



## Minutes of the Eton Community Association Committee Meeting via Zoom on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Attendees:** Ros Rivaz (chair), Leonie Bryant, Malcolm Leach, Marion Mackenzie, David Treder, Stephen Gosnell, Christine Barber, Katie Leach, Jane Reed, Peter Eaton, Paul Roach.

**Apologies:** Cllr Sam Rayner, La Stacey, Katherine Russell, Karen Waller, Russell Lloyd, Sylvia Ellis, George Fussey, Bob Austen.

### 1. Welcome

Welcome was given to all attendees and rules set out for the meeting ahead.

Items not being discussed during this session were; Eton Action List, Eton Matters, flag/tree collection, Christmas event, church viability and the gas works.

### 2. Update on the RBWM Borough matters

Attached below is the synopsis from Cllr Samantha Rayner:



Update from Cllr  
Sam Rayner Aug 2020

Cllr Shelim was due to replace Samantha but was unable to join on this occasion.

Comments were as follows:

- I. ML – issues with slow progress of the gas works in the vicinity of Manley Gallery. Finishing of groundworks has not been done to a sufficient standard and has resulted in loss of business. Bernie Ridsdale @Cadent has assured that this will be rectified by the end of 10<sup>th</sup> August.
- II. PE – many issues with the Brocas, large groups and antisocial behaviour during lockdown. Police patrols were present but often at the wrong time of the day to tackle any problems, and once alerted, they were taking over an hour to attend. There appeared to be no attempt to disperse large groups or to reduce their size.
- III. PE – use of the service number 101 has proved unhelpful and advised that using the website is much more user-friendly and quicker for action to be taken.
- IV. Paul Roach attended a Forum that gave an update on the issues in the area and arrests had been undertaken along with dispersal orders issued, these extended to Windsor and Ascot. Patrol times were noted and will be fed back to make sure this is rectified to a more appropriate time. PR

Correspondence to be written to [WindsorCentralGeographical@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WindsorCentralGeographical@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk), Tracy Hendren – [tracy.hendren@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.hendren@rbwm.gov.uk) (rough sleepers beggars only), Paul Roach – [paul.roach@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:paul.roach@rbwm.gov.uk), Andy Aldridge – [andy.aldridge@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:andy.aldridge@rbwm.gov.uk) in order to inform of the speed of response for reporting Covid-19 related incidents and ASB. RR

### 3. Update on Town Centres

Paul Roach joined us to give an update on the journey from lockdown to opening up of the town centres, main points from the Windsor Town Forum are:

- I. **Initial work** - supporting businesses to get back up and running. 2,500 business were eligible for a grant and in all, 1,800 applied and got the financial help they needed. This equated to £37 million. There is additional funding for those that did not meet the original criteria, the application for this grant opens on 10<sup>th</sup> August, done on a 'first come, first served' basis.
- II. **Recovery plan** - comprised of looking at the reopening of town centres safely i.e. risk assessments conducted, socially distancing signage installed and other guidelines to keep the public Covid-safe. This was to allow non-essential shops to reopen on 15<sup>th</sup> June, pubs and bars on the 4<sup>th</sup> July and leisure centres on the 25<sup>th</sup> July.
- III. **Current position** – visitor numbers nowhere near the same levels as this time last year, footfall down by 36%. Car parking number up from April (2,500) to June (32,000). Visitor numbers up from April (113,000) to June (370,000) and August numbers (w/c 3/08) have reached 114,000 for 1 week.
- IV. Vacancy rates of premises is 7.5%.
- V. Communication plan is in place with three phases; 'Staying Local'; 'Moving About' and 'Outsiders In'.
- VI. Windsor and Eton town centres are proving to be bouncing back much quicker than similar areas in the country.

### 4. Update on High Street businesses

Going forward from Windsor's update, Eton High Street has various changes too, attached is the breakdown:



Status Eton High  
Street July 2020.pdf

No comments or questions were received on this by the Committee.

