



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 13th April 2022 at The Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Katherine Russell, Christine Barber, Jeff Pick, Ben Willcox, Roger Line, Garaung Patel, Wendy Hermon, Linda Oatway, Jennifer Shephard, Louise Davidson, Bryn Lee, Dawn Lee, Barbara France, Malcolm Leach, Dawn Palmeiri, Cllr Samantha Rayner, Cllr Andrew Johnson, Julia Gosnell, Stephen Gosnell, Peter Eaten, David Treder, Shirley Young, Teresa Read, Ian Read, Tarek Elawadi, Bridget Bartlett, Margaret Hayes-Powell, Roger Marrett.

Apologies: Sylvia Ellis, Bob Austen, Elizabeth McMahon, Hardip Virdee, Karen Waller.

1. Welcome & Apologies

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

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

- I. Faceology at 41 High Street – owners emailed again to advise on black façade but no response as yet. Ben Willcox is continuing to reach out to them for a discussion. **BW**
- II. **Meadow/South Meadow Lane** – agreed that signs are going to be erected specifying that they are unsuitable for HGVs. More work needed to address the issue when Keate’s Lane needs to be closed. **Cllr Rayner/RR**
- III. **Installation of cigarette bins** on High Street businesses – dismissed due to the logistics of keeping them clean, the surrounding area clear of butts and being emptied on a regular basis.
- IV. **Installation of dual use bins** – to be investigated. **Cllr Rayner**
- V. **Two weekly bin collection** – progress has been made and being followed up by **Cllr Johnson**
- VI. **Defibrillator training** – date to be confirmed.
- VII. **Facelift project** – renamed the archway next to the Council offices to ‘The Queen Elizabeth Walkway’ and signs are being researched. Hanging baskets on the bridge also being looked into, but in conjunction with RBWM who should be funding them. Maintenance of the bridge due to vegetation growth causing potential structural damage is required and RBWM is responsible/to carry these works; however an offer was put forward for one of the local residents to help facilitate the removal with supplying a boat to help clear, but legalities would need to be cleared before any works are carried out due to Grade listing status of the bridge and the relevant authorities. **Cllr Rayner/Ben Willcox/Roger Line**

A planter has been suggested for placement on the Eton side of the bridge; costings and positioning are being looked into. Varnishing of the railings and benches also submitted as a need, and replacement of two lights that are the wrong type. Budget towards this project is limited; Windsor & Eton Society heading this project up but are not responsible for the funding.

3. Chair's Report

- I. **New PSPO signs** on the Brocas that have been revised with additional categories that members of the public can be fined for. Thanks were extended to Peter Eaton and Linda Oatway for their involvement in getting these signs underway from the outset.
- II. **Dog waste/fouling on the pavements** – has been an increase in fouling in Eton so handmade signs have been erected by Malcom Leach to discourage fouling and encouraging dog owners to clear up after their dogs. A question was raised as to additional CCTV could be put up on buildings by residents and the High Street but there are legalities involved in doing this. The legalities of taking images of offenders/use of community wardens and CCTV installation; now provided via the links below:

[Advice from Met Police](#)

[Advice from Devon Police](#)

[Advice from Avon & Somerset Police](#)

- III. **Flags** have now been installed down the High Street by ECA, along with the addition of the bunting, supplied by RBWM, in time for the Jubilee. Thanks were extended to David Treder for his help in the flag installation.
- IV. **Street lights** – decorative bases/collars and bars are now being added to finish off the 'heritage' look. One more post is needed to complete the installation which is outside No.53 where building works are still in progress. One resident had requested a black panel on one of the lamps so as to block out the light from their windows at night. Works to replace the non-compliant electrical junction boxes is now scheduled which in turn will eliminate any issues with the Christmas lights failing in large sections.
- V. Update from Wendy Hermon at **Swan Support re bird flu** – orange fence has been erected in Alexandra Gardens to stop swans heading across from Eton as they are seeking food from locals and visitors due to the 'no feeding' directive on the wharf side. This has now been lifted and we can now continue to feed as normal as the numbers of bird flu cases are dropping. The Swan Support team had been going out daily in the boat to feed the wildfowl and thanks were given to those that donated monies to purchase feed during this time.

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:

- Cockpit – level 4 survey underway and a schedule of works drawn up from the survey and then submit to RBWM for approval.
- 53 – construction work is still underway.
- 41 – owners contacted to advise on black façade but no response as yet.
- 61 – this has now been let and an estate agency will be moving into the premises.
- 89/90 – interior works are nearly finished and The Box Window Company and their offices and showroom will be based here.
- Gregory & Tapping – both the Windsor and Eton shops are open.

4. Treasurer's Report

The year ended in February and in 2021, we had an income of £7,200 and in 2022, we have had an income of £21,736. 2021 was slow, monies wise due to Covid, hence the leap in 2022 figures now that Covid is now being managed into everyday life. Most of that income for 2022 has been raised and earmarked for the Jubilee street party. £10,189 has gone out in 2022 so far which leaves us with £11,500 surplus over income but allocated as above. The current account now holds £47,500 but £25K has been raised by and allocated to the Barnes Pool project. Income has also been boosted by the Frogmore visit organised by David Treder. The reserve account is also healthy. Accounts have now been finalised and are now sat with the auditor so by the AGM, 18th May, audited accounts will be available.

5. RBWM Councillor Matters

Cllr Samantha Rayner kindly provided us with an update:

- I. Meadow Lane Footway – hopefully to be completed in the next 3 months.
- II. The first hour of parking for free in Meadow Lane car park has been approved from 4th April.
- III. Windsor Tourism Partnership – encourages accessibility for the disabled to visit the Borough, and Eton has been put forward as one of the leaders for this project.
- IV. Princes Foundation – asked to create a vision for Windsor and this in turn would allow Eton to take part in this initiative as well.
- V. As part of the Jubilee celebrations, it has been proposed by the Mayor of Windsor to floodlight the bridge. Fundraising is in progress for this idea.

