



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 30th October 2024 at the Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Stewart Rogers, Barbara France, Kate Blightman, Mike Blightman, Ian Read, Teresa Read, Bruce Cabble-Reid, Martin Cabble-Reid, Adrian Greensmith, Julia Gosnell, Stephen Gosnell, Kim Carpenter, Simon Carpenter, Dawn Palmieri, David Palmieri, John Rowland, Wendy Rowland, John Hunt, David Waddleton, Anna-Maria Bevan, Isabella Bevan, Vida Bouvaine or Rae, Noel Whelahan, Sylvia Ellis, Lizzie Davison (TVP), Natalie (TVP), Ben (TVP).

Apologies: Shirley Young, Annie, Christine Barber, Ben Willcox, Malcolm Leach, Peter Eaton, Annelie van Jaarsveld, Elizabeth McMahon, Hardip Virdee.

1 Thames Valley Police Update

- i. Datchet dispersal order for 31st October is to manage Halloween pranks.
- ii. TVP ran an operation around quad bikes. There is one group who are organised about their quad bikes. TVP identified a separate group including a car who were lamping. The driver has been issued with a Section 59 warning for anti-social driving.
- iii. A local landlord is trying to terminate the rental contract of some tenants because of noise disturbance. The house has recently been let.
- iv. One of the meeting attendees has seen three unidentified youths who were smoking illegal substances in Eton Wick.
- v. There has been criminal damage to a bike.
- vi. A mobile phone was stolen around 5:30am near the back cycle path.
- vii. Operation Lycra has seized two e-scooters and issued 7 cycling tickets. Aim to repeat this monthly.
- viii. A vehicle stolen in Eton Wick is being investigated.
- ix. Two suspicious people in Eton Wick have been issued a Section 59.
- x. Two stolen bikes have been found and recovered.
- xi. A fight was reported outside the Watermans recently, which carried on down the High Street. The participants were subsequently arrested near Budgens. Ben (TVP) can provide further updates.
- xii. One of the meeting raised a suggestion of organised crime. TVP confirmed this and explained actions being taken to warn people and to disrupt these criminal activities. Mostly rucksacks and mobile phones at risk. TVP have photos of three culprits and another two females have been deported.
- xiii. RR asks for the Goswell street taxi rank to be re-instated.

2 Welcome & apologies

- i. As above.

3 Minutes & matters arising

- i. Problems continue with e-bikes crossing the bridge. RBWM and TVP are working on this.
- ii. Recent gas outage: drawing a blank with trying to get more recompense for businesses. Waiting to see what happens with bills.
- iii. Christmas Event: thank-you to volunteers, additional volunteers will be welcome.
- iv. ECA has thanked Cadent.

4 Councillor Actions

- i. No councillors at this meeting so RR gave updates provided from Cllr Wilson.
- ii. Bridge balustrade timing still isn't right, not helped by recent clock change to GMT.
- iii. South-west lantern now has permission to excavate to identify the fault in the cabling.
- iv. Usual reminder that the man on the bridge does have a home and food. Don't give him money. Report to 101 if he causes problems.
- v. ECA is pushing to clear slippery fallen leaves from the tow path on the Windsor side.
- vi. The bridge structure is being damaged by buddleias and ash. There is an option to report this to Environmental Heritage.
- vii. Bus stop by Budgens has been repaired, but there is a problem with the traffic lights at the Keate's Lane/ Slough Road junction.
- viii. Tivoli continue to not manage the greenery as they should. RBWM are aware.
- ix. New lamp post outside what used to be Eton Stationers looks pristine compared to others which have been damaged by dog urine. There is an option to investigate for hydrophobic paint which will repel the acid in urine.

5 Treasurer's Report

- i. Accounts are doing very well.
- ii. Still receiving contributions to the cost of the Christmas Event – more will be welcome. Likely to be close to covering its cost.
- iii. Eton Matters income from adverts is almost up to date with a few payments to come in.

6 Christmas Update

- i. Thursday, 14th November from 6pm – see posters in windows.
- ii. Road closure signs are up, Christmas trees are installed.
- iii. Tickets are on sale from Eton Pantry and from the Eton Information Centre.

7 Business Information Update

- i. Great Park Home Care have recently moved from Windsor to Eton, having been in business for almost ten years. Adrian Greensmith reports that they have their own staff, not agency staff. They are happy to chat as a free consultation. He and his co-owner, Romola, met while volunteering for MENCAP.
- ii. The Eton Pantry now include a range of giftware. They also (in conjunction with Vida) run an art and pottery club between 6:00pm and 8:00pm. If other groups want to use the Pantry shop space, then please talk to Anna-Maria Bevan.
- iii. Shout Out fortnightly newsletter has a policy of not favouring individual businesses. "Eton Matters" sells advertising space for businesses that want to publicise their offerings.
- iv. The Windsor & Eton Living Advent Calendar events in December include one at CSK Architects supported by Eton Pantry, one at The George and one at Eton's Natural History Museum.

8 Bus Route Changes

- i. Some of the Eton bus routes are going out to tender. More details will be supplied at subsequent meetings once an outcome has been reached.

9 Eton Information Centre

- i. EIC needs to raise money to keep operating. The ball on Saturday, March 22nd will contribute to this. Looking for items to auction.
- ii. EIC have produced "Discover Eton" for school children to find out about historical treasures in Eton. There will also be teddies in windows for younger children to spot.
- iii. EIC will shortly display Christmas items.
- iv. The map of Eton is updated quarterly with new sponsors. Windsor Theatre is the current sponsor.
- v. EIC are supporting Windsor Tourism's application to Berkshire LVEP.
- vi. There will be an Eton Arts and Crafts week from Monday, 26th May to Sunday, 1st June 2025.
- vii. Other fund raising possibilities were discussed, including the challenge of tight deadlines. ECA is not yet set up as a charity.
Action: anyone with fundraising skills needed ALL
- viii. Will arrange for more bricks to be engraved near the Austen-Leigh & Baldwin Institute. Cost will depend on how many are interested.
Action: e-mail secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk if interested in a brick engraved. ALL
- ix. Some existing engraved bricks are deteriorating or are in need of maintenance.
Action: RR

10 Events

- i. Sunday, 6th October very successful litter pick, next likely to be January or February 2025.
- ii. Thursday, 17th October Sport@Eton at the Verey Gallery was fantastic.
- iii. Thanks to Bryn, Dawn and Leonie for installing poppies on lamp posts on Sunday. Remembrance Event will start with wreath laying at 10:50am Sunday, 10th November in the grounds of St. John the Evangelist before continuing into the church.
- iv. Wednesday, 11th December 18:30 - the next ECA meeting will include drinks and canapés.

11 Chair's Report

- i. Very limited work happening in The Cockpit, but this is a start.
- ii. Eton Stationers is to become a private dentist.
- iii. Eton Mess is becoming a Turkish restaurant called Cappadocia. Feedback from nearby residents has been favourable regarding building works' noise.
- iv. The Rancher recently held a discounted event for locals. They now want to re-position and are reviewing options.
- v. Côte Brasserie take in their deliveries between 5:30am and 6:00am – this has proved disruptive to local residents.
Action: talk to Côte RR, Noel
- vi. The Eton Town Council has a new temp Vaishali Datta Ker whilst Bob Austen, the current clerk is unwell. They are still looking for a new town clerk.

12 AOB

- i. Local resident asked about the impact on car parking due to the recent cost increases. Meadow Lane Car Park usage is up, Eton Court Car Park usage is slightly down. Parking in Eton is still cheaper than parking in Windsor town centre.
Action: raise at Windsor and Eton Partnership BL

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