



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 28th February 2024 at The Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Christine Barber, Stewart Rogers, Cllr Devon Davies, Dawn Palmieri, David Palmieri, Lars Swann, Roger Prior, Ian Read, Teresa Read, John Rowland, Wendy Rowland, Julia Gosnell, Stephen Gosnell, Ben Willcox, Katherine Blightman, Mike Blightman, Ann Currie, Peter Eaton, Barbara France, Gill Eagle, John Hunt, Elizabeth McMahon, Debs Gregory, Malcolm Leach, Amanda Snell, Katherine Rogers, Annelie van Jaarsveld, Bryn Lee, Henne van Jaarsveld, Antony Cove, Sylvia Ellis.

Apologies: Shirley Young, Katherine Russell, Cllr Mark Wilson, Hardip Virdee.

1. Welcome & apologies

Correction to the agenda: “Michael Barber” should be “Matthew Barber”.

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

- i. The barber’s, Popeye’s external lights have been removed.
- ii. 109 High Street continues to make unapproved changes, making retrospective applications.
- iii. Tables and chairs on the pavements vary along the street with different licensing for different businesses. Some previously approved licences have been refused on renewal request.

Action: update us on status

Cllr MW

- iv. Flaming Cow trade waste is under consideration now that Eton Mess is being marketed. The “over the top” hoarding at Eton Mess does not have planning permission. There are six expressions of interest – a mix of to buy and to rent.

Action: report this to the enforcement process, unless it is temporary

Cllr DD

- v. Some traders continue to use residents’ bins; report offenders to RR.
- vi. Have asked Highways to wait until Thames Water complete restoration of previous sign and arrow directing cyclists away from the bridge end of the High Street. DP says that current signage is difficult to see for cyclists who are looking down for the best point to join the High Street rather than up at the signs. Discussion around alternatives such as a planter with signage to steer cyclists away from one-way system. Cycle signage (National Cycle Way responsibility) is very poor.

Action: DP has experience, PE knows history, ML to ask Town Council for suggestions

DP, PE, ML

Action: check that poor cycleway signage is still on the Action List

RR, Cllr DD

- vii. Lights on bridge still not working. Plan is to use a non-matching light – not acceptable for this Grade II Listed structure. The problem with the balustrade lighting is believed to be a timing issue. Greenery on the bridge is scheduled to be cleared.
Action: ensure that replacement light(s) conform to Grade II standards and are in keeping with the other 3 lights. Cllr DD
Action: e-mail Cllr DD about the Bridge and Grade II Listing requirements RR
- viii. Final streetlight outside 53 High Street is not yet installed. Paintwork at foot of the new streetlights continues to suffer from dog urine damage.

3. Update on Article 4

- i. Lars Swann, Eton Town Councillor, explained that the Article 4 direction overrides permitted development rights, to require Borough permission for some changes of use.
- ii. Deadline for the Article 4 consultation is 24th March.
<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/planning-guidance/emerging-article-4-directions>
- iii. Discussion around Article 4 with most speaking in favour while some are concerned that it could be heavy handed. Eton High Street has an eclectic mix of uses.

4. TVP Update

- i. LS reported on this as Matthew Barber was unable to attend.
- ii. The two main initiatives are targeting retail crime (actively arresting) and knife crime (overnight remand to go to Magistrate's court next morning).

5. Chair's Report

- i. Bryn Lee attended the Windsor and Eton Town Partnership where local facilities and events were discussed. The events list does not currently include all Eton events.
- ii. "Eton Matters" - The "Town & Gown" article from the College was not what had been agreed. JG will advise RR how to raise the priority of this in future.
- iii. Eton Information Centre opening days are reduced to reflect that Windsor Castle is currently closed two days a week for State Events while Buckingham Palace is being renovated.
- iv. RBWM would like to free up the Guildhall ground floor to rent out e.g. for wedding receptions. The museum and the Windsor Information Centre would need to be re-located.
- v. We have applied to the Prince Philip Trust to improve signage from the Windsor Central station to Eton.
- vi. Thanks were extended to editor Rosie and to PE for their work and contributions to "Eton Matters" which is due out soon.
- vii. Lighting and cycling are the top priorities for the Eton Action List.
- viii. Capital funding (RBWM) continues to be for safety only. The new financial year starts shortly.

- ix. High Street businesses:
53 High Street still needs 10 York stones – the development is in administration with the whole building up for sale.
If we can find 10 flag stones then only Highways or the developer can install them
The Cockpit situation is complicated and challenging.

6. Treasurer's Report

- i. Financial year ends on 29th February.
- ii. Income of approx. £23.2k, outgoings of approx. £23k.
- iii. Barclays Bank have made a donation of £200 as compensation for the problems transferring the mandate.
- iv. Reserve account has just under £5k, current account has just under £15k.

7. RBWM Councillor matters

- i. There is a draft budget proposal, but the financial status is not good. Most councils are having financial problems, it is not just RBWM.
- ii. Recently Tivoli have been trimming trees and hedges. The contract is up for renewal next year.
- iii. The council is trying to generate revenue, for example the wheel in Alexandra Gardens and the proposal to rent out the Guildhall ground floor.
- iv. Funding to re-paint the car park lines - (reducing the total number of parking spaces). The council applied for a grant. There was no advance warning that the cars would need to be removed for 3 days.
- v. The promenade has been cleaned just once despite claims that it is cleaned weekly.
- vi. There is a new Contracts Manager so please report into Cllrs DD, MW and JT where contracts are not being kept to.

Action: Provide name and email address of new Contract Manager to chair and secretary of ECA. Cllr DD

8. Events

- i. The Richard Amis exhibition was very good, with 19 attendees.
- ii. The recent litter pick is finding increasing amounts of rubbish, including in spots which litter pickers can't reach. South Meadow Lane is a particularly bad area for rubbish accumulation.
Some people dump filled dog poo bags along the path alongside the Windsor to Slough railway. Recently the area was mowed without first removing the dog poo bags.
Action: contact the College RR
- iii. ML is progressing with CCTV for South Meadow Lane but needs funding.
- iv. Spaces are still available for the Saturday, 9th March Ball to raise funds for the Eton

Information Centre. Contact RR if you want to book.

- v. Next pub walk being planned for Sunday, 26th May, details to follow in the newsletter.
- vi. Next pub quiz to be Thursday, 4th July, being organised by SR.
- vii. Next litter pick likely to be in May or June.
- viii. Eton Town Council office are currently closed for refurbishment, hoping to re-open by end of March. The Tuesday, 5th March Council meeting will be held at 19:00 at the Baldwins Bridge Institute. There are two vacancies for Eton Wick councillors.
- ix. There is a lot of graffiti. If you see graffiti happening, please take details and report it. GWR only take action if the graffiti is obscene.

9. AOB

- i. Eton Bank Court is increasingly finding dog owners bringing their dogs to toilet without bringing dog poo bags. PCSOs can fine people who do this. Eton Town Council have complained to Tangier Court. Next step is to report it to the police.

Action: supply e-mail address

RR

- ii. Someone is dumping dirty litter bins in Eton – at least one is labelled Slough. Maybe report as fly-tipping?

Action: report fly-tipped bins

LB

10. Next Meeting Date

- i. Date of next meeting is Wednesday, 3rd April, including AGM at 18:30.
- ii. In Autumn, two of the meetings will be at the Christopher Hotel because The Hop House won't be available.

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