



## **Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at The Hop House, The George Inn**

**Attendees:** Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Lisa King, Ann Currie, Ian Read, Teresa Read, Stephen Cox, Monaliza Cadwallader, Alan Lawrance, Wendy Rowland, John Rowland, Barbara France, Malcolm Leach, Hardeep Virdee, Elizabeth McMahon, Stephen Gosnell, Julia Gosnell, Christine Barber, Karen Waller, Dawn Palmeiri, Roger Prior, Sue Christodoulou, Barbara Hunt, Rene Townsend, Margaret Hayes-Powell, Karen Waller, Mike Blightman, Catherine Blightman, Dawn Lee, Bryn Lee, Simon Weston.

**Apologies:** Mike Brown, Ben Willcox, David Waddleton, Stewart Rogers, Katherine Rogers, Katherine Russell, Shahan Ledger, Derek Ledger, Sylvia Ellis, Shirley Young, Peter Eaton.

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

Ann Currie and Lisa King, proprietors from Beaubelle Bridal & Occasional Wear, the new bridal boutique and alterations shop opening at 61 High Street, introduced themselves and the concept of their new business which will be opening shortly on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February. Invites were extended to all attendees to visit for a glass of bubbles.

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

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

Minutes from both 2<sup>nd</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December were addressed:

- I. TVP update – the new inspector for this area, Dan Bennett, joined with Margaret Hayes-Powell and the other ETC members and gave an update as to our concerns regarding antisocial behaviour. His target is to rebuild the communication and trust between TVP and the community as there have been various issues with lack of presence and action in the last year or so. Additionally, the Police Commissioner also joined to hear the concerns of the difficulty in reporting crimes via the 101 website/phone line. He informed them that ultimately, we will be able to report any issue via WhatsApp and have the ability to take photographic evidence whilst ASB is in progress. During their monthly crime statistics at ETC, they are now expanding their updates to inform us of ongoing projects/operations, with limited details for obvious reasons, but this will give the community a better insight to what the police are doing on a daily basis. Furthermore, there is a plan to address issues that have been encountered with alleged homelessness with the help of local social services and other

Borough services that can help those in need to a better personal outcome going forward.

- II. TVP have released a survey online and via a form for the community to inform them of what issues are of most concern i.e. ASB, begging, cycling down the one-way street etc. Link for this survey to be placed in the newsletter and on the ECA website. RR

### 3. Chair's Report

- I. Peter Eaton, Editor of Eton Matters stated his intention to retire 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.
- II. The Eton Information Centre achieved the Silver Medal at the Beautiful South Tourism awards. It was highlighted that this Award will enable the Eton Information Centre to advertise itself more widely and in turn, we receive more tourists/visitors to Eton.
- III. 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.
- IV. The Coffee and Catch up sessions are continuing to be run each week (Tues, Thurs and Fri), 2pm – 3.30pm. We also plan to add a toddler group 2 days a week (Tues, Thurs).
- V. 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. This was reported a few weeks ago and parts that are required to fix it have been ordered. The lighting down the steps from the bridge to the wharf is extremely dangerous and suggestions have been made by Cllr Rayner that The Christopher Wren Hotel could erect a temporary light on their wall to help light the steps.
- VI. An extensive survey was carried out by Ros Rivaz and Peter Eaton on all the wobbly paving stones down the entire High Street. RBWM have received this data and repairs will need to be actioned.
- VII. Both lights on the island with the Burning Bush structure opposite Eton College library are out and this has been reported too.
- VIII. Poor lighting has been reported down the alleyway between 92 and 93 High Street. Unfortunately, a local resident encountered someone who then indecently exposed themselves, the resident in question was unable to see them in time but the police response was excellent, attending the scene within 3 minutes.

**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.
- 52 - The Antique/bric-a-brac store is now open.

- 104/5 – former Eton Travel now open as Warren’s Estate agent.
- 61 – Beaubelle Bridal & Occasional Wear - the new bespoke bridal dress maker/alteration premises.
- 41 – Faciology is now open.
- 8/9 – Personal Coach who runs the business with coffee – w/c 31<sup>st</sup> January, they are running two free sessions a day from either 11am or 3.15pm for over 65s; they also conduct free short training/induction sessions.
- 93 – now open as the new book shop, Mostly Books – the owner has now reduced the hours down from 5 days to 3 days a week.
- 88 – although available for sale, retaining some book sales.
- 80 – 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.
- 62 Premier Stores still planning to extend their footprint back to the larger original space.
- 109 Former Venture site – this has now gone quiet and made to measure venetian blinds have been put up in the windows which is a worry as they were refused residential status on the ground floor.
- 119 (iDirect/Validus) – new planning application has been submitted.
- 125 – new coffee outlet, the owners of which used to run The Chocolate Theatre Cafe.
- 127 – Eton Sports Shop – had their application to extend the ground floor for commercial purposes refused. ETC have been asked to help/support to turn this decision around.

