



## **ETON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 3rd December 2025 at The Hop House, The George Inn, Eton

### **Attendees:**

Ros Rivaz (Chair), Leonie Bryant, Cllr Mark Wilson, Cllr Margaret Hayes-Powell, Adrian Greensmith, James Beaumont, PCSO Liz Davidson, Kim Carpenter, Simon Carpenter, Darren Hayes-Powell, Dawn Palmieri, David Palmieri, Elizabeth McMahon, Hardip Virdee, Tex Warren, Katherine Blightman, Michael Blightman, Anthony Cove, Barbara France, Hennie van Jaarsveld, Peter Eaton, Amanda Snell, Hugo Snell, Linda Tarbox, Celia Harvey, Malcolm Leach, Dawn Lee, Bridget Bartlett, Bryn Lee, David Hicks, Clare Redrup (Thames Valley Hospice), Sylvia Ellis.

### **Apologies:**

Stewart Rogers, Katherine Rogers, Julia Gosnell, Stephen Gosnell, Ian Read, Teresa Read, Maggie Waller, John Harvey, Katie Leach.

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

- I. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- II. Apologies were received as listed above.
- III. New attendees were welcomed, including Tex from Eton College and James, the new owner of Tinytowne.

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

### **1. Catapults and wildlife harm**

- I. The Chair reported that the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation regarding catapults, slingshots and similar weapons has now been launched by RBWM. Residents were encouraged to complete the online consultation and share the link with friends and neighbours.
- II. The link is below and will be circulated via usual channels.
- III. <https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/public-space-protection-order-catapults/surveys/consultation-for-catapults-pspo>

**Action:** RR – Attach the PSPO consultation link to the minutes and circulate via Shout

Out/email.

## **2. Reporting anti-social behaviour (ASB) and wildlife harm**

- I. Residents were reminded to report any evidence of people using catapults or shooting wildlife in inappropriate locations, via official reporting channels.
- II. The importance of building an evidence base for enforcement was emphasised.

## **3. Litter bins**

Requests for larger litter bins remain under review by the Borough. Eton Town Council representatives confirmed they continue to chase this, but no firm progress has been made.

**Action:** ETC – Continue to follow up with RBWM on bin capacity and placement.

## **4. Parking discount – formal thanks**

A formal letter/message of thanks regarding the parking discount trial had been passed on to Cllr Mark Wilson, who appreciated the acknowledgement.

## **5. Metal detecting and divots on the Brocas / South Meadow**

Cllr Wilson has raised concerns with Eton College about metal detectorists digging holes on the Brocas and South Meadow then failing to refill them, creating tripping hazards for walkers and dogs. College is aware of the issue but is limited in what it can do unless offenders are seen in the act.

**Action:** RR – Maintain dialogue with Eton College regarding metal detecting and ground damage on the Brocas and South Meadow.

## **6. Christmas lights and donations**

- I. Residents had been invited to contribute towards Christmas lights and mini Christmas trees. The Chair reported strong support, with donations ranging from approximately £20 to £300.
- II. Any surplus from this year's event is intended to support Eton Town Council's longer-term programme to replace ageing Christmas lights, not just this year's installation and removal costs.

**Action:** RR/ETC – Agree how any surplus Christmas donations are transferred to support longer-term light replacement.

## **7. Crown Farm – tyres, burning and environmental concerns**

- I. Eton Town Council has been closely monitoring activity at Crown Farm, including tyre storage, tyre burning and associated car storage. Burning tyres and vehicle fluids were highlighted as a significant environmental and health concern, with residents in neighbouring properties potentially exposed to toxic fumes.
- II. Residents were asked to log any incidents of smoke, smells or health impacts to contribute to an evidence base.

**Action:** ETC / Cllr MHP – Continue to work with RBWM, TVP, Environment Agency and other bodies to address Crown Farm activities.

### **3. TVP Update – Liz Davidson PCSO**

#### **1. Overview**

TVP provided an update on recent crime and anti-social behaviour in Eton, Eton Wick and surrounding areas, noting that overall figures for the period were not particularly high but several serious incidents had occurred.

#### **2. Crown Farm**

TVP attended incidents at Crown Farm related to tree works, where a tree covered by a preservation order had been cut. Following resident reports, enforcement officers intervened and the work was halted. Ongoing discussions involve local councillors and inspectors to ensure progress on compliance.

