes & Matters Arising**

Minutes are available on [www.etoncommunity.co.uk](http://www.etoncommunity.co.uk).

### **3. Chair's Report**

- I. We were asked to ensure that Eton College carried out their responsibility to keep South Meadow Lane clear of rubbish etc within the hedgerows regularly. As it stands, due to this time of year and nesting season, the hedges will not be cut until such time this passes. There is a particular problem with where cars park and rubbish builds up within those hedgerows, but going forward this will be removed more regularly.
- II. Dog mess issue – it was agreed to contact Marc Anthony who in turn asked us to select a week where they focus on patrolling Eton and attempting to educate and fine those who allow their dogs to foul. Signs have been created and will be put up to remind owners to be responsible and clear up after their dogs. With the recent visit by Margaret Hayes-Powell to the Tinkers Lane CCTV centre, it may be an avenue we can explore with respect to known persistent offenders of dog messing but there may be restrictions on who can see this footage i.e. community wardens. In addition, it was requested of Tinkers Lane to cost up how much it would be to add further cameras in Eton where they are not as yet in place/black spots where crime has taken place.
- III. Street cleaning in readiness for the Coronation started very early on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 6am for some! This included the street cleaning mini lorry with brushes and leaf

- blowers. The bridge was also cleaned but the gum removal process was not included on this occasion. This process will be included in the next intensive clean of the bridge.
- IV. Outside of Beckynton, Eton College, there is a build up of water from recent rains/slow drainage etc. As it stands, RBWM do not see it as an issue however, it has now been dealt with as it was on a 28 day turnaround from it being reported.
  - V. Buddleia is yet again growing from the structure of the bridge and this has the potential to undermine the brickwork/masonry. This issue was forwarded to Councillor Rayner for her to expedite a solution from RBWM. Cllr Rayner
  - VI. The handrails and benches on the bridge are in need of redecoration. Cllr Rayner
  - VII. Flags and bunting are now installed down the High Street and if you see any issues with loose bunting or unstable flags, please report to [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk) There was an incident where a fixing was placed directly into a Listed building, this is not permissible without consent.
  - VIII. The High Street Window Competition is up and running, and Councillor Rayner will be judging the winning entry.
  - IX. The Eton Information Centre had their fundraising ball in March and they raised around £13,000.
  - X. Eton has been subject to a handful of press releases of late, one of which was Retail Week. The article promoted the town, especially during the Coronation and what the town is providing during that time. Additionally, the Chair was interviewed for Berkshire Radio on our plans for the Coronation and street party. Lastly, an Australian TV company are going to use our street party as their anchor for their Breakfast Programme, so watch out for the TV cameras on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - XI. Once every couple of months, in conjunction with RBWM, there is a small/medium business' gathering hosted at various venues across the Borough, by local resident, Martin Cabble-Reid. This gives proprietors the chance to promote their businesses to others and to get their names out there. Proprietors get the chance to stand up and speak for 45 seconds on the concept of their business and then can leave promotional material and network with other businesses in the area. As it stands, not many Eton based businesses are attending so if you own, or know of someone who owns a business locally, please come along and attend. Details can be found on the 'My Royal Borough' website.

**Eton Action List** – Please continue to report anything that you feel is in need of repair i.e. wobbly paving stones, street lighting not working etc – please use [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk) for this purpose and it will be actioned and added to the list. Alternatively, contact Bob Austen at [clerk@etontc.uk](mailto:clerk@etontc.uk)

**High Street shops and plans – those of significant change:**

Recent enhancements include:

- 17 – former Jack Wills – now open as an independent kitchen design and sales outlet.
- 80 – former Lily Chic – owner to open as a financial services premise. Two foot's worth of space at the front of the building is being prepared to be used as a display for another business in the High Street.
- 88 – book shop which is currently for sale but owners still carrying on the selling books.

- 89/90 – works have now begun as the legal situation prior has been resolved. This will open as the Box Sash Window Company.
- 109 - Former Venture site – the appeal to extend the residential part of this property and decrease the commercial side has been won by the owners. This is a major concern as it could set a precedence for others to follow suit and reduce our commercial footprints down the High Street.
- Eaten Café – current owners have handed over daily running to a local family who have worked for many years with them on other ventures.
- The Cockpit – **Update supplied by Ben Willcox via email** - RBWM forced work to stop 3 weeks ago. Following a mediation, it was agreed that no further works will be undertaken until the council have decided the planning application – this is being submitted this week and once we have a reference number we will circulate and I urge all to write in and support the application. The council have committed, via a court order, to deal with the application within 8 weeks. It remains a very difficult situation but hopefully we have a court ordered timescale now which the planners have to stick to. I repeat, as a community we need to offer as much support as possible to generate a tidal wave of public support.
- 53 – **Update supplied by Ben Willcox via email** - they are continuing to progress with the top floor windows installed and the bronze cladding imminent, they are installing a new scaffold in the near future to allow for the necessary repair to the brickwork damaged by the delay of the works. I think we have 2-3 months of work still ahead us on this one.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Our end of year was on 28<sup>th</sup> February and a copy of the final report was circulated to the Chair and Secretary. Our accountant/auditor will be signing off our Accounts at the end of May. In 2022; £20,287.22 in and £25,004 out – this was due to ringfenced monies being released. This was in relation to the Barnes Pool project. Nearly £10,000 was for the Coronation Street Party which came to us in 2022, but was paid out in 2023. The total amount in our current bank account is £25,840 and £4,659 in our reserve account, making a total of around £30,500.

