



## **Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at The Hop House, The George Inn**

**Attendees:** Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Monaliza Cadwallader, Peter Eaton, Mike Brown, Martin Cabble-Reid, Sebastian Clifton-Welker, Lisa King, Ann Currie, Ian Read, Teresa Read, Stephen Cox, Monaliza Cadwallader, Alan Lawrance, Anna-Maria Bevan, Isabella Bevan, Wendy Rowland, John Rowland, Anthony Cove, Shirley Young, Nicola Bell, Ben Willcox, Stephen Gosnell, Julia Gosnell, Roger Marrett, Dawn Palmieri, Margaret Hayes-Powell, Karen Waller, Dawn Lee, Bryn Lee, Inspector Daniel Bennett, Cllr Samantha Rayner.

**Apologies:** Malcolm Leach, Hardeep Virdee, Elizabeth McMahon, Karen Waller, Barbara France, Christine Barber, Stewart Rogers, Katherine Rogers, Katherine Russell, Shahan Ledger, Derek Ledger.

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

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

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

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

- I. Peter Eaton, Editor of Eton Matters has now retired after more than 10 years as our Editor, and this will be the last edition (due on 1<sup>st</sup> March) he will lead on, with Rosie Maggs, the new Editor, as his back up. Peter was thanked for his huge contribution over the years and presented with a basket of fruit, wine and artisan foodstuffs.
- II. The Eton Information Centre are hosting a fundraising dinner and ball on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at The Castle Hotel, tickets are £70 each. Many donated prizes will be auctioned on the night. Please contact [chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk) to register your interest.
- III. The Eton Action List continues the monthly rhythm of reporting issues that require repair etc. The most notable and concerning item currently is the heritage light that is not working in the South West of the Windsor/Eton bridge. As it turns out, the rough sleeper who was sleeping underneath that light on the bridge was disconnecting the fixture so it wasn't broken, it was tampered with. This has now been rectified and is now fully working. The police have been informed as this is classed as criminal damage.
- IV. Eton street flags – we currently have 60 flags in readiness for them being erected hopefully in April before Easter, however we need to replace 40 as they suffer with

wind damage during the time they are in place. The flags will be in place for the Coronation.

- V. Shop decorations for the Coronation – it was suggested that shop owners are proactive in dressing their windows up in time for the Coronation, much like they do for Christmas etc. We are reaching out to vacant shop front owners in order to perhaps dress these empty spaces up so they add to the ambience of the High Street during the festivities.

**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 due to open as an independent kitchen design and sales outlet.
- 80 – former Lily Chic - discussions now in progress with the owner/potential proprietor in order to create a viable business from this premises.
- 89/90 – works have stalled due to ongoing damp/water issues; this is now a legal matter.
- 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. They also won costs and damages against RBWM. This is a worry as this will set a precedence for other shop owners with residential above to change their footprint also.
- 125 – newly opened coffee outlet, the owners of which used to run The Chocolate Theatre Cafe.

In addition, progress is underway with work having started on the Cockpit, with a planning application being submitted on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> March. It was conveyed to the audience that if they could submit any votes of confidence to RBWM supporting this application, it would be most welcome. Details will be circulated at the next meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

The works at 53 High Street are continuing, however there are a few bits of concern (plasterwork, roof etc). For the most, this is pushing forward.

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

Unfortunately, our Treasurer could not join us this evening, therefore his report will be carried over to the next meeting.

## **5. TVP Update**

Inspector Daniel Bennett of Thames Valley Police kindly joined us and was welcomed to the meeting. He provided background on himself, plans going forward for Eton, and his update is as follows:

- Daniel is the geographical inspector for Windsor & Maidenhead and has been in this post since October 2022.

