



ETON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECA)

Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting.

On Wednesday, 17th June 2026

at The Watermans Arms, Brocas Street, Eton

Attendees:

Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Linda Tarbox, Simon Carpenter, Kim Carpenter, Teresa Read, Ian Read, Hennie van Jaarsveld, Anthony Cove, Dawn Palmieri, David Palmieri, Peter Eaton, Chris Spence, Sandrine Cocks, Amanda Snell, Malcolm Leach, Katie Leach, Barbara France, Lloyd Beaumont, Julia Gosnell, Stephen Gosnell, Deb Martin, Charlotte Hughes, Sylvia Ellis.

Apologies:

Rene Townsend, Amanda Street, Annelie van Jaarsveld, Stewart Rogers, Elizabeth McMahon, Hardeep Virdee, Celia Harvey, John Harvey, Monaliza Cadwallader, Graeme Read, Bryn Lee, Dawn Lee.

1. Welcome and Apologies

i. The Chair welcomed everyone to the June Community Meeting. Particular welcome was extended to first-time attendees and visitors, with members encouraged to introduce themselves and continue supporting the Association's activities. Apologies were received as listed above.

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

i. Pothole Repairs

Cllr Mark Wilson had previously confirmed that a number of defects would initially receive temporary repairs before permanent resurfacing works could be undertaken. Contractors had subsequently returned to many locations and completed permanent repairs, demonstrating that the reporting process had been effective. Whilst recognising the progress made, members agreed that several defects remain outstanding and should continue to be reported as they arise. The Chair reminded everyone that continual reporting remains essential to ensure that defects remain visible within RBWM's maintenance programme and continue to receive appropriate priority.

Action: Residents to continue reporting highway defects through the RBWM reporting system.

ii. Parking Review

Cllr Mark Wilson confirmed that further work was still being undertaken and that additional information would be brought to a future meeting once available. Members acknowledged that parking pressures continue to increase throughout the town and looked forward to reviewing the comparative data before any future decisions are considered.

Action: Cllr Mark Wilson to present updated parking information at a future meeting.

iii. Monolith with map on Windsor Bridge

The map of Eton and information on the large Monolith could be better.

Action: Carried forward.

iv. Lammas & Common Land Report

The Chair congratulated Peter Eaton and Mark Olney on producing an outstanding report detailing Eton's Lammas and Common Land.

Members were encouraged to read the publication, now available via the Eton Town Council website, which documents the historic areas of Lammas and Common Land throughout the parish together with detailed mapping. The report has also been linked to interpretation boards through QR codes, allowing visitors to access the information whilst exploring the town.

v. Reporting Local Issues

Members were reminded that reporting concerns remains one of the most effective ways of ensuring that issues receive attention from the appropriate authorities.

Whether reporting highway defects, anti-social behaviour, planning concerns or environmental problems, it is encouraged residents to continue using official reporting mechanisms rather than assuming that others had already done so. Accurate reporting provides the evidence necessary for enforcement agencies and local authorities to prioritise resources and justify future investment.

vi. Arts Week Volunteers

The Chair thanked everyone who had volunteered during this year's Arts Week.

Members agreed that the event had been another considerable success and recognised the tremendous amount of work undertaken by Simon Carpenter, the organising team and numerous volunteers throughout the week.

3. Chair's Report

i. Recent Anti-Social Behaviour Incident

The Chair opened her report by addressing the significant anti-social behaviour incident which had occurred earlier that week and had understandably caused considerable concern amongst residents.

Leonie Bryant was specifically thanked for the exceptional amount of work she had undertaken in supporting local residents, communicating with Thames Valley Police and helping coordinate information throughout what had become an extremely challenging evening.

Members heard that the incident had involved a group of individuals who had reportedly been involved in criminal activity within Windsor before crossing into Eton. A serious altercation subsequently took place outside Costa Coffee, resulting in a major police response involving local officers, armed police, police helicopter support and extensive CCTV investigations. The Chair confirmed that three individuals had been arrested and taken into custody. Police subsequently implemented a Section 60 Stop and Search Order covering both Windsor and Eton from 5.24pm until 5.24am the following morning, providing officers with enhanced powers to search individuals within the designated area. Members noted that the visible police presence had significantly reduced activity later in the evening, with social media communication also appearing to discourage further gatherings.

Whilst acknowledging that anti-social behaviour has always increased during warmer months and around the completion of GCSE examinations, members agreed that this particular incident had been considerably more serious than those normally experienced.

ii. Police Clarification Regarding Knife Reports

The Chair addressed widespread rumours circulating on social media suggesting that a stabbing had occurred during the disturbance. Following direct communication with Thames Valley Police, members were informed that these reports were incorrect. Police had interviewed a number of witnesses and confirmed that no stabbing had taken place.

