



## Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at The Hop House, The George Inn

**Attendees:** Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Christine Barber, Katherine Blightman, Mike Blightman, Amanda Street, Kim Meredith, Dawn Palmieri, David Palmieri, Ian Read, Teresa Read, Simon Weston, Simon Carpenter, Ann Currie, Lisa King, Amanda Snell, David Waddleton, Ben Willcox, Peter Eaton, PSCO Lizzie Davidson, Roger Prior, Dawn Lee, Bryn Lee, Shirley Young, Cllr Mark Wilson, John Rowland, Wendy Rowland, Stewart Rogers, Anthony Cove, Malcolm Leach, Hugo Snell, Sylvia Ellis.

**Apologies:** Stephen Gosnell, Julia Gosnell, Katherine Russell, Barbara France, Karen Waller, Katie Leach, Elizabeth McMahon.

### 1. Welcome & apologies

Happy New Year!

### 2. Minutes & Matters Arising

- i. No further forward with new tenants and rubbish collections. RR is talking with Warren Properties estate agents. If you have evidence of people being told not to recycle, please report this to Cllr MW.
- ii. Planning permission for the green flashing sign outside the pharmacy has been refused. The barber near Windsor bridge now also has a flashing sign and flashing lights. This has been reported to and is with enforcement.

Action: inform Cllr Devon Davies about barber flashing sign and flashing lights. **Cllr MW**

- iii. RBWM Council say there is no money available to tackle peeling paint at dog level on lamp posts.
- iv. 53 High Street is looking good. They need to source 10 flagstones to replace those that went missing. Contractors have been asked to install the last lamp post.
- v. 109 High Street continue to make unapproved changes then applying for retrospective permissions. Planners and Conservation Officers are dealing with it.

Action: continue to monitor.

**BW**

- vi. Vehicles being broken in to; ML has taken relevant leaflets to the Eton Information Centre. Do not leave items in view in your vehicles.

### 3. Chair's Report

- i. Delighted to confirm that Bryn Lee has joined the Committee.
- ii. Karen Waller has decided to stand down from the Committee having spent 10 years on it. Thanks also to SG and to BW who are now the leads for Christmas.  
Action: deliver thank-you card and spa voucher to KW. BW
- iii. ML continues to meet with relevant partnerships and agencies.
- iv. Thanks to all involved for the fantastic Christmas Lights Switch On, despite increase costs resulting in some cutbacks. The three sponsors, Eton College, Baldwins Bridge Trust and Eton Town Council have done a super job. Support from our Town Council is very important.
- vi. Articles, especially child-based, continue to be wanted for "Eton Matters" which is now produced by Rosie Maggs. If you would like to contribute, please contact [chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk)
- vii. Barnes Pool is currently flooded, though water levels are lower than they were in 2014.
- viii. Eton Action List update:  
RBWM will not repair the tilted bus stop outside Budgens because they judge that it isn't unsafe. Nothing has been done in the past 3 months. Many lights on the bridge are not working.
- ix. Flooding is bad but not as bad as in 2014. Flood water may contain sewage if the volume of water exceeds what the system can handle. Big cleanup will be needed for which there are funds. Cllr MW reports that Section 114 has been avoided but spend continues to be very restricted, focussing on health and safety.
- x. Traders are impacted by the delayed return to College, which is to avoid sewage problems, following an underground pipe burst at the north of Eton  
Action: get details of planned return from the College. RR
- xi. RBWM continue to pay for incomplete work, despite maintenance contracts being in place. Cllr MW responded that contract management has been cut over the years. We (Eton) report incomplete work but RBWM respond that the job has been done. RBWM should refuse to pay for incomplete work. Cllr MW agreed to look at specific cases if reported to him.
- xii. High Street changes:  
New owner Oxana Soleil has taken over Tastes delicatessen and Eton Antique Bookshop at 88 High Street.  
Russ is the owner of Mostly Books.  
Previous bookshop (88) now stocks a wider range of products.
- xiii. There was a discussion around tables and chairs on the pavement, licences, safety and business viabilities.  
Action: look into balancing safety, pedestrians, businesses and licences Cllr MW  
Action: walk round to assess tables and chairs on the pavements. Cllr MW, RR, Paul  
Roach
- xiv. Manleys have changed ownership, but Malcolm Leach still works at the back of the shop leading the framing business.

