



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 2nd November 2022 at The Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros, Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Ian Read, Teresa Read, Martin Cabble-Reid, Anna-Maria Bevan, Vindruth, Isabella Bevan, Dan Reed, Wendy Rowland, John Rowland, Nicola Bell, Peter Eaton, Christine Barber, Roger Line, Karen Waller, Sebastian Clifton-Walker, David Treder, Stephen Gosnell, Dawn Lee, Bryn Lee, Barbara France, Alan Lawrence, David Waddleton, Mike Brown, Roger Marrett, Monaliza Cadwallader, Ben Willcox, Shirley Young, Anthony Cove, Jarmila Dudko, Margaret Hayes-Powell.

Apologies: Cllr Samantha Rayner, Malcolm Leach, Katherine Russell, Julia Gosnell, Shahan Ledger, Derek Ledger, Sylvia Ellis.

1. Welcome & Apologies

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

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

- I. **TVP update** – discussions on ASB, cycling down the wrong way of the High Street, drug dealing etc – local resident Paul Edwards spoke to Eton Town Council/PC Jon Brooks/PCSO Melita Diprose to present to them the frustrations carried by so many of the Eton residents about the ongoing issues in Eton that appear not to be being addressed actively by TVP. He proposed that if help isn't forthcoming, matters would be taken into resident's hands by way of employing a private security firm and he requested support from ETC, potentially to support private security for an uplift in the precept. In response, ETC have invited the Police Commissioner to attend the next ETC meeting on Thursday, 1st December to answer questions raised. Further information on documented crimes not actively (allegedly) investigated to be provided to Margaret Hayes-Powell to help with her personal meeting with the Commissioner prior to the ETC meeting. RR

3. Chair's Report

The Eton Information Centre has been selected to be shortlisted for either the gold, silver or bronze award for the best Information Centre in the South of England. An update on the result will be announced in the weekly newsletter.

Any monetary donations for the **Eton Information Centre** as either being a sponsor of the month, or simply a contribution, are gratefully received as unfortunately due to Covid, reserves were disproportionately depleted and the centre requires additional funds. The proposed Crowdfunding page is due to be set up in the very near future.

Defibrillator training – date confirmed as **Thursday, 10th November** and will take place at the Eton Town Council Offices at 7pm, for approximately 90 minutes. The additional session being researched by Katherine Russell, where the event will take place at Eton Porny School, may now not be required until sometime in the future.

Remembrance Sunday – 10.55 am wreath laying to take place at St John the Evangelist in the Memorial garden adjacent to South Meadow Surgery, followed by the national 2 minute silence at 11.00am, and a service in the church for those who wish to join, followed by tea and coffee.

The Wall Game (Eton College) – Saturday, 19th November – this is a free event to watch, everyone is welcome. Start time is 10.30 but joining at any time is easy.

Living Advent Calendar – 1st December through to December 24th – 15 minute slots where performers sing, entertain or tell stories across both Windsor and Eton daily from 6.15pm. The schedule will be issued by RBWM closer to the time.

Events will be taking place at the Eton Information Centre, also at CSK Architects, the George Inn and at Eton College Museums.

Winter Initiatives – we have now been granted funding for this project; this is where St John the Evangelist Church will be open for residents to meet, chat, play games, have a coffee etc during the dark winter months, on Mondays, Tuesday and Fridays. A mums & toddlers' group will also be part of this plan, coffee and catch up sessions along with the potential for a book club or a bridge club, if there is the interest. This is being done in parallel with a similar set up in Eton Wick run by Rev. La Stacey. Anyone who would like to volunteer/be involved, or if you have any donations of mugs, games, puzzles, toys (chest to store them in) etc. that can be used, please contact secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

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. Alternatively, contact Bob Austen at clerk@etontc.uk

High Street shops and plans – those of significant change:

- Former Jack Wills – 3 interested parties have come forward for that shop space.
- Former Barclays Bank – to become a personal coach outlet, that will also provide coffee facilities.
- Faciology – opening on Saturday, 5th November.
- Eaton Café – due to be passed over to new owners shortly.
- 80 - Former Lily Chic – several interested parties have come forward however the owner is not entertaining renting this space at the moment.
- Cockpit – ongoing planning/enforcement issues has made this venture slower than necessary but the project team have plans in place/going forward to get this property back to its former glory as soon as possible.
- 52 (currently Warrens) will become an Antique outlet.
- 53 – works have now started again with the intention of completing this premises very soon.
- 61 – a dry cleaning/tailoring/mending business is due to open.
- 88 - Eton Antique Bookshop has now moved to the old Gregory & Tapping shop (93) and will be called Mostly Books. The Eton Antique Bookshop premises is available for occupation.

- 104/105 (Eton Travel) – Warren Properties will be relocating to this premises and therefore leaving their current location available for an antique shop who will be moving in at some point.
- 109 – appeal has gone in to overturn the decision to refuse planning to turn the ground floor space to residential.
- The Box Sash Window Co – delays due to serious damp issues so this has slowed in its opening.
- Former 'Red Carpet Shop' – will be opening soon as a coffee shop (new proprietors used to run The Chocolate Theatre Company).
- A Dog's Life shop unfortunately has now closed but the premises is due to be taken over and will become a farm shop, along with gifts. The opening date is due to be either the 1st or 2nd December. An open evening is being planned with drinks and nibbles, date to be confirmed.

4. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, an update will be provided at the next meeting.

However, we are in good shape regarding funds for the Christmas lights event and thanks were extended to Baldwins Bridge Trust, along with Eton Town Council and Eton College for their contributions.

5. RBWM Councillor Matters

Cllr Samantha Rayner was unable to attend so an update will be provided at the next meeting.

6. Christmas Light Switch On

The tickets for the Chapel Service will be on sale from 1st November and can be purchased from The Eton Information Centre and Eton Stationers, with a suggested donation of £3. The cross lights have now been erected and the mini Christmas trees will be up in time for the 17th.

The one-way part of the High Street will be closed from 5pm, and the rest of the High Street from College round to Eton Court will be closed from 6.30pm to accommodate the reindeer procession. Access would need to be made before the cut off time of 5pm.

Once the chapel service ends, the children from the chapel will be proceeding down the High Street with reindeer and Father Christmas which will then be finished off with the light switch on itself. There are a number of stalls that will be open, including one from the George Inn, Eton Porny School, a German sausage stall, coffee van etc, as well as the funfair rides which will be located near the bridge. The main charity that will receive the donations raised is again Alexander Devine. Details of the celebrity turning on the lights is still to be announced.

Thanks were extended to Paul Roach for his contribution to this event, along with Martin Cabble-Reid who will be compere for the evening.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer on the evening, please contact Stephen, Karen or Ben directly.

7. Events

Last litter pick – took place on **Sunday, 9th October** where 47 attendees came along and collected multiple bags of rubbish on this occasion.

Next litter pick – date to be confirmed in the New Year.

Christmas Light Switch On – Thursday, 17th November - preparations are all in place and going well.

Pub Walk – date confirmed as **Sunday, 20th November** - venue confirmed as The Fox & Castle in Old Windsor. The walk will take in the surrounds of Windsor Great Park, the Long Walk and Bears Rails Park and be approximately 5 miles. Further details will be announced in the newsletter. If you would like to join, please email secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

ECA Christmas Dinner – date confirmed as **Friday, 2nd December**. Details to follow.

8. Eton Porny School Update

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

9. AOB

Eton Matters has now been delivered to all households in Eton, however, if you have not received one, please contact secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk where we will provide you with a copy.

Local businesses, traders and hostelrys kindly contribute monies towards the **funding of the Xmas lights/mini trees/flags**, however, if you would like to contribute as a private individual, there is a form on the ECA website in which you can do so.

The **remembrance poppies** were put up in the High Street on Saturday, 29th October and they were placed on the new street lamp posts, positioned higher up so as to deter theft. Thanks were extended to Mike Brown who helped Leonie Bryant carry out this activity. They will be taken down before the Christmas lights are switched on.

Christmas wreath making session is to take place at Eton Porny School between 7pm – 9pm on Thursday, 1st December, at a cost of £35. If you are interested, please contact the school office directly.

King Charles III Coronation street party – this is to be discussed with the organising Committee and updates will be given at a later date. There are questions over whether this will be an appropriate occasion due to current world events and the King's wishes for a low key affair.

The drains were partially cleared down the High Street but it took much longer to complete due to the state of the pipes. Thames Water are due to return to finish and conduct repairs, details on time/date will be in the newsletter in due course.

10. Next Meeting Date

Date confirmed as Wednesday, 14th December at 6.30pm. Please e-mail AOB to secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk prior to the next meeting.