### 5. Update on Eton Town Council

Details of current projects were discussed and are as follows:

- I. There are 3 new projects; sustainability (part of the climate change program), community litter campaigns and salt bins.
- II. The EIC is not included in the 20/21 figures.
- III. There is a 60/40 cost allocation of costs to Eton Wick/Eton respectively. Populations and acreage are similar. However, this could be due to different constitution etc of the locations. Information and reasoning into this breakdown can be directed to the Treasurer.

### 6. Eton resident's questionnaire

Being the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ECA's inception next year, it has been proposed that we reach out to the residents of Eton to gauge what they would like to have change or improve with respect to their High Street and environs. Giving a priority to those problems cited by the residents would give us an insight as to where we concentrate our efforts and funding. This campaign was welcomed and agreed and an update will be provided once finalised.

## 7. Update on Covid-19 volunteer scheme and Hub Support

With the postponement of the Covid-19 volunteer scheme from the beginning of July (until further notice), what was achieved is as follows:

- I. 170 volunteers signed up
- II. 15 main area reps were allocated with assistants to help check area inboxes
- III. 2 or 3 people monitored the area inboxes for requests
- IV. 8 pickers went to Budgens to collate the food orders
- V. The first few weeks of lockdown saw the most activity for collection and deliveries
- VI. Currently still assisting two elderly residents with their ongoing needs.

In addition, we supplied:

- I. Hand sanitiser from WEBREW and distributed these to key worker locations (schools, pharmacy etc)
- II. Pharmacy collection and deliveries carried out until they were able to do their own
- III. PPE given out
- IV. 420 food parcels sent out to deserving households
- V. Gained an additional £500 from fundraising (DT).

We have maintained the database of volunteers, recipients and vulnerable residents and can be reinstated if needed **for Covid-19 related campaigns only** due to sensitivity of data.

Thanks were given to Leonie, Marion and David for their immediate response to the request in putting together a viable and sustainable solution to supporting our community in that critical first few lockdown weeks in March and for their ongoing work.

## 8. Update on Eton Information Centre

The EIC has reopened and going well with social distancing, for both staff and customers, in the shop. It will now be open 6 days a week despite there being a 25-30% drop in footfall (compared to last year's figures) but envisage that this will improve as the summer continues. (note that Windsor's footfall drop is 37.5%).

Hosted walks through Eton and the College have now been launched as the trial run was successful in its implementation.

## 9. Events

An update on the events was given:

### Pre-lockdown

- I. Combermere Barracks visit – contact via email/telephone made, awaiting call back. **MM**
- II. David Bullock talk – to be postponed to 2021 due to being an indoor event and issues on social distancing. **KL**

### Post-lockdown

- I. Summer 'Lockdown Litter' Drive – this went ahead on 26<sup>th</sup> July with 21 attendees
- II. Autumn clean – to be organised for October 2020 **LB**
- III. Pub quiz – validity to be assessed as an outdoor event will be subject to weather **LB/RR**
- IV. Fundraising dinner – on hold **CB/DT**
- V. Pub ramble – to be organised in the next 5 - 6 weeks. **CB/RR/LB**

## **Going Forward**

Event ideas are welcome from the Committee and should be emailed to [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk)

**ALL**

## **10. AOB**

### Wild Eton & Eton Wick

A group run by volunteers from Eton Wick have created an organisation that tries to make areas of their Borough more wild in places, in order to attract flowers, bees, insects etc, and thus expanding biodiversity.

Eton has many areas that are left to grow naturally and have an established relationship with the landowners, i.e. Brocas and surrounding fields and actively has a 'no mow May'.

Eton and Eton Wick are vastly different in their constitution i.e. EW is more rural with bigger spaces, Eton is more residential with a commercial High Street and lends itself to being tidy. As a consequence, it is not appropriate for Eton to be involved in projects that would work for EW due to this disparity in makeup. This Yin and Yang was an important feature of the E&EW Neighbourhood plan.

In order to cease any further activity involving Eton in this campaign, objections will be sent to ETC expressing our wish, the ECA, to remove our town name from the Facebook website and any literature pertaining to this organisation. We are pleased to support Eton Wick's endeavours. **ML**

## **11. Next Meeting**

Next meeting to be held on a future date to be agreed, usual timings and location of 6.30pm (Wednesday) in the Eton Town Council offices, 102 High Street are expected to apply.

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