#### **3. Vehicle crime and theft**

- I. A vehicle at Cranbourne had been broken into, with car parts stolen; the investigation is ongoing.
- II. At Atherton Court, a car's rear window was smashed and a laptop stolen; coordinated work with neighbouring areas led to an arrest as part of wider vehicle crime.

#### **4. Anti-social behaviour and damage**

- I. Incidents of anti-social behaviour included damage to trees (including yews) around the fireworks period in Eton Wick.
- II. Another incident involved criminal damage to a car in Eton Wick where the paintwork or glass was scratched; there was no useful CCTV available.

#### **5. Distraction theft and assault in Eton High Street**

A distraction theft occurred at a local flower shop where the shopkeeper was pushed and items were stolen from the window. Prompt reporting with good descriptions enabled TVP to coordinate CCTV coverage from across Windsor and Eton, trace the suspected vehicle and link the offenders to earlier thefts from Tesco and other businesses. The case is under active investigation.

#### **6. Harassment case**

- I. TVP reported on a man who had been harassing female shop workers in Eton. Most incidents occurred between 17–20 October. The man was arrested and bailed with conditions, including not to enter Eton. When he re-appeared in Eton the day after his bail conditions expired, he was arrested again within a short time.
- II. TVP emphasised their commitment to protecting local shop staff and praised residents and traders for providing detailed descriptions.

#### **7. Burglary and shed/garden security**

A question was raised about a theft from a garden/shed where items were stolen. TVP stressed the importance of locking sheds, keeping valuables secured and making use of doorbell and other CCTV where possible.

## **8. Reporting, feedback and scope of TVP summaries**

- I. A resident asked how incidents such as exposure on the bridge and vagrancy are handled and whether they are routinely reported back to this group. TVP explained that all crimes have an Officer in Charge (OIC) and victims should be given a crime number and can request updates.
- II. TVP's monthly summaries to ECA usually cover criminal damage, ASB and cycle thefts rather than all categories of crime.

## **9. Traffic and speed limits – 20mph signage**

A resident raised ongoing concerns about lack of clear 20mph signage when turning right at the traffic lights from Windsor into Eton High Street, leading to tailgating and pressure from faster drivers. TVP noted that enforcement relies on the signage in place; RBWM is responsible for signage and any 20mph road markings.

**Action:** Cllr MW – Re-raise the 20mph signage concern with RBWM highways, including the possibility of additional signage or road roundels.

## **10. General advice**

Residents were urged to report suspicious individuals acting inappropriately, as in the harassment and theft cases, and to continue using official channels (online forms, 101, 999 in emergencies).

The Chair thanked Liz for her continued support in Eton just months before her planned retirement.

# **4. Trunks Across the Thames/Thames Hospice**

## **1. Introduction to Thames Hospice**

Claire explained that Thames Hospice provides specialist palliative and end-of-life care, with in-patient beds and community services. Operating costs are now around £20.1m per year, with less than one-third provided by the NHS; the fundraising team therefore needs to raise around £38,000 per day.

## **2. Trunks Across the Thames art trail (summer 2026)**

"Trunks Across the Thames" is a public art trail planned for summer 2026 across Windsor, Eton and Slough. It will feature around 30 large elephant sculptures (around 5ft high) and a large number of smaller elephant sculptures designed and painted by artists and schools.

## **3. Business and school sponsorship**

Large elephants are sponsored by businesses, trusts or individuals, covering the costs of creation, installation and trail delivery. Smaller elephants are linked to schools and youth groups and will return to their schools after the trail as a permanent legacy.

## **4. Local funding commitments**

Eton Poor's Estate trustees have pledged £5,600 towards an elephant, which has been match-funded by Eton College, providing funding for two large elephants.

An application has been submitted to Baldwin's Bridge Trust for an additional £5,000. If successful, this would provide approximately £16,200 in total, enough for two large elephants plus a small surplus.

#### **5. School elephants – Eton and Eton Wick**

Small elephants for schools cost approximately £1,300 each. Eton Porny and Eton Wick primary schools are keen to participate but are unlikely to raise the full cost unaided.

LT, ML and RR have therefore committed to help close the funding gap so both schools can access the full educational benefit, including lesson plans and resources on life, death and bereavement.

