



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 8th September 2021 at The Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Martin Cabble-Reid, Peter Eaton, Julia Gosnell, Stephen Gosnell, , Karen Waller, Hardip Virdee, Elizabeth MacMahon, Christine Barber, Teresa Read, Ian Read, Dawn Palmeiri, Derek Ledger, Simon Weston, James Stanforth, Dan Bond, Taher Mulla, Councillor Samantha Rayner.

Apologies: Sylvia Ellis, Malcolm Leach, David Treder, Marion Mackenzie, Barbara Hunt, Shirley Young, Katherine Russell, Margaret Hayes-Powell Bob Austen.

1. Welcome & apologies

2. Minutes & matters arising

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

Matters arising:

- i. Cars idling on the High Street –premisses that have a cold/fresh food deliveries have been approached and asked to advise their delivery drivers to turn off their engines whilst delivering their goods. We had a good response from shop owners, they understood the clean air initiative that is being promoted and will report back on progress in due course.
- ii. Drug dealing on slipway – been reported and followed up by MHP.
- iii. Lost property – advised to inform the police if property is handed to the EIC, along with Eton Security.

3. Chair's & Treasurer's Report

Welcome to Taher, the new manager of Luxe Interiors who has also moved to Eton.

Eton Matters requires an article written by a child from the community and offers were extended to the attendees to ask a suitable individual to submit a piece for the next edition.

Christmas Light Switch On – meeting planned for next week to get the entertainment in place and an update will be given on progress at the next meeting.

Platinum Jubilee Street Party – discussed in Section 6.

Change to refuse collection – this is due to commence on 18th October – black bins will be emptied every other week and blue recycling bins will still be weekly. Those in a communal residential set up will continue to be weekly, along with those who have black bin liners.

Collection days will also be amended but every household will be receiving information in the coming weeks as to the changes being put in place.

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 for this purpose and it will be actioned and added to the list.

High Street shops and plans – those of significant change:

- 17 – now opened as a skin cosmetics shop, SkinHQ
- Cockpit – waiting to hear an update on the winner of the sealed bids. The new purchaser, if it is the person we envisage, has promised to do works as quickly as possible in order to give us our pavement back and improve the front of the building
- 53 – steel structure now in place this week

4. RBWM Councillor Matters

- i. **Rubbish collections** – as mainly reported in Section 3. Additional change being collections reduced from Monday - Saturday to Monday – Friday. Instructions have been given across to Serco to make sure the previous issues of rubbish collections do not reappear through this update. This initiative is to encourage more recycling and less black bin waste.
Action – to investigate consistent earlier timings of collections so as to not impact the vibrancy of the High Street. **ClIr Rayner**
- ii. **Windsor Town Forum** – meeting held and Nick from the Homeless Project presented. Current location being moved to a larger site in order to offer further services i.e. training, getting people back into work and helping them find permanent accommodation. This in turn will benefit Eton and hopefully reduce rough sleeping/begging in the town.
- iii. **Pub Watch** – monthly meeting with TVP, RBWM, publicans and residents living next to nightclubs/pubs – this encouraged much more engagement and any issues can be addressed quickly.
- iv. **RBWM staff** – majority back to work at the offices promoting business as usual approach.
- v. **Princes Trust** – now open for funding requests from October 1st.
- vi. **Queen’s Jubilee** – covered in Section 6.
- vii. **Crown Farm** – no update.
- viii. **Car idling on High Street** – as reported in Section 2.

5. Community Survey Update

The Top Five issues that came back from the resident's survey were broadband/Wi-Fi and mobile coverage, antisocial behaviour inc. cycling/e-scooters, planning and High Street viability.

Broadband/Wi-Fi/mobile - Comprehensive update provided by David Treder, Project Leader



Broadband & WiFi
Update 8th September

CIL (Community Interest Levy) funds which are due to arrive at Eton Town Council, along with engaging with Cllr Rayner, may be available to help with the issue of the broadband costs within Eton.

Antisocial behaviour

Over £5,500 were raised by various means in order to address the ASB within Eton. The first four weeks weren't as successful as envisaged, as the optimum way of working was established. Once corrected, 2 security members were patrolling the Brocas and the High Street on regular occasion over a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and this proved very effective. There are some improvements to be made and this will enhance the system if we are able to secure funds to repeat this in 2022. As a result, some drug dealing has stopped, use of NO₂ canisters stopped in some cases, along with some good engagement with RBWM enforcement officers who helped us in the process. Some police/undercover police activity too which helped with the drug issues. Stopping cycling down the High Street the wrong way was not as successful unfortunately due to timing problems but lessons have been learned for tackling this next time.

