



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 28th July 2021 at The Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Martin Cabble-Reid, Nicola Bell, Barbara Hunt, David Treder, Marion Mackenzie, Anthony Morgan, Louise Davidson, Marion Voakes, Brian Voakes, Linda Oatway, Katie Leach, Malcolm Leach, Peter Eaton, Julia Gosnell, Steve Gosnell, Margaret Hayes-Powell, Shirley Young, Carolyn Young, Katherine Russell, Karen Waller, Hardip Virdee, Elizabeth MacMahon, Christine Barber, Stewart Rodgers, Teresa Read, Ian Read, Dawn Palmeiri, David Palmeiri, Simon Weston, Rene Townsend, Alistair Townsend, Leslie Brewis, Henry Brewis, James Stanforth, Dan Bond, Anthony Cove, Councillor Samantha Rayner, PCSO Melita Diprose.

Apologies: Barbara France, Sylvia Ellis, PC Pete Bullett.

1. Welcome & apologies

2. Minutes & matters arising

Minutes are available on www.etoncommunity.co.uk.

Matters arising:

- i. Cockpit – sealed bids on Friday, 30th July at midday. Bids debated on price and suitability of those individuals being able to carry out the work.
- ii. RingGo issue with penalty parking tickets – issue has now been resolved.
- iii. Crown Farm – covered item 3) viii.
- iv. Idling engines on the High Street – covered in item 3) x.

3. RBWM Councillor Matters

- i. **Libraries** – mobile library in operation, now that the main branch in Eton closed, and is parking at the top of the High Street. It has introduced a 'select & collect' service for those who are homebound; anyone who knows of anyone that could benefit from this service, **please contact Cllr Rayner**.
- ii. **Tivoli** – hedge and verge cutting in Eton – this service has slipped but is being investigated to bring it back up to scratch. Thanks were given to Peter Eaton for reporting this issue to RBWM.
- iii. **Rubbish collections** – very few complaints lately so service is getting to an acceptable level and there are no plans currently to go to a bi-weekly collection as yet.

- iv. **Resumption of large item collection** – currently going through backlog and once that has been cleared, RBWM will be going to tender for other company to take over the service.
- v. **Consultation on cycling and walking** – where do the residents want new cycling routes, bike storage and new walking routes...? Eton residents encouraged to take part in this consultation due to great connector/access qualities to Windsor, plus other directions. Due to a large cycle theft issue in Eton, guarantee would be needed from strong and secure bike storage should you wish to leave your bike, with additional CCTV and lock facilities to offer assurance that it is safe.
- vi. **Night time economy meeting** – promoted by the police and RBWM – was called for those who run the nightclubs and for residents who live near them. Encouraging those that do run the clubs to take better responsibility and for residents to voice their concerns. This in turn will help the residents of Eton with closing time issues. Attic has been granted a new licence but as part of this, the management have to engage with the residents and as a result, regular communication has been received from them to RBWM to check on any issues that may have arisen. Attitudes have changed since the pandemic, and residents' views do matter. Consideration is being taken regarding those that come over to Eton to get taxis etc and the noise/disturbance they cause and this is part of the dispersal order that is currently in place. Additional problems arise from those that walk back through Eton to Slough and cause damage to windows, flower tubs etc.

An outcome from this meeting cited from the police is to call 101 or use the email address windsorcentralgeographical@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk in order to report any issue, by doing this it builds up a picture of the extent of the problems we have down the High Street.

- vii. **Queen's Jubilee** – an extensive list of events will be taking place over the Bank Holiday weekend in Windsor/Long Walk along with the ECA street party due to take place on Saturday 4th June in Eton High Street. There will be a special beer brewed by WEBREW along with a new gin being distilled.

Any additional ideas for this Platinum Jubilee long weekend to be forwarded to **Cllr Rayner**.

- viii. **Crown Farm** – no update apart from RBWM digging trenches for soakaways. No planning applications have been received/submitted so no further ahead with what the owner is planning to do with the land.
- ix. **Electric car charging points** – new person to be put in charge of this project and as a result, it is no further forward.
- x. **Car idling on High Street** – this has stalled and will be picked up again with Margaret Hayes-Powell who originally put this issue forward for review at the last meeting.

4. Chair's Report

Thanks were given to Peter Eaton, the editor of Eton Matters, the latest edition of which has been delivered to households, along with those that advertise and write the articles.

The Platinum Jubilee Street party was announced for Saturday, 4th June, 2022 and anyone wishing to help with any aspect, please email secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

In addition, plans are going ahead for the Christmas Light Switch on which is to take place on Thursday, 18th November.

High Street shops and plans – those of significant change:

- 17 – becoming a skin cosmetics shop, SkinHQ (other shops in the Midlands and Manchester, so an established firm)
- 19 - is now a wine bar
- Cockpit - covered in item 2) i.
- 53 – steel structure is due to be put in place this week (Neolithic remains have been found, catalogued and covered back on as the base of the building has now been finished)
- 89/90 - to become a hardware store

Eton information Centre

There has been a slow emergence of visitors to the area with many of them here on staycation, as well as business people with partners who are wanting to be entertained throughout the day.