In addition, progress is underway with work having started on the Cockpit.

The works at 53 High Street are continuing and the windows and sills have been installed.

#### **4. Treasurer’s Report**

December was very busy with Christmas activities with monies coming in. As an overview, ECA had around £8K in to the accounts and approximately £7K going out. Continual expenditure is the next issue of Eton Matters.

#### **5. RBWM Councillor Matters**

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

- I. The new ‘Access Able’ website and app was launched – people who have disabilities, be it sensory, physical, dementia or autism etc. are able to log on to these online facilities to see what accessibility there is at their chosen activity/destination/shops etc. This covers both Eton and Windsor. Training is also available for those that wish to be able to convey the right information to those that need it and shop windows will be able to display a sticker to show that their staff are trained in this area.
- II. RBWM budget – the reserves have been doubled to £11 million in the last 3 years.
- III. Four new police officers have been approved, budget wise for the area, including Eton.
- IV. More street cleaning has also been approved.

- V. One hour free parking has been extended to the Victoria Street car park which will help enormously.
- VI. A new chief executive has been appointed for the Royal Borough starts in April.
- VII. More information is being awaited for the concert to be held at Windsor Castle for the Kings Coronation (ballot for attendance), and several street parties have been confirmed, including the one being hosted by the ECA in Eton.
- VIII. Electric car charging points – this is a complex project after much investigation, but is something that will be looked at in the future by RBWM after this project was stalled by them.

Cllr Rayner

## 6. Events

**Next litter pick** – confirmed date to be **Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am**. the Henry VI pub has agreed to provide pizza slices thereafter for all those participants from 11.30am onwards.

**EIC fundraising dinner and ball** – see Section 3.III. for details.

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

**Windsor Races evening** – to be held on **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June**. Again, details to be circulated closer to the time in the newsletter and future meetings.

**Coffee and Catch Ups in St John’s Church in Eton** have taken place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays (now Thursdays instead) and Fridays since the end of November. The Eton Information Centre has co-ordinated and resourced much of this. The expectation is that these would be augmented by Mums and Toddlers from mid-January and the church will stay open from the start of Mums and Toddlers to the end of Coffee and Catch up on at least 2 days per week throughout the winter.

**Coronation Street Party - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May** is being organised for the Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III. Entertainment is now in place and the road closures/parking suspensions will be confirmed shortly. The party will start at 1pm thru to 5pm. Tickets will be £10 each (636 in total), the locations for purchase of which will be communicated nearer the time.

**ECA AGM/community meeting – Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June at 18.30.**

**Music diary for Eton College** was circulated to the meeting attendees, and also the **Farrer Theatre**, upcoming performances will be conveyed at the next meeting.

SG

**Eton Action Fair** is to be held on **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March** – this was postponed back in November 2022. The **End of Term Concert** is due to be held on **Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> March**, details of which will be posted into the newsletter.

## 7. Eton Porny School Update

Unfortunately, Katherine Russell was not able to join us for the meeting to provide an update.

## 8. AOB

### Eton Town Council

102 High Street, Council Offices – by way of increasing revenue, the Council have reached out to small/medium local businesses and offered the main board room space for meetings, training courses, get togethers etc. An Open Evening is taking place on **Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm – 8pm** with wine and cheese provided to showcase the facilities, everyone is welcome. This will also act as a fact finding exercise to understand what businesses want from this meeting space, and how the rooms can be improved/altered to accommodate their needs if there is a business case to do so.

There will be a vacancy(s) on the ETC coming up in May; invites were extended to the attendees should they wish to consider standing as an Eton Town Cllr.

### South Meadow Lane pathway

The grounds on the path and gates of entry to the recreational ground are in bad condition. Costs have been investigated to repair the area and make good.

### Eton Information Centre

The centre is very busy at the moment working on various projects and tourism opportunities. Additionally, the staff are working on the gala dinner and the Warm Winter project that has been running in Eton since November at St. Johns church.

There are two opportunities to show your artwork, both no.67 and no.79 High Street, please enquire with Sue at the EIC if you would like to use these spaces.

The Instagram page is doing fantastically, please visit [@visit\\_eton](#), along with the website [www.visiteton.info](http://www.visiteton.info)

Thanks were extended to both Sue, Barbara and the rest of the staff for all their hard work.

## 9. Next Meeting Date

Date confirmed as Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm. Please e-mail AOB to [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk) prior to the next meeting.