- He is responsible for the Neighbourhood Team which predominately deals with local issues and problem solve them as best possible.
- The biggest complaint he has received from the residents of Eton is rough sleepers plus other ASB issues.
- Feedback from other communities concerns the lack of output in relation to social media.
- Additionally, residents have reported issues in the past and nothing has been done or seems to be being investigated when clear video evidence, time and date has been recorded. This lack of help has concerned many residents, to the point of 'why bother reporting if nothing is followed up'.
- The Thames Valley Alerts have been upgraded where outcomes of crimes/crime stats reported are now being conveyed. This was one issue brought up by a resident where it would be good to hear that a crime has been solved and someone has been held accountable for it. This is time-related; some investigations can take some time to complete.
- All the above was acknowledged and it was **reiterated to make sure any incident is reported via the 101 portal on the TVP website**. It is accepted that it isn't overly user friendly and phoning through can also cause delay in reporting. However, without the reports, his team cannot act on the problem because without the occurrences, it would appear Eton doesn't have an ASB problem. The lack of response is something that is being addressed for all incidents going forward. Past events, those still under investigation, will be dealt with.
- **Reporting can be done anonymously** if personal safety is felt to be compromised. This can be either via 101 or with Crimestoppers.
- Police visibility in Eton isn't apparent or poor if daily walks are being done, this again is being addressed as 4 community officers are being recruited, 2 for Maidenhead and 2 for Windsor (which will cover Eton). These officers should be in place in April, although this date is to be confirmed. There is a national lack of resource for policing at present so at the moment, **everything is intelligence led, hence the need for us as a community to report as and when incidents happen, minimally on the day of occurrence**.
- As a community, we are committed to help where we can, we need the police to help us to help them towards a safer town. The commitment from the Neighbourhood Team will be there, reporting will be the first step and in turn, better communication on follow up and outcomes will prevail.
- The 'Have your Say' survey that TVP issued recently was successful and the main concern was ASB, specifically drug use was the highest priority for Windsor Central, which Eton comes under. This has now been made the main priority for the Neighbourhood Team to tackle/control.
- The team will be working with other Neighbourhood Teams in the area as it is appreciated that we are linked, transport route wise to Slough, Windsor, Eton Wick etc, with the road heading away from Eton making it more difficult to simply catch individuals.
- An analyst has been employed to the Neighbourhood Team to identify hotspots in the area, target individuals and implement enforcement where necessary on these organised crime groups (OCGs) who supply drugs to the locale.

- The Neighbourhood Team, along with Inspector Daniel Bennett will be attending community meeting on a regular basis to discuss any issues going forward. Crime stats for our area, along with outcomes (if possible), will be reported to the meeting attendees.

## 6. RBWM Councillor Matters

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

- I. Electric car charging points – a paper went through Cabinet last month which set out RBWM’s 10 year program for 725 new EV chargers across the Borough (this is for car parks and on-street parking bays). This equates to around 12 chargers a year for the next 10 years. This plan is due to start immediately. This was appreciated that this won’t be enough however, with the addition of businesses installing EV chargers along with residents with off-street parking, this should cover the short fall. The lamp posts recently installed in Eton are not suitable to take EV chargers due to the limited load they can carry (the underground cables are old). The chargers should be installed in Meadow Lane car park.
- II. Funding has been approved for 4 additional dedicated police officers in RBWM (details in Section 5). Commitment has also been sought for another 4 officers by the end of this Council Administration, making a total of 8. They will work alongside the current RBWM wardens.
- III. A Crime Summit due to take place in the next couple of weeks will ask residents where they would like these additional resources placed in order to tackle the ASB we are experiencing.
- IV. One hour free parking has been extended to the Victoria Street car park which will help the footfall to Eton.
- V. Climate change measures have been approved and will be implemented, notably air quality particle detectors in the Borough. This will identify any bad spots for pollution and changes will be put in place to obtain better air quality.
- VI. Monies have been allocated for more street cleaning and making the Borough more attractive.
- VII. Tivoli issues – still being investigated where works have been insufficient, not done or of bad quality. Cllr Rayner
- VIII. Fibreoptic broadband delay – Cllr Rayner has asked the company who are installing fibreoptic cable work etc to come to Eton once works are completed elsewhere in the Borough. They are currently in Maidenhead, then Windsor will be next. ECA will work with Cllr Rayner to expedite the date from the planned 2026 installation to much closer, date wise. 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. Posters will be popped into shop windows slower to the time that tickets will be released. Tickets (£10) will be sold in the Eton Info Centre, Tastes Delicatessen and Eton Stationers. This new ticket price is reflective of the cost of living at the moment and also

that Eton College, who donate very generously, have given a little less monies on this occasion. Additionally, we will be organising a 'best dressed table' competition too.

## 8. Events

**Litter pick** – went ahead on **Sunday, 19th February** at 10.30am. We had over 20 attendees, collecting a lot of bags of rubbish on this occasion. This was due to the ability to get into the hedgerows whilst there were less leaves and foliage to contend with, which in turn showed many hidden rubbish spots. An area of concern is South Meadow Lane where there are cars parked along the road. All along this length of road seems to be covered in litter in the hedges, something that could be addressed with Eton College as they own this area of land.

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Afterwards, the Henry VI pub provided 10 of us with freshly made pizza slices for those after their hard work keeping Eton tidy.

**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.

**EIC fundraising dinner and ball** – 125 tickets sold, anyone wishing to attend, please contact [chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk).

**Pub quiz** – to be held in **April** – details will follow in the newsletter.

**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)

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

**Eton Action Fair** is to be held on **Saturday, 18th March** – this was postponed back in November 2022 and it will go ahead regardless of inclement weather. The **End of Term Concert** is due to be held on **Sunday, 19th March**, details of which will be posted into the newsletter.

## 9. AOB

Dog mess issue – the enforcement officer, Mark Anthony, is to be contacted to come to Eton and check for owners not picking up after their dogs.

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## 10. Next Meeting Date

Date confirmed as Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 6.30pm. Please e-mail AOB to [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk) prior to the next meeting.