The clarification was welcomed, whilst recognising that the incident itself remained deeply concerning for local residents.

iii. Ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour

Although the most serious incident appeared to have been isolated, members acknowledged continuing concerns regarding anti-social behaviour throughout Eton during the summer months. The Chair noted that Brocas Street, Eton High Street and surrounding public spaces regularly experience increased levels of nuisance behaviour at this time of year.

Residents were once again encouraged to report every incident through the appropriate channels, using 101 for non-emergency matters and 999 where immediate police attendance is required. The Chair emphasised that the volume of reporting directly influences the level of police attention and resources allocated to the area.

Action: Residents to continue reporting all incidents of anti-social behaviour.

iv. Previous Community Security Patrols

A community-funded security patrol trial was undertaken several years earlier. Private security personnel had patrolled the town on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, observing and reporting issues including anti-social behaviour, drug activity, cycling offences and traffic violations. Whilst the trial generated valuable intelligence and demonstrated clear benefits, the scheme ultimately proved unsustainable due to limited financial support and the considerable volunteer commitment required to supervise the operation.

It was agreed that although similar initiatives could be considered again in future, they would require substantially greater community participation to remain viable.

v. Illegal Cycling

Concerns regarding cyclists travelling the wrong way through Eton High Street. Members recalled previous Cycle Watch initiatives undertaken alongside Thames Valley Police, during which volunteers had successfully educated cyclists and significantly reduced offences. It was noted that simply having volunteers visibly present often deterred cyclists from entering the restricted area altogether. However, maintaining sufficient volunteer numbers had become increasingly difficult and Thames Valley Police could only undertake periodic enforcement operations due to wider resource pressures.

The Chair invited anyone interested in assisting with future Cycle Watch sessions to speak with the committee after the meeting.

vi. The Cockpit Development

The previous ownership issue between the two joint owners had now been resolved, with one owner remaining. This was regarded as a significant milestone as responsibility for the project now rests with a single individual, allowing decisions to progress more effectively.

Applications are expected shortly to discharge outstanding planning conditions relating to drainage, the front wall and floor construction. Subject to RBWM approval, construction work can then recommence, ultimately allowing the removal of scaffolding and hoardings that have occupied the pavement for an extended period. Whilst recognising that planning approval cannot be guaranteed, members welcomed what appeared to be the most positive progress on the project for many months.

Action: Cllr Mark Wilson to monitor progress with planning officers once applications for conditions discharge have been submitted.

vii. High Street Regeneration and Business Updates

The former Eton Mess has now submitted a revised planning application to expand the proposed development by incorporating additional accommodation within the roof space. The revised application includes three further bedrooms together with additional roof windows. The Chair encouraged nearby residents to review the proposals and submit any observations through the formal planning process if they wished. It was noted that the operators already have successful hospitality businesses elsewhere, including Richmond and Redhill.

Unfortunately, there remains little visible progress at the former Gilbey's premises despite the removal of marketing boards.

An update was also given on the former Willow/Flaming Cow premises. It is expected that the premises will be on the market again soon.

Regarding the former Audrey's Hair Salon and then the Bridal Shop, activity by the new tenant, Barker Stone had temporarily ceased after an initial period of refurbishment. Discussions with Eton College and other contacts suggested that work should recommence shortly, although no firm timetable is currently available.

A prospective tenant has reportedly agreed terms for the Box Sash Window Company premises, although a rent-free fitting-out period means that visible occupation has yet to begin.

Significant progress continues to be made at the former Eton Stationers. Traditional joinery and conservation techniques are successfully restoring many of the original historic features of the building. The Chair noted that research had also identified the building's earlier history as the former Calladine's Stationers, and an article is planned for a future edition of *Eton Matters* documenting its heritage.

Kolly Coffee, the new café appears to be attracting good levels of trade and has been warmly received by both residents and visitors.

viii. Eton College Access Arrangements

Members received a detailed update regarding changes to public access across land owned by Eton College.

College intends to close the access point via Weston's Yard together with another route leading towards Fellows' Eyot. Members were advised that these routes are not legally designated public rights of way and that the College is therefore entitled to restrict access. The decision follows a number of safeguarding incidents in which members of the public have behaved inappropriately towards College pupils using these routes. The proposals had been under consideration for some time and were not connected with any recent Royal announcements. Considerable discussion followed regarding the legal position of various rights of way throughout the area. A resident explained that it appeared that statutory public rights of way would remain unaffected, including access beneath Fifteen Arch Bridge and other recognised routes across College land. Whilst members fully understood the College's safeguarding responsibilities, several expressed disappointment that long-established walking routes would no longer be available and highlighted the importance of maintaining strong connections between the College and the wider community.