6. Thames Valley Police Update

Jeff Pick, a representative of TVP who deals with the regional crime statistics and crime prevention kindly updated us on the **local data for Eton/Eton Wick**.

- I. Crime stats for the last 30 days – 0 burglaries (but a shed break in, nothing stolen); 3 motor vehicle thefts; 0 bike thefts; 1 theft from a motor vehicle; 1 report of criminal damage. He can only report on crime if it's reported by the public; no reports mean that this area will be bypassed as not needing as much policing than other areas that do report, and will be given priority, so the message is to 'report it'!
- II. Reiteration of the use of the 101 'Report It' page and also the TVP website, this will help facilitate with non-emergency crimes.

- III. Street Safe – this is a national initiative where anyone can go online and report where they feel they are unsafe. Two categories to choose from; Crime & Feeling Unsafe; and Environmental. RBWM are using this website to deploy resources.
- IV. Thames Valley Alerts link to be placed in SO and the website. RR
- V. Now working closely with the Windsor Cycle Hub at the Swan Pub in Clewer to get as many bikes marked and recorded with the Bike Register as possible.

7. Platinum Jubilee Street Party Update

Proceedings are well underway for the street party; street entertainers, road closures, tables/chairs/awnings, tickets etc all confirmed as in place.

Ticket price (£8) includes the table and chairs allocation, table coverings, awnings, bunting, and the entertainers. 300 tickets have been sold so far. During the Easter weekend, ticket sales will be suspended for 2 weeks so as to make sure the tickets which are left, are allocated to residents/businesses only and not to visitors who may be in Eton at the time. The idea behind this is to make sure only those from Eton and Eton Wick are given the opportunity to attend as this event is for locals only. In the interim, any local residents/businesses that want tickets, please contact either the Eton Info Centre or chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk and you will be accommodated.

**Anyone who wishes to help on the day, please let Ros/Christine know at
chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk**

8. Events

Full College Tour – went ahead on **Monday, April 4th** – 15 attendees and the 90 minute tour was very well received; included the Lower School, the oldest classroom in the world, the Upper School, and a tour through the Chapel and school yard. Another tour will be arranged as some residents missed out, but this will be at a nominal cost and organised via the Eton Info Centre.

Exhibition/talk on Sir Joseph Banks – Tuesday, 19th April – to be organised by the Eton Information Centre and open to the community.

Jack the Ripper talk – to take place in the Natural History Museum at College with PSCO David Bullock, date now confirmed as **Tuesday, 17th May**. Cost likely to be around £5-£8 depending on the inclusion of a drink.

Combined ECA Community meeting & AGM – Wednesday, 18th May at 6.30pm in The Hop House, The George Inn. Refreshments will be provided.

Next litter pick – scheduled to be **Sunday, 22nd May** at 10.30am.

Eton Walkway Walk & Talk – Monday 11th July - to be conducted by Hugo Vickers, the Queens historian, and he led the initial project for the Walkway. Cost is likely to be £15.

Jubilee Street Party – Saturday, 4th June - see Section 7.

Frogmore House and Gardens – confirmed as **Thursday, 25th August** at 4pm. Four places still available.

Defibrillator training – currently being researched and will be conducted at Eton Porny School, date and time to be confirmed. KR

Other events for consideration

Combermere Barracks – consideration is being given to this trip and details will be given closer to the time.

List of concerts/plays at College – to be obtained and details to be advertised in the newsletter. SG

9. AOB

Brocas refuse issue – led by Linda Oatway & Peter Eaton

There have been issues with refuse collections recently with the lack of regular pickups. In the last 2 weeks, it had been announced that RBWM will no longer collect the rubbish regularly and revert to 1 collection only on weekend days from April to September; this will lead to an unsightly mess with overflowing waste containers, as well as being overrun by vermin. Eton College owns the land and collects the rubbish from October to March period but does not generally assist during the RBWM summer period.

Emails have been conveyed between Eton College, RBWM and the Brocas Residents Association who have tirelessly complained and campaigned to get this situation resolved, but the answer that has been received is 'we will review it'. The solution is to revert back to the original collection schedule that has been in place for the last 10 years, i.e. daily collections by RBWM from April to September inclusive with 2 collections per day on Public Holiday weekends and weekends during the summer period. From October to March, Eton College take responsibility and generally empty bins 3 times a week but not weekends.

No weekday collections will mean some Sunday rubbish may remain all week and bins overflowing in good weather. The other issue is the rubbish that doesn't get to the bins, i.e. groups of people who simply leave their rubbish where they sit; it took one resident 90 minutes to do his own litter pick to clear one day's mess during the recent hot weather and it shouldn't be down to local residents to undertake this action. Additionally, the swans are eating around the rubbish and could in turn cause injury, as well as dogs who are walked on the Brocas.

Drug dealing is also taking place by the large tree; the police are informed but it has been going on for years and it's still not being tackled efficiently. The use of NOx on the Brocas is now prevalent with containers and balloon paraphernalia being left as litter.

Andrew Johnson, Head of RBWM has now taken this issue back to Council and will investigate this further to get a reconsideration on this issue, as well as setting up a meeting with Eton College who need to step up and contribute, as they are the land owners. Costs can be shared between College and RBWM.

An update will be provided at the next community meeting.

10. Next Meeting Date

Date to be confirmed as Wednesday, 18th May which incorporates the AGM, as well as the main Community meeting.

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