#### **6. Walking route and inclusion of Eton Wick**

The art trail walking route is being designed to include both Eton and Eton Wick, following determined lobbying by local representatives. SC has already walked and mapped a possible route, demonstrating local involvement.

#### **7. Fundraising mechanisms and community involvement**

Business sponsorship, individual donations, and a final auction of large elephants will all raise funds for Thames Hospice. Some elephants may have "buy it now" options; small elephants will normally return to schools, but a limited number of smaller pieces may be included in auctions. Residents suggested that individual donations of around £100 each could make a significant contribution to securing school elephants.

#### **8. Practical arrangements for donations**

Details will be provided in the minutes and on relevant websites so that people can donate once they have reflected on the project. Sort code 20-97-09 account 83492729 ref "Elephants"

**Action:** ETC/RR/LT – Confirm bank details and reference wording for donations and publish them in the minutes and online.

#### **9. Promotion at upcoming events**

The elephant sculpture present at the meeting may also appear at the ECA Christmas soirée as a focal point for discussion and fundraising.

Claire thanked the community for their enthusiasm and willingness to support the project.

**Action:** RR/LB – Include Trunks Across the Thames information at the Christmas soirée and via ECA communications.

## **5. Business Update**

### **1. Great Park Health Care**

Adrian Greensmith from Great Park Health Care reported that the business has now been operating for ten years and has been based in Eton for just over a year, having been warmly welcomed by the community. Their service focuses on enabling people to live independently in their own homes with flexible, non-contractual support ranging from occasional transport for appointments and shopping to daily assistance with getting up and going to bed.

Adrian highlighted that many households use key safes but rarely change the combination; he encouraged everyone to change their key safe codes regularly, particularly around Christmas.

## **2. Tiny Towne**

James Beaumont introduced himself as the new owner of Tiny Towne. Tiny Towne was acquired, refurbished and relaunched around October half term, following a three-week programme of redecorating, replacing toys, repainting the venue and redesigning the menu and branding. The venue is positioned as a modern, interactive play café and coffee shop, with different zones including:

- A safe area for younger children.
- Toy areas with cars, trains and planes.
- A reading corner.
- A back room with dress-up, arts and crafts, a small “theatre” and a projector for films or music videos, also used for themed parties.

Much of the business operates on pre-booked sessions through the website, focusing on professionalism and safe, structured play for children. Tiny Towne also hires the space out for private parties, providing the venue and core set-up while families bring decorations and refreshments; initial feedback from party hosts has been very positive. The main challenges are ensuring smooth day-to-day operations and building awareness both among local families (regular repeat visitors) and the wider tourist market.

The Chair and members recognise that experience-based venues often have better longevity than traditional retail and agreed that helping Tiny Towne succeed is important for the High Street.

## **6. RBWM Councillor Matters – Cllr Mark Wilson (RBWM)**

### **1. Crown Farm – enforcement and environmental issues**

Cllr Wilson reported that he had called in enforcement when tree cutting under a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) was observed at Crown Farm; work was halted. He is working more closely with relevant officers to coordinate enforcement. He has also written to the Secretary of State (Emma Reynolds) about the Environment Agency’s limited capacity to tackle tyre burning and waste crimes. The response was non-committal but referenced an increase in the national waste crime enforcement budget from £10m to £15m, still modest for a national agency.

### **2. Tyre store and hard-standing applications**

Cllr Wilson has submitted strong objections to planning proposals relating to tyre storage and hard standing at Crown Farm. While not pre-empting the decision, he remains confident that concerns are being taken seriously and that a robust position will be adopted.

**Action:** Cllr MW – Continue to track planning applications and enforcement relating to Crown Farm and update ECA.

### **3. Catapult PSPO consultation**

The Borough-wide PSPO on catapults and similar weapons is now out for consultation on the RBWM Together website. The order would allow police to require such items to be handed over and to confiscate them where necessary. Residents were urged to complete the consultation, which should take less than a minute unless submitting detailed comments.

**Action:** ALL – Respond to the catapult PSPO consultation and encourage others to do the same.

### **4. Signage and wayfinding**

- I. The burnt and illegible sign near Eton Cuts continues to be chased; a replacement has reportedly been ordered but repeatedly delayed.
- II. The long-standing issue of the invisible directional sign “to Eton” at the exit of Keates Lane/Burning Bush area was noted; repeated attempts to secure a replacement have been cancelled before installation.

