



## **Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 25th September 2024 at The Christopher**

**Attendees:** Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Wendy Rowland, John Rowland, David Eton, Darren Hayes-Powell, Margaret Hayes-Powell, Elizabeth McMahan, Hardip Virdee, Barbara France, Kim Carpenter, Ian Read, Teresa Read, Chris Barber, David Currie, Ann Currie, Dawn Palmieri, David Palmieri, Anilie Anderson, Shirley Young, Debbie Gregory, Martin Cabble-Reid, Sylvia Ellis, Ben Willcox, Bryn Lee, Julia Gosnell, Stephen Gosnell, (James Gizli, Michael Knight (represent Cappadocia Restaurant)).

**Apologies:** Mike Blightman, Kate Blightman, Malcolm Leach, Stewart Rogers, Monaliza Cadwallader, Barbara Hunt, Annelie Van Jaarsveld, Cllr Mark Wilson, Maggie Waller, Celia Harvey, John Harvey, Thames Valley Police.

### **1 Welcome & apologies**

### **2 Minutes & matters arising**

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

- i. Action List and walkabout:
  - lampposts base devoid of paint: no action as not deemed unsafe.
  - Paul Roach will join RR and PE for next walkabout.
  - south-west bridge light flashing is due to buried damaged cabling means that the otherwise unlit steps are unsafe in the dark, timer switch to be changed to an earlier time for balustrade lights.
  - bus stop will be done by the end of the month, or has already been done.
  - traffic light signposting in the way so you can't see sign for Eton.
  - very little headway with Tivoli who are the contractors for putting things right in Eton.
- ii. Electric bikes and cycling across bridge is mentioned at every Eton town council meeting.
- iii. TVP can't make this community meeting despite running drop-ins across the area.
- iv. We now have ANPR/CCTV cameras on the bridge which are picking up number plates; motorised bikes not allowed to be walked across the bridge, except for scooters.
- v. ETC are talking to Yardleys about their contractor not collecting rubbish when they say they do.
- vi. Odd happenings at Elizabeth Arch outside Council office: sadly, a bird was set alight, also books lined up.
- vii. Douglas Hill is sadly missed, he passed away in September, a one-minute silence was

observed.

- viii. Bob Austen, our Town Clerk was taken unwell, we wish him a speedy recovery.
- ix. Following the recent gas outage, residents and traders will get a reduction in their gas bills.  
Action: talk to CCW (Water Council) because of massive impact on local businesses RR
- x. Eton Stationers may become a dentist.
- xi. Currently 3% vacancy rate compared to 6-8% in Windsor.
- xii. The College planned to test their Emergency Response Systems sirens in September. Once date has been decided, ECA will try to issue a one-off Shout Out to warn the residents.
- xiii. Police are aware of our priorities, but services are impacted by resources.
- xiv. Buddleia is damaging the structure of Windsor Bridge and needs to be rectified.
- xv. Bryn Lee is talking to Paul Roach to try to arrange signage to tell visitors as they enter Eton and also to signpost Eton from Windsor town centre.
- xvi. Great Park Home Care have opened at 10 High Street.
- xvii. Eton Brides has closed down.
- xviii. Council want to keep retail units as retail.
- xix. The Rancher is offering up to 44 locals a 15% food discount evening, together with a donation to ECA. This must be booked through either [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk) or through [chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk).
- xx. A local resident encouraged people to talk to Robert, the beggar on the bridge. RR points out that he has a home, food and an allowance. Agreement that it is better to support people by giving to charity rather than to individuals.

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

- i. In the absence of the Treasurer, RR reported that the accounts are in good shape.

#### **5 TVP Update**

- i. TVP not represented here today, however;
- ii. Someone knocked on a front door. They had been followed on a train by three well-dressed people who stole their watch in the Meadows Lane area. Cllr Margaret Hayes-Powell says ETC are trying to get funds for CCTV to cover the car park.
- iii. There have been car break-ins and thefts. Any incident like this should be reported either by ringing 101 or online.

## 6 Eton Information Centre

- i. EIC have started doing tours of Eton. We are encouraging people to book through Tourist South East, local hotels, local organisations and the EIC.
- ii. Will organise a half-term activity encouraging young people to explore the High Street.
- iii. Christmas pantomime window display will be in EIC.
- iv. There will be a pantomime competition for children from 16<sup>th</sup> December to 8<sup>th</sup> January.
- v. Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October presentation to head teachers.
- vi. EIC encourages using the chairs there to sit, chat and to reminisce.
- vii. Footfall is 44% up comparing August this year with August last year.
- viii. Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March EIC ball to raise funds for EIC, venue to be confirmed.
- ix. Plans for an Eton Arts and Crafts week in June 2025.
- x. This year's Living Advent calendar will include 4 Eton locations, which will appear in Shout Out.

## 7 Business Update

James and Michael arrived and spoke to us about the plans for what was previously the "Eton Mess" building. They respect the building and therefore it will be a slow process to open.

A resident was concerned about noise from the building – there have been problems with noise previously. Contact and liaison will be made with Ben Willcox so their concerns are addressed.

Some opening night revenue will be donated to a local good cause.

## 8 Events

- i. Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> Autumn litter pick, meet at 10:30 am outside the council offices.
- ii. Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October Sport @ Eton at the Verey Gallery. Booking required. Book through [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk)
- iii. From Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, the poppies will be put up in the High Street which will remain until shortly before the Christmas event.
- iv. Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October - community meeting in the Hop House. "Eton Matters" incorrectly had this as 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- v. Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Event.
- vi. Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November - Christmas Dinner (formal event) at the Christopher Hotel. Finalising details and plans.
- vii. Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December - Community Meeting at the Hop House including

canapés and drinks.

- viii. Julia Gosnell has provided the Eton College music schedule from September to December.
- ix. LB will update online list of events and put link in 10<sup>th</sup> October Shout Out,

## 9 Christmas Event

- i. Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November lights switch on (raffle prize to turn them on).  
17:00 need 6 volunteers at chapel – names needed by Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October for College security checks.  
17:30 service in chapel followed by procession along High Street, tickets will be on sale around the weekend at end of half-term.

Action: volunteer through BW, RR or LB by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October

All

- ii. Thanks to BW and to SG for organising this.
- iii. Residents welcome to donate to this event, form is available from [chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk)

## 10 AOB

There was a general discussion around the recent gas outage – the gas people (Cadent) were “amazing”. People started to nominate local heroes but there were so many – some who wish to remain private. As a community, we were able to speed up access to properties so that this sped up the repairs. It was suggested that supporting the Pantry fruit and vegetable shop is a way of thanking one of the many who helped.

Action: put general thanks in the 10<sup>th</sup> October Shout Out

RR

## 11 Next Meeting Date

- i. Date of next meeting is Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October at the Hop House, George Inn.

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