The Chair confirmed that discussions with senior College representatives remain constructive and that relationships with the new management team continue to strengthen.

ix. Partnership Working with Eton College

Discussions are progressing regarding opportunities for community volunteers to resume gardening and maintenance work around the western side of Barnes Pool. Members welcomed this as an opportunity to improve the appearance of an important public space

whilst strengthening cooperation between the Association and the College. The Chair also reported that regular meetings with the College's new Estates and Community representatives have proved encouraging, with both organisations demonstrating a willingness to work collaboratively on issues affecting the town.

4. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chair reported that the Association's finances remain in a healthy and stable position. Income and expenditure continue to track within expected levels and there were no significant financial concerns requiring discussion at this meeting.

5. Thames Valley Police Update

Unfortunately, representatives from Thames Valley Police were unable to attend the meeting due to operational commitments supporting the policing of Royal Ascot.

The Chair thanked Thames Valley Police, Eton Town Council and local residents for their coordinated response regarding recent events (outlined in section 3) and once again encouraged everyone to continue reporting incidents promptly using 101 or 999 as appropriate.

6. RBWM Councillor Matters – Cllr Mark Wilson

i. Parking Review

Cllr Mark Wilson advised that work continues on gathering comparative parking data following discussions at previous meetings. The intention is to better understand parking demand within Eton before any future proposals are brought forward.

Members recognised that parking pressures continue to increase, particularly due to the number of properties without private off-street parking. It was agreed that any future proposals must balance the needs of residents, businesses and visitors whilst protecting the character of the town.

Action: Cllr Wilson to present updated parking information at a future meeting.

ii. Food Waste Recycling

Cllr Wilson explained that food waste continues to make up a significant proportion of household refuse placed into general waste bins and that increasing participation in the food waste collection scheme remains a Borough priority. Residents who have not already done so were encouraged to make greater use of the Council's food waste caddies. Information remains available through the RBWM website for those requiring replacement containers or wishing to join the scheme.

iii. Eton Wick Post Office Closure

Cllr Wilson confirmed that he had written to the Post Office seeking clarification regarding the reasons for the closure after receiving only a brief explanation citing “operational reasons.” A public consultation remains underway, and members were encouraged to support the local petition calling for the Post Office to reopen, recognising the importance of the service for many local residents.

Several members commented that although Windsor provides alternative facilities, they remain inaccessible for many elderly residents or those without access to transport.

Action: Cllr Wilson to continue pursuing the matter with the Post Office and report back when further information becomes available.

iv. Vehicle Speeds

Members revisited previous concerns regarding vehicle speeds through Eton.

Although some residents continue to experience vehicles travelling faster than the 20mph speed limit, Cllr Wilson reported that recent traffic monitoring indicated average vehicle speeds remain close to the legal limit. Members acknowledged that whilst isolated examples of speeding undoubtedly occur, the monitoring data suggests overall compliance is generally good.

v. Electric Vehicle Charging

Members discussed the future provision of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure within Eton.

Several years ago, Eton had been identified as a priority location due to the unusually high number of properties without driveways or private parking. A show of hands demonstrated strong support for introducing public charging facilities, provided they do not significantly reduce the already limited number of resident parking spaces. Cllr Wilson confirmed that Eton remains included within RBWM’s wider procurement programme for public EV charging infrastructure, although progress has been slower than originally anticipated. Members noted that Meadow Lane had previously been identified as a possible location, allowing several parking spaces to share charging infrastructure without significantly reducing parking capacity.

Action: RBWM to provide an updated timetable for the Borough-wide EV charging rollout.

7. Business Update

i. Hughes Wine & Provisions

Members welcomed Charlotte Hughes, who introduced herself and explained that she and her husband Adam had recently opened Hughes Wine & Provisions, a specialist wine shop situated beside the Christopher Wren Hotel.

Charlotte explained that the business stocks a carefully selected range of wines, beers, cocktails and non-alcoholic drinks together with gift options. She emphasised their desire to become fully involved in community life and invited members to visit the shop and offer suggestions for future products and events.

The Chair thanked Charlotte for attending and acknowledged the support Hughes Wine & Provisions had already provided during Arts Week.

8. Eton Town Council Update

i. Interim Town Clerk

Emma Jessop has been appointed as Interim Clerk.

Members were encouraged to contact the Town Council during the published office hours should assistance be required.

ii. CCTV

Following the recent anti-social behaviour incident, discussions have taken place regarding improvements to the town's CCTV system.