**Action:** Cllr MW – Persist with signage replacement at Eton Cuts, Keates Lane and related approaches to Eton.

### **5. 20mph limits and road markings**

Officers previously confirmed that 20mph signage on key routes met required intervals, but residents remain unconvinced that signage is sufficiently clear. Cllr Wilson has previously discussed the possibility of 20mph road roundels being painted and will revisit this option with highways officers.

### **6. Car park pricing and discount trial**

A 25% parking discount for stays of 2–5 hours in selected Eton car parks (including South Meadow) is being trialled during October–November and January–March, traditionally quieter trading months. Early October data suggests a reduction in 1–2 hour stays and an increase in longer stays, indicating that pricing can be used to influence behaviour and encourage visitors to stay longer.

**Action:** Cllr MW – Feed trial findings into the wider RBWM parking strategy and advocate for measures that support Eton businesses.

### **7. Car park shelters and railings**

- II. Residents raised concerns about rusted bus-style shelters and car park railings, some of which will now require full replacement rather than simple repainting. Cllr Wilson confirmed that additional budget for car park improvements is being sought and he will submit relevant requisitions. Next Year.
- III. KB is concerned about cars parking on pavements in Common Lane. RBWM can act on yellow lines parking but pavement parking is a matter for the police.

**Action:** Cllr MW – Submit and pursue requisitions for shelter and railing repairs in Eton car parks, and to paint 20 MPH on the High Street.

**8. Living Advent Calendar** is this year a condensed version.

## **7. Chair's Report – RR**

### **1. Christmas lights event and organisation**

- I. The Chair thanked all involved in the Eton Christmas lights event, singling out Stephen Gosnell and Town Manager Paul Roach for their exceptional efforts.
- II. There had been a less-than-smooth handover within RBWM's events team, with some responsibilities almost being passed to volunteers at short notice. Following escalation to senior management, support was restored and the event proceeded successfully.

**Action:** RR/Cllr MW – Continue dialogue with RBWM to ensure better planning and handover for future events.

### **2. Christmas window competition**

The Christmas window competition will be judged around 13th December by councillors as in previous years, with Linda Tarbox joining the judging panel. Exact date and time will be confirmed and circulated.

**Action:** RR – Confirm and publicise the final judging date and route.

### **3. Pantomime trip**

A group outing to a pantomime on 4th January has been arranged; 12 tickets are available, of which some have already been sold. Tickets are £33.50 each.

**Action:** ALL – Contact RR to purchase any remaining pantomime tickets.

### **4. Emergency college siren**

Discussions are underway with Eton College about the emergency siren and how alerts are communicated. The Chair noted that relying solely on WhatsApp groups excludes some residents, particularly those without smartphones. The aim is to agree more inclusive communication for any future test or emergency use of the siren.

**Action:** RR/Eton College – Continue discussions on emergency siren protocols and wider communication methods.

### **5. High Street shops and business changes**

- I. Anytime Café has now closed permanently; the owners wish to return to a standard 9–5 role.
- II. Eton Sports shop's extension is complete; the store now runs deeper back into the building, with rear areas used more as office space.
- III. The new dentist at 137 High Street (former Eton Stationers) is progressing, with professional registration matters being finalised.
- IV. At 61 High Street (ex-Beaubelle), a new estate agent tenant found damp issues once they started measuring up; remedial works are in progress.
- V. Cappadocia (former Eton Mess) shows some signs of movement again.
- VI. Gilbey's remains on the market; there is reported interest from a Windsor purchaser.



- VII. A Union flag remains outside Golden Curry; efforts continue to have it removed as part of post-event housekeeping.

**Action:** RR – Continue to monitor High Street occupancy and keep ECA updated on key premises.

## **6. Safety and liability – neglected infrastructure**

- I. School lights in the High Street are now working.
- II. Concerns were reiterated about decaying fencing in the Meadow Lane car park and other sites. The Chair stressed that RBWM has been notified many times; if infrastructure fails and causes damage or injury, the Borough may be liable.

