



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 28th September 2022 at The Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros, Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Malcolm Leach, Christian Cox, Anna-Maria Bevan, Wendy Rowland, John Rowland, Katherine Rogers, Stewart Rogers, Nicola Bell, Peter Eaton, Christine Barber, Roger Line, Karen Waller, Sebastian Clifton-Walker, Marion Mackenzie, David Treder, Julia Gosnell, Stephen Gosnell, Dawn Lee, Bryn Lee, Barbara France, Dave Palmieri, Dawn Palmieri, Alan Lawrence, David Waddleton, Mike Brown, Russell Lloyd, Cllr Samantha Rayner, Cllr Andrew Johnson, Roger Marrett.

Apologies: Katherine Russell, Shahan Ledger, Derek Ledger, Monaliza Cadwallader, Elizabeth McMahon, Hardip Virdee, Ben Willcox, Sylvia Ellis, Shirley Young.

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair announced two new Committee members; Ben Willcox and Mike Brown. Ben unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting, Mike was warmly welcomed by the attendees.

Alan Lawrence, Academy Assurance, based in Eton for the last 3 years, who provide personal and commercial insurance, was also welcomed and introduced himself and his business concept.

David Waddleton, local resident was also introduced and welcomed back; David was involved with Eton Traders Association, with others, many years ago.

Christian Cox, Sebastian Clifton-Walker and Anna-Maria Bevan, another three newcomers were also welcomed.

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

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

- I. **Tivoli inadequacies** – see Section 5.
- II. **Missed rubbish collections** – reported and sorted. Any further issues should be reported to RBWM.
- III. **Mobile library** – we can apply via the Eton Town Council for this facility.
- IV. **Thank you letter to Brocas Fair organisers** – wishes were expressed via Eton College and were promised to be passed on.

3. Chair's Report

Athens, the new Eton College swimming pool facility is now available for residents to apply for membership. Cost is £150 per annum, with specific times where members can swim.

The **Eton Action Fair** was postponed in respect of the Queen's passing. New date is likely to be March 2023.

The Eton Walkway is now open again, and in addition, the marker that was in the floor at the entrance of Kingstable Street is due to be fixed back into place as it had become loose. Another Eton Walkway trip will be planned in the near future, carrying on from the walk/talk that was conducted by Hugo Vickers back in July. This is to provide further information that was missed during that tour.

Green Eton – another session is planned at Eton Porny School again and if anyone wants to volunteer to help, please contact secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk The delay in conducting this session was caused by an application to the Poor's Estate for funding for tree pruning and the earliest works can be carried out are October. Once the trees have been pruned, the gardening activity can commence.

Barnes Pool – this area is well tended and looked after, however, the other side (west) is looking increasingly untidy and unkempt. This side is managed by Eton College and contact is being made to ensure this side is maintained to a better standard. Overgrown foliage could impede the flow of the brook which would be detrimental to the ecology established at Barnes Pool.

World Café - two funds were available for the ECA to apply for, one for operational costs and one for capital costs, both of which are due to be submitted. Monies will be for the set up within the church itself and the activities provided, along with helping the renovation works required to make the church insulated, heat wise; the stained glass window has gaps. Another application has been submitted for the EIC in order to extend their services to include the provision of first aiders.

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:

- 41 - Faciology – this will be opening sometime in October.
- 17 - Skin HQ – this business has now unfortunately closed.
- Cockpit – property has now exchanged/completed and keys are now in the possession of the new owner.
- 53 – due to several ongoing issues with the owner, the site is now for sale.
- 61 – a dry cleaning/tailoring/mending business is due to open at this premises.
- Eton Antique Bookshop has now moved to the old Gregory & Tapping shop and will be called Mainly Books. The Eton Antique Bookshop premises is available for occupation.
- Eaten Café – will be changing ownership; the new Portuguese owners have the same vision as the current one from the existing owners, but will be providing Portuguese fare, but not fried foods.