- xv. Flaming Cow is currently under offer which will continue, as is, with minor changes. Eton Mess has been returned to its owner. Flaming Cow was using the waste area of Eton Mess which is in administration.
- xvi. 53 High Street is nearly finished.
- xvii. What will happen with Flaming Cow Trade waste? BW said “Not essential for commercial”. Many traders are in a similar position.  
Action: pick this up, discuss with RBWM BW, RR
- xviii. Some traders are using residential recycling bins.  
Action: get details from KB RR, ML, BW
- xix. The winners of the Christmas Windows competition were Eton T-Shirt Shop, The Christopher Hotel, Thaxter & Stovell and Welsh & Jefferies. The judges were Cllr Tisi and Cllr Wilson. Thank you to Giovanni at Tasted Delicatessen for donating a voucher and to RBWM Cllrs for adding additional vouchers.

#### 4. TVP Update

PCSO Lizzie Davidson distributed Community Feedback forms. Feedback can also be online at [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eUPeI3qVpkGVhxZdbGtNvRPotQs4if9Ch\\_Dt7B6koThURFc0VDIXMkExUESzQkQ2WVVLUzI4TjIEWi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eUPeI3qVpkGVhxZdbGtNvRPotQs4if9Ch_Dt7B6koThURFc0VDIXMkExUESzQkQ2WVVLUzI4TjIEWi4u)

- i. Deadline is end of January.
- ii. PCSO Davidson listed recent crime activity. The car used in the business burglary at Budgens had false plates.
- iii. RR reported a recent case where a beggar stole alcohol from a local restaurant. CCTV has been provided. This needs to be formally reported to TVP if not already done. We need assistance with another beggar who we have been made aware is not homeless, on the bridge who can be quite aggressive. PCSO Davidson says that police move him on if he is seen.
- iv. The police have been doing good work with the genuinely homeless in this cold weather.
- v. Cyclists and E-scooters continue to ignore the one-way system. Police to organise more “Operation Lycra”. The numbers who ignore the one-way system are slowly dropping. Some are foreign who don’t realise that it is a one-way system. When issuing a fine (now £50) the person doing so does check their details. PCSO Davidson also checks their lights. Monitoring is done sometimes at one end of the High Street and sometimes at the other end.
- vi. Eton Information Centre has a community radio which is used to share information.
- vii. The Community Feedback survey doesn’t refer to wrong-way cyclists. Feedback form has an “other” option.
- viii. There is a late night scooter rider without lights. This would be for Traffic Officers.
- ix. Signage showing cyclists the correct route, e.g., at the Waterman’s and also by the Meadow Lane car park is not clear that this is to a cycle path. Cllr DD is aware. Cllr DD
- x. Neighbourhood Plan states no to pedestrianisation of the High Street.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

- i. Expenditure is in line with budget. We are just about breaking even.

## 6. RBWM Councillor matters

- i. Vegetation on the bridge is still under discussion. Would need scaffolding.
- ii. There is an application for a blue plaque for George Pocock, - relevant to the film "Boys in the Boat". A resident pointed out that John Cox and his involvement is more relevant to Eton. We support the blue plaque for George Pocock. We should see if we can get something for John Cox.
- iii. SR asserted that the large number of missing lights on the bridge and the missing lights at the southwest stanchion are safety issues, especially at this time of year when commuters cross the bridge in the dark.

Action:

Cllr MW

- iv. There will be very large increases in parking fees in Eton. Trading is already challenging. Eton Town Council have objected to the proposal, mainly because of the size of the increase. RBWM council does need to increase its income. Consultation on the resident parking policy has closed.

Action: Feedback parking cost concerns (residents and traders) through the budget consultation.

All

## 7. Events

- i. The Christmas dinner at The Christopher Hotel was well attended. The hotel has donated £1 for every bottle of wine purchased to the ECA - £20 in total.
- ii. Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February at 17:30-19:30 - Richard Amis exhibition at the Verey Gallery. Booking is essential for security checks. E-mail [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk) to book.
- iii. Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February or 3<sup>rd</sup> March - litter pick (date depends on clear up of mess left by flooding).
- iv. Future suggestions include curry evening, pub quiz, pub walk.
- v. Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March is the Ball at the Castle Hotel to raise funds for the Eton Information Centre, including a silent auction. Thanks for the many donated auction prizes. We can book individual seats, groups or tables for 10 or for 12 people. A "Shout Out" newsletter will explain how to book, or e-mail [info@visiteton.info](mailto:info@visiteton.info)
- vi. BL will produce a map of Eton High Street listing points of interest, shops, cafes etc. Aim to be ready by Easter for hotels and guesthouses to give to guests. The traders are happy to see this – the previous editions were about 10 years ago.

## 8. AOB

- i. Eton Town Council meeting is Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January.

## **9. Next Meeting Date**

- i. Date of next meeting is Wednesday, 28th February at 18:30.
- ii. Subsequent meeting dates are Wednesday, 3rd April and Wednesday, 15th May.

Please e-mail AOB to [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk) prior to the next meeting.