Information provision – new range of walking maps have been produced and are on sale now. Teddy Walkway has been launched for families – this comprises of the Eton Teddy bear being placed into other shop windows down the High Street with the idea that children go and find them down the Eton Walkway route.

Shop – Art@67 is the art installation at the shop, all by local artists and are on display on a monthly basis. This gallery has been extended to No.79, also on a monthly basis. The EIC is now the only stockists of Woods of Windsor products.

Promotion – now launched an Instagram account called 'Visit Eton' and boasts over 500 followers and with 4,000 plus views on the Insta website over July. Also currently working on a website.

The Eton Information Centre is now open 6 days a week, Tues – Sun, 11am – 3.30pm.

College Announcement – Siren, Flooding & PSPO signs

An apology was issued by Janet Walker, via email, regarding the inadvertent siren activation that went off in the middle of the night, together with an assurance that this will not happen again. This was due to human error and the problem has been fixed.

Additionally, they have commissioned a survey to sort out the flooding on Footpath 6 & 8. They are in contact with Thames Water as they are aware of some additional flow that has occurred which may be hampering the issue, along with the clearing of drainage systems in Eton Wick.

Revised PSPO signs have been commissioned by ECA which now include dog fouling/dog control as well as the misuse of alcohol. Eton Town Council are paying for these signs and College will be erecting them.

5. Treasurer's Report

Very quiet year so far, all books balanced for last year and the new year started on 1st March 2021.

Income of £2,350 so far this year with an error of £45, which has been corrected. On the outgoings side, £2,660, some of which was related to ASB, some due to advertising. Our advertising income comes from Eton Matters, £720 of which is due back to us on invoices that have just been issued.

Traditionally, ECA have always had 3-4 signatories on the account, which is set up like a charity, and due to Committee member shuffle/step down, we have 2 signatories at present. It was proposed that Karen Waller and Stephen Gosnell take up the places of the 2 additional signatories and this was seconded by Ros Rivaz. The attendees were asked to show hands to favour this proposal and it was passed.

6. Antisocial Behaviour Report

PC Pete Bullett provided us with a report of recent issues (**21st May – 27th July**) as follows:

- i. Residential burglaries – 0 reported (update from 28th July 3.42am – 1 burglary of a garden shed – garden tools stolen. CCTV and facial recognition have identified the intruder)
- ii. Business burglaries – 0 reported
- iii. Thefts from motor vehicles – 4 reported
- iv. Motor vehicles left with valuables on display (data taken from police survey done during this reporting period) – **19**
- v. Theft/unauthorised taking of a bicycle – 8 reported
- vi. Wildlife crime – 1 reported
- vii. Dog theft – 0 reported

Cycling/e-scooter use down the High street – active patrolling when possible has continued to take place.

Eton Court car park/drug dealing – information passed on by a local resident on drug dealing occurring in the locale. Dealing stopped for a while but came back again, however with good information, this led to a vehicle being stopped and dealt with.

It has been noted that there hasn't been a significant police presence on the Brocas recently.

PCSO Melita Diprose joined the meeting after and took some questions:

- i. Resident 1 informed us that there was drug dealing taking place on the slipway down from Eton Bridge Court/Flaming Cow. **Information to be emailed across to windsorcentralgeographical@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk to report these occurrences.**

MHP

- ii. Resident 2 informed us that the large tree on the Brocas also has drug dealing going on. **Again, information to be conveyed to above email for follow up.**

ANPR is now in force so any cars coming across to Eton for ASB/drug purposes etc will be recognised and followed up as long as times/incidences are reported. This is in conjunction with the Priority Crime Team from TVP who are aware of the local drug dealing issues and the locations cited by residents.

- iii. **Lost property** – items handed in to the Eton Info Centre should be forwarded to Slough police station where they will handle some items. Protocol needs to be put in place as some items can be traced back if personal information is held within them. Advised that EIC contact Windsor Racecourse as they have a very good process in place in dealing with lost property and their practices should be adopted. **BH**
- iv. **Fishing** – someone had been spotted fishing on the Thames but reporter was unaware of time legal times or licensing that should be adhered. Informed to go to the Environment Agency or Post Office (they issue licences) website for further details.

Thanks were conveyed to Brian, Paul, plus others who helped in securing the 2 security guards that have been out patrolling on the Brocas and the High Street. Initially, the patrols weren't done in the optimum manner to enhance the effectiveness of what we wanted to achieve however, further training has allowed for this to be corrected. Their presence is now paving the way to becoming a deterrent for those who wish to cause ASB. Engagement with those who have caused problems had been variable. The continual presence of the guards is expected to make a difference in the long run.

RBWM enforcement officers have also accompanied our guards and have been able to issue fixed penalty notices to those who have breached local PSPO guidelines.