- 104/105 (Eton Travel) – Warren Properties will be relocating to this premises and therefore leaving their current location available for a finance business (St James Financials), who will be moving in at some point.
- Former ‘Red Carpet Shop’ – will be opening soon as a coffee shop (new proprietors used to run The Chocolate Theatre Company).

4. Treasurer’s Report

No real movement in the Accounts this month, other than monies in for advertising in Eton Matters as invoices have recently been sent out to capture these costs.

Copies of the up to date Accounts were given to the Secretary and Chair for their records and offered to the attendees.

5. RBWM Councillor Matters

CLlr Samantha Rayner kindly provided us with an update:

- I. Since the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, RBWM were involved in Operation London Bridge.
- II. **The World Café**, one of the Royal Borough’s answer to the current cost of living crisis visited Eton Wick Village Hall on Wednesday, 21st September. This consisted of various organisations i.e. NHS, the police, RBWM library service, Draftbusters, CAB setting up stalls for residents of the local area to see what services are provided that can help with the current situation, along with the attendees sitting down to discuss with ‘partners’ what the cost of living crisis means to them and how can we help to alleviate this within the local communities. It was well attended, with approximately 60 people in total. Refreshments and hotdogs were provided by TVP. ECA attended with the intention of obtaining information to help with the application for funds to provide Eton with a ‘Warm Space’ during the colder months. St John’s church in Eton has been selected as the venue, which currently needs some renovation works in order to make it suitable for hosting groups of vulnerable residents. The idea is to provide activities/things to do during the day, for 3 days a week so that social isolation, energy charges are lessened for those that generally stay in the confines of their home when the weather turns.
- III. **The Living Advent Calendar** is due to start at the beginning of December through to Christmas Eve. The EIC will be involved in this for one evening. Free parking will be available throughout the Borough to encourage attendance.
- IV. There is funding available for a **Community & Wellbeing Project**, total of £5K.
- V. **Tivoli** inadequacies (green care contractors) – paper is going to Cabinet on Thursday, 29th September in order to review the contract. There have been several issues in Eton where works have been paid for but have not been started/completed. The offshoot from this that will also be discussed is the potential for local town councils/local communities to take on some of the minor elements of the contract, but still being able to hold the ‘higher body’ to account, should that need arise.

6. Thames Valley Police Update

Unfortunately, no member of the Community TVP team were able to attend this meeting.

However, Paul Edwards, one of our local residents will be presenting to Eton Town Council on Thursday, 6th October to outline the TVP inefficiencies that have led to prolonged ASB issues in various places in Eton. An update will be provided on the outcome at the next ECA meeting.

Cllr Andrew Johnson is meeting the Borough Commander on Friday, 30th September and requested details of the ASB issues we have experienced in Eton, and he will raise these points during that meeting.

RR

7. EIC Update

Barbara Hunt, the manager at the Eton Information Centre is stepping back from her role to a handful of days a month. The existing team of six will continue to provide an excellent service to the visitors to Eton going forward.

The EIC actively records each time someone comes in and visitor numbers have continued to increase since May (700 people so far). Information taken includes where they have come from and how long they are staying etc and it is evident that there are more people coming from overseas to visit Eton and are staying for a longer period.

A condolence book for HM The Queen was set up in the EIC, and this was well scribed. The book is still available for messages.

Opening hours have been extended; 6 days a week, 10am – 4pm. This has been achieved by differing shift patterns and staffing the office solely.

Services that the EIC provides include local ticketing services for French Brothers, the Tour Bus, College-run talks and tours, help with local charities, notably Swan Support where their calendars and cards are being sold. Eton College boys are also involved in work experience which is a great help. Guided walks are still available and are well attended. Collectively, the aim of the EIC is to push tourists down the High Street to support the local businesses within.

The website is now up and running, VisitEton.info. It hosts a large collection of photographs of the area, along with information pertaining to Eton itself i.e. local businesses, accommodation, hostelrys, things to do, heritage tours, walks, cycling tours and alike. The Instagram page is also very popular with many 'likes' for the images posted. Feedback is welcomed on the website, it is new and 'work in progress' so comments and ideas are ideal to help enhance the existing set up.

The Living Advent Calendar will be visiting the EIC for yet another spectacular performance headed up by David Treder, date to be confirmed closer to the time.

A photographic competition is likely to be held, this is to encourage people to go up the High Street and takes some snaps; more information will be released on details once finalised.

The window display will be changed at the end of October in order to commemorate Remembrance Day in November, then followed by a display for Christmas.

8. Events

Frogmore House and Gardens – Thursday, 25th August at 4pm. This was a well-attended event (25 people) as Frogmore House is only open a handful of a days a year.

Defibrillator training – currently being researched by Bob Austen, Eton Town Council clerk, and information will be circulated once dates and times have been confirmed; that will take place at the Eton Town Council Offices. An additional session is being researched by Katherine Russell where the event will take place at Eton Porny School.

Next litter pick – date confirmed as **Sunday, 9th October** at 10.30am onwards. Eaten Café will be providing lunchtime treats for all attendees.

Christmas Light Switch On – Thursday, 17th November. Letters have been circulated to establishments down the High Street inviting them to have a stall outside on the evening, applications will be followed up in due course. Preparations are well underway and all going well at this point. Thanks were extended to both Karen and Stephen for all their hard work in order to make this event a very successful and enjoyable one for Eton.

Pub Walk – date confirmed as Sunday, 20th November, venue may be The Loch & Tyne in Old Windsor, the walk taking in the surrounds of Windsor Great Park, the Long Walk and Bears Rails Park. Further details will be announced in the newsletter.

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.

Christmas Dinner – date to be confirmed **but likely to be 2nd or 3rd December.** Details to follow.

9. Eton Porny School Update

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

10. AOB

An application has been submitted into the BBC to include The Cockpit in Nick Knowles' Heritage Restoration TV programmes. Interest was very high and a visit is due to see how they can use the Cockpit in their line-up. Additionally, an application has been sent to request that King Charles III open the Cockpit when its back to its former glory and opened to the public, the link being that King Charles II frequented the Cockpit during his time as King. Lastly, Madame Tussauds have been approached to join in collaboration which will help with the historical angle of the building, and the original village stocks and whipping post will help towards creating a scene within one of the rooms.

Christmas funding – ECA ask all the traders in the High Street for a donation of £50, £100 or £150 towards the mini-Christmas trees and flags that adorn the Town. This year's switch on event is on 17th November. Donations can be done via manual donation or electronically. Residents are also welcomed to donate, should they wish to.

The **Warm Space initiative** that the ECA are hoping to launch very soon needs some volunteers to help set this up and run for the 3 days a week that are planned. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

A Crowdfunding page is being set up for the Eton Information Centre, as the centre does run at a slight loss, further details to be released.

Thanks were extended to Russell Lloyd, our website and newsletter administrator who manages all things technical. Russell does an amazing job!

Thanks were also extended to Johnny at Venture Photography who kindly donates a prize for the winner of the EIC photographic competition.

Eton Town Council update

- As of October 1st, the **sports hall in Eton Wick** is now available at £25 per hour for anyone who wishes to hire it. Bookings for the facilities will be via an online system.
- The **South Meadow Lane pavilion** redevelopment process is progressing.
- The **Town Council offices at 102 High Street** is now hiring out the main chamber for conferences, meeting etc. The booking system will be via the Eton Town Council website shortly.
- The Town Council have been trying to push through an application for **car charging sockets** at South Meadow Lane car park but to no avail. RBWM have unfortunately turned this opportunity down due to electrical supply infrastructure issues.

11. Next Meeting Date

Date confirmed as Wednesday, 2nd November at 6.30pm.

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