For 2023, we have had £9,500 in and £10,400 out, again related to the Barnes Pool project. Any surplus was agreed to be transferred over to the Eton Information Centre for their daily running costs. In addition, we have received a sizeable sum related to the Irish Race Night at Windsor Racecourse. Lastly, monies came in/out with respect to the flags.

#### **5. TVP Update**

Unfortunately, no representative from TVP was available for the meeting, therefore there is no update to report.

However, we are able to report that there was evidence of someone sleeping rough under/near the entrance to Windsor Bridge Court. This had been phoned in several times to the relevant authorities but information has come forward to confirm that this person had enlisted the help of a photographer/cameraman and had himself recorded setting up his makeshift bed, staying for approximately 20 minutes, then packed up and headed over the

bridge into Windsor. This man was paid to do this! He has been identified and is being dealt with however, misleading footage is now circulating which could do harm.

Cycling down the wrong way in the High Street is escalating to an unacceptable level and apart from the general public partaking in this, many food delivery cyclists are coming down the street at speed. It was suggested that the local eateries are asked to inform their delivery persons to adhere to the traffic flow and not go down the street the wrong way. This may help alleviate the issue although this won't help with delivery cyclists using the street to get to food outlets in Slough.

Any issues that you would like to convey to our police representatives, please contact [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk) Additionally, please continue to report to 101 via the website or telephone if you witness anything in progress you deem to be suspicious. We need to keep TVP attuned to the problems we experience and without the reports, they will be under the false impression that we don't have any ongoing concerns.

## 6. RBWM Councillor Matters

Cllr Rayner kindly joined us and gave us her report, and is as follows:

- I. Tivoli issues – still being investigated where works have been insufficient, not done or of bad quality. This is an ongoing concern.
- II. Fibreoptic broadband delay – Councillor Rayner spoke with the company who are in charge of the installation and they confirmed that additional fibreoptic services will be in place by the end of 2023. However, a local resident was informed by way of a letter drop that this wasn't the case and it would be 2027. To be investigated further on the exact date. Cllr Rayner
- III. Electric car parking charge points – no further on from before, still being investigated.
- IV. As Councillor Rayner is bound by the upcoming local election regulations, she was unable to comment further on the local issues at hand, however she reminded us to make sure we brought photo ID along when voting at the local polling station in Eton otherwise you wouldn't be able to vote. Postal votes were coming in at a good rate too.
- V. All events taking place over the Coronation weekend are now fully in place across the Borough, including out street party in Eton due to take place on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May.
- VI. On the Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May, there is the Big Help Out with many events taking place across the area.
- VII. New Chief Executive of RBWM, Steve Evans, started his tenure last week.
- VIII. Four new police officers have started their role in conjunction with TVP focusing on working within the community and the issues we face currently i.e. ASB, begging, cyclists going down the street the wrong way, drug issues etc. As a community, we will get a say on how these officers are deployed and on what issues that are pressing at the time.
- IX. Across the Borough, they are implementing more air quality measures in order to clean up our air.
- X. Peter Eaton asked for clarification on the bin collections on the Brocas for the coming months as he has been unable to obtain the correct information. Cllr Rayner
- XI. Anthony Cove asked for a better way of combining rubbish bins for areas of multiple occupation i.e. Turks Head Court, Windsor Bridge Court etc. Larger bins for all

residents makes more sense than several individual bins where space for storage/putting them out on collection day is limited. This works very well in Windsor Bridge Court and should be considered for other residences in Eton. **Cllr Rayner**

## **7. Coronation Street Party**

All preparatory work is now done and processes are in place i.e. road closures, entertainers, the tables, chairs, awnings etc along with the risk assessments and emergency plans which are now signed off. Additionally, we will be organising a 'best dressed table' competition too.

## **8. Events**

**Next litter pick** – date confirmed as **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.30pm**; this will be in collaboration with Eton College who are conducting their own litter pick on this day too. Usual meeting place of the Council offices in Eton. South Meadow Lane will be a particular hotspot to tackle as previously reported in Section 3.I.

**Pub quiz/pub walk** – date to be confirmed in July/September.

**Windsor Races evening (Irish Night)** – to be held on **Monday, 12th June**. Cost is £40 a ticket which includes entrance to the racecourse, return boat ticket, fish & chip meal, a race card and a drink at the bar. If you are interested, please contact [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk)

**AGM** – confirmed as **Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June**, followed by the usual community meeting, where canapes and drinks will be provided.

**Coronation Street Party - Sunday 7th May** is being organised for the Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III. See Section 7.

## **9. AOB**

The next ETC meeting has been delayed by a week due to the local elections; the Polling Station is the Council offices. The next meeting will be Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Mike Blightman is leaving the Eton Town Council, along with Malcolm Alexander and Angus McIver but is being replaced by Rowan Cole, Dawn Lee and Lars Swann (Chairman of the Windsor Conservative Party).

## **10. Next Meeting Date & AGM**

Date confirmed as Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm. Please e-mail AOB to [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk) prior to the next meeting.