Planning/High Street viability

Planning – concerns that current planning was allowing the High Street to be less viable – this was due to national guidelines softening to allow retail/commercial to go to residential and therefore we are encouraged, as a town, to object to any applications that are considered of this nature.

6. Platinum Jubilee Street party

Plans are now underway and the Street Party is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th. Concept of the High Street set out with tables with awnings above and residents/visitors purchase tickets for their chairs and bring along their own picnic food/drink. Ticket costs are to be confirmed.

Entertainment is being investigated, including for the children, and music ensembles including a band called Chasing Deer who will provide the music, duration of which will be between 1pm – 5pm.

7. Windsor, Eton and Ascot Town Partnership update

Paul Roach, the Windsor, Eton and Ascot town manager gave us an update on various topics as follows:

- i. The Partnership has been established since 1998 and funded partly by RBWM, private businesses and other major enterprises in the area.
- ii. Covid has been a major project for the last 15-18 months and in supporting businesses with grants - £24 million has been given out with 4,000 businesses helped out across the Borough. Recovery has been the most recent phase of the project and 'Don't let your Guard down' was one of those initiatives informing the public to still be aware of the precautions needed to stay safe.
- iii. Online shopping, which has grown enormously during the pandemic, will prove a challenge going forward in terms of how people re-engage with the High Street.
- iv. New website launched called My Royal Borough – dealing with businesses that stayed open and helping those to reopen after months of closure
- v. Night time economy reopening – making sure that this happens in a safe manner but acknowledges there is some way to go as crime levels were very low during lockdown, as soon as the nightclubs/bars etc were allowed to open, the crime rate went up dramatically.
- vi. Pub Watch meet regularly and new initiative called The Purple Flag highlights making places safe to visit/more pleasant for those people coming to visit the area. These include the Street Angels and Taxi Marshalls who help at the end of an evening.
- vii. Health checks on footfall, car parking numbers etc – has been a very busy month in August/September for Windsor which in turn, helps us in Eton.
- viii. Property vacancy rates have been very low in the smaller villages (inc. Eton) – between 3% and 4% with national average being 58%. Windsor is 10%.
- ix. Major issue is the lack of international tourism/travel – expectation is that it won't return until next Summer.
- x. Hello Lamppost Project – can engage with street furniture to scan QR code/tele number which then gives you information on the area etc.
- xi. Christmas plans – Eton is first event to be held on 18th November, followed by Windsor. Last year a Borough wide Christmas programme was launched online, this is to be repeated but with a printable version too. This will go to every household in the Borough. All events expected to be held, subject to any Covid restrictions announced at the time.
- xii. Platinum Jubilee – council meeting has taken place in order to ascertain how they can support local events during this long celebration weekend. However, plans are in place for this to be a year long calendar of events.
- xiii. Windsor & Eton Society Facelift programme – looking at redecorating/cleaning the frontages of buildings in the area and looking at green spaces.

8. Events

- i. **Litter pick** - last litter pick was **Sunday, 15th August** (date chosen to coincide with the departure of the Brocas Fair), very successful with 20 attendees. We managed to collect less bags than usual which in itself is a good sign that we are on top of the problem and that the Fair organisers did a great job in clearing what they could. Thanks to all who participated and we were rewarded with breakfast baps from Eaten Café, which were gratefully received.
- ii. **Next litter pick** - this will be organised for a **Sunday in November** so we can accommodate the Eton Boys who very much enjoy joining in and helping. Please keep an eye out in our newsletter for exact dates and details.
- iii. **Next pub walk – The Pineapple, Dorney** - this is now organised for **Sunday, 3rd October** and will take participants through the Jubilee River system. Please contact secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk in order to register your attendance.
- iv. **Eton Action Fair** – to be held on 18th September, 11am – 4pm. The annual College event has changed location from the Common Road sites to School yard.
- v. **Christmas Dinner** – until we are sure of the Covid situation, dates will be tentative.

9. AOB

- Open session run by Eton College about a proposal for a new boarding house - 27th September at 7pm should you wish to join. **Update: This event is no longer being held because of College COVID guidelines. As more information becomes available, we will include it in the ECA Shout Out (newsletter).**
- Sports facilities at College – swimming pool opening is delayed by 8 weeks, available towards the end of October. Residents of Eton will be allowed access to this once the IT systems have been put in place, expected to be in January 2022.
- Cycling/walking consultation in Eton – application for this initiative should be withdrawn due to being in contravention of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Flooding in Eton/Eton Wick – small group of residents are involved in investigating the issues on footpaths 6, 8 and 49.
- Walkway over to Windsor/Eton Central – this is a poor entrance to our Towns for visitors. Money has been identified by the rail company to address the issues raised, with an expectation that work will be progressed in 2022.

10. Next meeting date

To be confirmed for a date in October 2021.

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