Members heard that contractors are reviewing the existing equipment and considering upgrades where necessary to improve future coverage. The Association welcomed the continued cooperation between Eton Town Council and Thames Valley Police.

iii. Barbecues on College Land

Members discussed the continuing problem of disposable barbecues being used on College land.

The Secretary reported that College Security have responded extremely quickly whenever incidents have been reported, often attending within minutes and extinguishing fires immediately where required. Residents were encouraged to contact College Security as soon as barbecues or fires are observed in prohibited areas.

The Town Council agreed to circulate the relevant security contact number to residents.

iv. Christmas Lights

Members were pleased to hear that procurement of the new Christmas lights remains on schedule.

Despite earlier concerns regarding international shipping delays, Lamps and Tubes have confirmed that the lights remain on target for delivery during July. Preparations therefore continue as planned for installation later in the year.

9. Eton Information Centre Update

The Chair reported positive progress regarding the future of the Eton Information Centre.

Following discussions with Eton College, the Association has successfully secured a longer-term lease arrangement, replacing the previously proposed one-year agreement. The Chair thanked everyone involved in the negotiations.

10. Events Update

i. Arts Week

Simon Carpenter presented a comprehensive review of the second Eton Arts Week.

A wide variety of activities had taken place throughout the week including the 'en plein air' painting and judging, exhibitions including a children's exhibition linked to the Thames Hospice Trunks across the Thames initiative, talks, workshops, wine tastings, food and beer pairings, historical presentations and community events across numerous venues. Particular highlights included James Whitfield's presentation on art during the World Wars, Willie Calvert's beer and food pairing sessions, and several collaborative events involving local businesses. Although exceptionally hot weather had affected attendance at some outdoor activities, overall visitor numbers exceeded expectations and the event continued to establish itself as an important part of Eton's cultural calendar.

Planning has already begun for Arts Week 2027, with members hoping to increase collaboration with schools, churches, community organisations and additional local businesses.

The Chair recorded the Association's sincere thanks to Simon Carpenter for leading the event, together with Julia Gosnell, Pernilla Kemp, Joanna Schaeffer, Sandrine Cocks and the many volunteers whose commitment had made the festival possible.

ii. Pub Quiz

The annual Pub Quiz, organised by Stewart Rogers, had attracted approximately 35 participants and proved another successful social evening. Members looked forward to the next quiz later in the year.

iii. Community Litter Pick

Around twenty volunteers had participated in the recent litter pick.

Although vegetation had made litter more difficult to locate than usual, volunteers still collected a significant quantity of rubbish throughout the town. Members noted that the now infamous "Scrumpy Jack Corner" had once again produced dozens of discarded cider cans, demonstrating that the problem unfortunately continues.

The next litter pick is expected to take place during early autumn when vegetation has died back. Residents were encouraged to participate.

iv. Pub Walk

Members were invited to join the forthcoming summer Pub Walk to the Barley Mow at Englefield Green on Sunday, 19th July. The route will cover approximately six miles, travelling via the Long Walk, Copper Horse and Savill Garden before reaching the pub.

11. Any Other Business

i. Committee Membership

Members welcomed Sandrine Cocks as the newest member of the ECA Committee.

Deb Martin was also welcomed as the newest proof-reader for *Eton Matters*.

ii. Christmas Preparations

Preparations for the Christmas Lights Switch-On have already begun.

Additional volunteers will be required this year due to the unusually short period between the removal of Remembrance displays on 11 November and the Christmas event on 12 November. Members willing to assist were encouraged to speak with Stephen Gosnell or the Chair following the meeting.

iii. Christmas Lights Fundraising

An update was provided regarding fundraising for the new Christmas lights.

Members heard that fundraising continues to progress well, although approximately £4,000–£5,000 remains to be secured before the full project can proceed. The Chair reported that recent discussions with Eton College had been extremely positive and expressed growing confidence that further financial support may be forthcoming.

iv. Animal All About Us – Trunks across the Thames

Members received an update on the forthcoming Animal All About Us public art trail in support of Thames Hospice.

The project will see beautifully decorated elephant sculptures installed across Windsor, Eton, Eton Wick and Slough throughout the summer. Members who had recently viewed the completed sculptures described the artwork as exceptional and looked forward to welcoming the Eton elephants into Jubilee Square. The project aims not only to raise significant funds for Thames Hospice but also to encourage conversations with children and families about bereavement, grief and the natural cycle of life. Members who had contributed to the project were warmly thanked for their support.

v. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their continued support of the Association.

Next meeting will be 18:30 Wednesday, 22nd July at the Hop House, George Inn,.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with members invited to remain for informal discussion.

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