**Action:** Cllr MW – Maintain pressure on RBWM to address high-risk infrastructure before further deterioration.

## **8. Treasurer’s Report – SR**

The treasurer was unavailable for this meeting so a full update will be given at the next meeting in January. In the interim, the report will reflect Christmas lights costs, donations received and other seasonal expenditure once final figures are available.

**Action:** SR – Prepare an updated financial summary including Christmas lights and event costs for the next meeting.

## **9. Eton Information Centre**

### **1. General Update**

- I. The Eton Information Centre (EIC) reported that this year’s pin selection and merchandise are selling well, assisted by the ability to offer items from the Royal Collection.
- II. Walking tours continue to be popular, and residents were encouraged to suggest the EIC to visiting friends and family.
- III. The underlying message remains: “Come in and use us” – local support and footfall are vital to sustain the Centre.

## **10. Events Update**

### **1. Christmas Soirée**

The ECA soirée at The Christopher Hotel on the coming Friday is fully subscribed, with 41 attendees. The format has shifted from a sit-down meal to a stand-up, walk-about event with canapes, making it easier to welcome a broader cross-section of the community. A report will be provided at the next meeting on how the event went.

### **2. School concert**

Eton College will host a concert on Sunday, 7th December at 8pm in School Hall, featuring the chamber and symphony orchestra, including Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony and other works. No ticket is required; all are welcome.

### **3. Christmas Day gathering**

Residents are invited to an informal Christmas Day drink at The Christopher Hotel between 12:00–14:00.

### **4. Litter picking – new ECA hi-vis vests**

To improve visibility and identity, ECA has purchased 80 Eton-branded tops for litter pick volunteers. These replace plain high-vis vests and are intended to raise awareness of the Eton Community Association when volunteers are out and about.

### **5. EIC Spring Ball**

AS outlined plans for the Eton Information Centre Spring Ball on Saturday, 21st March 2026 at the Castle Hotel, themed “A Night at the Opera”. The event will include a major auction with significant prizes, including trips to Paris and Africa, among others.

Tickets are £85 per person, with details and a QR code for bookings available on promotional materials.

**Action:** EIC/Amanda – Promote the Spring Ball and circulate QR booking details.

### **6. Arts Week 2026**

Simon Carpenter confirmed that Arts Week, first held in May 2025, will be repeated in 2026.

Aims include:

- Community wellbeing and engagement.
- Fundraising for local causes.
- Showcasing local and guest artists.

Plans include using the Baldwins Institute more effectively for exhibitions, demonstrations, workshops and talks throughout the week, with a dedicated exhibition of local artwork. Residents were encouraged to get involved in multiple ways – buying tickets, acting as stewards, giving talks or demonstrations, or suggesting additional activities.

**Action:** ALL – Review Arts Week information and contact the organisers with ideas or offers to help.

## **11. Eton Town Council Update**

### **1. Christmas Tree recycling**

Will be the Eton Court Car Park – no dates as yet.

### **2. CCTV installation**

Eton Town Council confirmed that a new CCTV camera to cover the Brocas Street/Brocas area has now been fully approved. Installation will connect to the Tinkers Lane monitoring centre and is expected to proceed shortly.

**Action:** ETC – Publicise the new CCTV installation once dates are confirmed.

### **3. Coffee mornings at the Council chamber**

Monthly coffee mornings are being organised by local resident Judy Hill at the Eton Town Council chamber, providing a social opportunity for residents. The next session is scheduled for Monday 8th (10:30am), with mince pies available.

**Action:** ETC – Continue to publicise coffee mornings through ECA and local channels.

## **12. Any Other Business (AOB)**

### **1. Eton Matters/local information**

Copies of Eton Matters were available for anyone wishing to have one.

### **2. Suspicious “Primary Innovation” mailshot**

A resident raised concerns about a letter received from “Primary Innovation” offering to inspect homes. Initial checks suggested the organisation may not be genuine, and members were urged to be cautious about unsolicited offers of home inspections or energy surveys.

**Action:** RR / TVP – Make further enquiries about “Primary Innovation” and, if necessary, issue a warning via ECA channels.

### **3. Thanks**

The Chair and members thanked Claire from Thames Hospice, the TVP representatives, Cllr Wilson, local businesses and all volunteers for their contributions throughout the year.

Next Meeting: 18:30 on 14<sup>th</sup> January 26 at The Hop House, The George Inn, Eton.]

Please email AOB for next meeting to [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk)