



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

Attendees: Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Malcolm Leach, David Treder, Marion Mackenzie, Anthony Morgan, Stephen Gosnell, Julia Gosnell, Katherine Russell, Karen Waller, Christine Barber, Dawn Palmeiri, David Palmeiri, Ian Read, Teresa Read, Barbara France, PCSO James Searle.

Apologies: Cllr Samantha Rayner, Sylvia Ellis, Shirley Young, Simon Weston, Elizabeth McMahon, Hardip Virdee.

1. Welcome & Apologies

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

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

- i. Minutes are being recorded for ease whilst our Minutes Secretary is unavailable.
- ii. Minutes from 20th October regarding the ETC website have been amended to reflect an inaccuracy, and apologies have been conveyed to concerned parties.

3. Chair's Report

- I. Thank you to Karen Waller and Stephen Gosnell for their hard work towards the Christmas Event in Eton. Additional thanks were given to Julia Gosnell for her being able to secure Sir Matthew Pinsent, and for Martin Cabble-Reid for compering on the evening.
- II. Christmas Window Competition is open for both residential and commercial premises; Cllr Samantha Rayner will be judging and giving the prizes to the winners. Thanks to Giovanni at Tastes Deli for the £10 voucher.
- III. Meeting with Tivoli, the company that deal with greenery in the town, took place and the ivy from Eton Court car park has now been removed along with the overgrown verge in Meadow Lane car park.

For the 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

- IV. Eton Matters has now been issued and delivered to residents; anyone that hasn't received a copy should report this to secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk.

- V. 'Celebrate Christmas' brochure should have also been delivered – this outlines all the events going on in the Borough at this festive time.
- VI. Living Advent Calendar – from 18.15 – 18.30 every eve, there is an event in either Windsor or Eton, i.e. 21st Dec, The George is hosting a Carol singing event. Others in Eton include The Henry, The Natural History Museum at College and the Eton Information Centre on 11th December; thanks go to Budgens for the kind donation of sherry and mince pies for the evening.
- VII. Refuse contractor issues – majority of concerns now resolved. Food bins are available, please contact Ros Rivaz.
- VIII. The Christmas tree unfortunately blew over in high winds; this was removed very quickly but, in the process, festive lighting and 2 street lights were affected. This was all fixed on the day but there is uncertainty on the replacement of the tree due to cost/availability of the right height of tree.

High Street shops and plans – those of significant change:

- The Cockpit – still awaiting final confirmation that the building has been sold. Plans are being put forward for its future use including a museum, along with the residential part.
- 53 – project currently on hold.
- Gregory & Tapping – new premises in Windsor and therefore we are likely to lose this business in the New Year.
- 109 – no update on residential/commercial footprint change.
- 126/127 (Eton Sports) – has applied to extend their commercial footprint.

4. Treasurer's Report

Two areas where monies have been pulled in are the Christmas Event and Eton Matters. Nineteen donations were received from residents/traders for the mini Xmas trees (and flag poles during the other months), along with monies from Baldwins Bridge Trust, Eton College and Eton Town Council. Ticketing and stall money is still being collected. So far, a total of **£737.50** has been raised for flags/poles and trees.

Advertising monies are being collected for Eton Matters which is an ongoing process throughout the year.

Figures were sent to the Committee for reference and any residents that would like to see a copy, please contact treasurer@etoncommunity.co.uk

We are low on flagpoles, the Chairman asked the attendees for their approval for the purchase of 12 poles to replace those that have either broken or no longer functional. This was approved.

In order to replace/fix the 3 mistletoe lights that were shorted during high winds, the cost is £136. This cost will be covered by ECA funds and again, approval was sort by the attendees and this was given for the expenditure.

5. RBWM Councillor Matters

Unfortunately, Cllr Samantha Rayner was unable to attend due to other commitments but she kindly provided us with an update for the meeting.