If anyone would like to donate to the funding of the security guards who patrol every Friday and Saturday night, initially set up by way of a grant, monies donated from Eton Town Council and local residents, then please email secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

7. Community Survey Update

Top thing that came out of this survey was broadband, mobile signal and Wi-Fi:

Mobile – historic proposal to put telecom mast on Intersystems House, was rejected but has been appealed, and planning permission now in place with O2 to erect a mast. However, it will take another year to put in place and will only be for O2 customers. Other than this, there is little that can be done to enhance the signal at this point. However, by downloading the mobile signal app which indicates how good/bad the signal is for each provider, with this data, we can put it forward to other companies for consideration.

Broadband – comprehensive appreciation of all the broadband speeds, both promised and experienced for all households in Eton. There is a provider that can deliver better speeds and downloads called Callflow, other than OpenReach and Virgin. However, they are a little more expensive. Eton Riverside are part of a Community Fibre Partnership with OpenReach where residents come together and pay an amount as a collective for faster broadband. The amount you pay is dependant on the number of residents and the number of properties improved, speed wise. Thanks to Elizabeth MacMahon for this information.

Current initiative is to get quotes, distribution box by box from OpenReach on how much it would cost to improve broadband for those properties that need it, for each box. This in turn will tell us if there is appetite, cost wise, for going ahead with this idea.

Wi-Fi – looking at the case Windsor put forward for Wi-Fi and seeing if we can follow this on a cost/benefit, usage basis etc. An update will be provided once information has been obtained from the 'Freedom of Information Act' the request of which is currently being processed.

The other items that came out from the survey were ASB, planning issues, High Street viability and cycling/e-scooter issues and these will be reported throughout these Minutes.

8. Green Eton

A new initiative with a small group of individuals (volunteers) that have an interest in keeping/making/improving Eton green and maintaining this status. They will be working with other organisations, where appropriate, to help and create a better outside environment. Recent projects will include Eton Porny School and their gardens as they are planning to open their outdoor classroom. Works already started is the Brook down South Meadow Lane to remove obstructive weeds and green growth in order to keep the water flowing towards Baldwins Bridge and out towards the Thames. Additionally, Baldwins Bridge area, Barnes Pool and Colnorton Brook, pathways and surrounding areas are on the list.

The Queens' Green Canopy – Plant a Tree for the Jubilee - a tree planting initiative is being considered for Eton to become a lasting legacy. Schemes are available for planting over 100 trees in areas where it would be appropriate to plant, and permission has been sought from the landowner.

If you would like to volunteer for Green Eton, please contact secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

9. Events

- i. **Litter pick:** last litter pick was **Sunday, 25th April**, very successful with 43 attendees, including boys from Eton College. We managed to collect and clear many bags of rubbish/recycling so thanks to all who participated and we were all rewarded with breakfast baps from Dion @ Eaten Café, which was gratefully received.
- ii. **Next litter pick:** this has been organised for **Sunday, 15th August** to coincide with the Brocas Fair leaving Eton. This is so we can glean the environs where the fair organisers may not have gone into areas we would normally cover. I am reliably informed that the fair organisers are pretty good at clearing the site so thanks in advance to them.
- iii. **Pub walk – Fox & Hounds:** this went ahead on **Sunday, 4th July** with 12 people participating, despite the skies threatening us with heavy rain but we managed to get there dry.
- iv. **Next pub walk – The Pineapple:** this is in the process of being organised and will take participants through the Jubilee River system. This will take place in **September/October** – date to be confirmed in SO closer to the time.

- v. **Beer tasting:** to take place after the ECA meeting and we will be joined by Will Calvert from WEBREW, who will be taking us through 6 samples of their beers, with tasting notes and how they are brewed. Cost is £7.
- vi. **Potential additional events:**
 - Combermere Barracks visit is still tentative due to the venue not admitting the general public at present, due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation.
 - The Bateaux (lunch/dinner on board) – this has been investigated however, the cost is prohibitive.
 - Pub quiz – to be investigated once indoor events are 100% safe to go ahead with.
 - Curry evening – as above.

Going forward, any further events will be announced in Shout Out (the newsletter), and we will be keeping a very close eye on the current pandemic situation and we will try to keep the events of an outside nature in attempt to keep all participants as safe as possible.

10. AOB

Eton Town Council, part of RBWM, and separate from ECA have welcomed 3 new councillors to Eton after vacancies arose; Margaret Hayes-Powell, Malcolm Alexander and most recently, James Stanforth. ETC also represent Eton Wick and the full team consists of 14 members, 7 for Eton and 7 for EW, current count is 13. There is therefore a shortfall and a vacancy for an Eton Wick member. If you are interested, you must live in Eton Wick and contact Bob Austen, the Eton Town Council Clerk on clerk@etontc.uk for further details.

The Pavilion in South Meadow Lane recreation ground is in need of attention and MHP, JS and ML are in the process of bringing this up to a useable facility in the next 2 years.

Planning applications come through the ETC and they are vetted, but ETC are wanting to have more of a say on planning issues within our area as RBWM are less inclined to listen to our objections.

11. Next meeting date

To be confirmed for a date in September 2021.

Please e-mail AOB to secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk prior to the next meeting.