- I. Idling in the High Street – ongoing process.
- II. Green areas in Eton with Tivoli – helped to push through the works needed.
- III. Judging of the Christmas Window Competition on 16th December.

6. Thames Valley Police Update

PCSO James Searle attended the meeting and the following of interest was reported:

- I. Crime numbers are relatively low (as reported): residential burglary – 3; commercial – 1; theft from vehicles – 0; pedal cycle theft – 0; parcels off doorstep – 2.
- II. Beggar in High Street – confirmed as not homeless by his Housing Officer. He has been reminded on several occasions about his actions but he is a constant fixture by the arch next to Costa Coffee. Confirmed that the majority of the homeless in Windsor have been housed during the pandemic and those that continue to sit and beg are doing so without due reason.
- III. The Rough Sleeper Initiative – this ensures that if you are rough sleeping etc, individuals won't be there for very long, you are given help.
- IV. Any reports for begging should be sent to TVP 101 Online.
- V. Update given from the TVP Roadshow – brochures left for attendees to take on scams, online fraud, burglary prevention etc. A 'Homecheck' can be organised with TVP Neighbourhood Team to see how your home can be protected from intruders; budget is set aside for items for free.

7. Green Group Update

Thanks were extended to the Rotary Club for their donation of crocuses in recognition of the fight against Polio. These have now all been planted.

Forking to aerate the soil down at Baldwins Bridge has taken place; two Eton residents helped to carry out this task.

The willow trees at Barnes Pool – recommendations have been given on the pruning of the trees as they are very heavy at this point. Eton College have agreed to pay for their tree and we are awaiting confirmation from Baldwins Bridge Trust that they will pay for their tree. **(update post the meeting: Baldwin's Bridge Trust will pay for their tree).**

Excellent Plants, who cover the maintenance of the plants for the Eton Town Council areas and Barnes Pool, have been monitored to ensure the works that we require are done to a suitable standard.

8. Events

- Autumn litter pick – this went ahead on Sunday, 7th November and it was well attended yet again with 40+ people, including the Eton Boys. A good haul of rubbish was collected by all.
- Next litter pick – likely to be January/February where there will be less foliage on the trees allowing more access to the hedgerows etc. Details will be in Shout Out once date has been agreed.
- Christmas Dinner – 10th December, fully booked.
- Next pub walk – ‘Beat the January Blues’ will be organised in the New Year 2022, details of which will come via the newsletter.
- Henry VI exhibition – Eton Information Centre staff will be attending along with Eton community members at a date to be decided, but it will be a day event.
- Ann Thackery Richie exhibition – will inform ECA on date and times via Shout Out.
- Eton’s Bard, Thomas Gray and his Elegy – Spring date to be confirmed.
- Christmas Day gathering at the Henry VI – for anyone who would like to attend from 12pm onwards for a drink.

9. AOB

Eton Town Council Update

- I. Application put forward to RBWM for electric car charging points in Meadow Lane car park – communicating with a company who install/run them for free and permission has been asked from RBWM to allow them to operate. Update to be given on progress at the next meeting.
- II. South Meadow Lane Pavilion – draft plans have been drawn up. Once these have been approved specification wise, contractors will be invited to give their estimates on costings. Once a suitable building company has been chosen from a shortlist of 3, an idea on funding levels will be clear as to what will be needed to complete the project. Target date for completion is September 2022.
- III. Representative was elected to join the Poors Estate; the successful candidate was Dr. Ros Rivaz.
- IV. Confirmation of where real Christmas trees can be disposed of in Meadow Lane car park to be confirmed.

There have been reports of a dog walker with up to 15 dogs on South Meadow; some of the dogs have been quite unruly. Anyone knows who this person might be, please let the Committee know. This is so we can inform RBWM who have heard of this and wish to educate the person in question that having the number of dogs off leads etc can be alarming to others, and especially those with smaller, shy dogs who can frighten easily.

10. Next Meeting Date

Date likely to be Wednesday, 26th January 2022.

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