



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 26th January 2022 at The Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Katherine Russell, Teresa Read, Ian Read, Tarek Elawadi, Martin Cabble-Reid, Marion Mackenzie, Derek Ledger, Shahan Ledger, Dawn Lee, Bryn Lee, Stewart Rogers, Katherine Rogers, Malcolm Leach, Stephen Gosnell, Julia Gosnell, Jennifer Shepherd, Dawn Palmeiri, Barbara France, Linda Oatway, Simon Weston, Elizabeth McMahon, Hardip Virdee, Karen Waller, Councillor Samantha Rayner.

Apologies: Sylvia Ellis, David Treder, Christine Barber, Peter Eaton, Shirley Young, Katie Leach.

1. Welcome & Apologies

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

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

3. Chair's Report

- Eton Matters – next issue to be produced/delivered beginning of March.
- Refuse issues – see section 5.VI.
- Refuse issue down at Barnes Pool/Baldwins Bridge where all bins have been left out is being addressed by Baldwins Bridge Trust.
- 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
- Dates for the next couple of meetings; ECA 2nd March, and ECA/AGM on 18th May.

High Street shops and plans – those of significant change:

- Cockpit – sale progressing; enforcement notices are still in place so once these have been lifted by RBWM & English Heritage via a list of works/activities that are deemed suitable, the sale can exchange.
- 53 – owner has financial difficulties so all construction work has ceased.
- 41 – comments have been received regarding the black façade and requests are to made to the owners to consider a better window outlook.

RR

- 61 – the hairdressers is due to close at the end of February and the landlord is currently looking for another tenant.
- Premier Stores – still planning to go back to the original footprint and double their size.
- Former Lily Chic – owner does not want to rent this space out for the foreseeable.
- 89/90 – will now be a box sash window company where their offices and showroom will be based.
- Gregory & Tapping have now moved to Windsor.
- Eton Travel Company are staying in their current location whilst above is being converted to residential from commercial.
- 109 – application to change some of the ground floor into residential was denied. An appeal is expected imminently.

There is currently an outbreak of Avian flu which has taken hold of some of the swans in Eton/Windsor. Wendy Hermon from Swan Support is currently out daily feeding the wildfowl from a boat in order to help with the ‘no feeding’ directive that is in place. This stops the birds congregating and passing on any pathogens to each other. Donations are welcome, should you wish to contribute to the feed, bank details can be obtained from secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

Signs on the Brocas informing dog owners to keep their animals on leads are being pulled down and many owners are letting their dogs run free. Signs are being put back up by Wendy Hermon and wardens have been asked to patrol the Brocas to police this. **Cllr Sam Rayner**

4. Treasurer’s Report

Copies of the accounts given to Chair and Secretary for reference. Very little activity other than recent monies received have been for the Jubilee street party from Eton College.

5. RBWM Councillor Matters

Cllr Sam Rayner kindly provided us with an update:

- I. The Borough Local Plan has been received from the inspector and is ready to go forward to the full Extraordinary Council on 8th February. This document has been worked on since 2013 and thanks were extended to Eton for its contribution towards the Plan.
- II. The Jubilee Project now underway with the first session meeting on the 6th February; aim is to have hanging baskets across the Borough in the Jubilee colours along with a library project incorporating 11 libraries housing 70 pictures representing past Jubilees, so they will be asking the public for their images. The Queens Canopy is also underway; 30 schools signed up to plant trees. The Beacon lighting will be underway on Thursday, June 2nd; Eton won’t be partaking on this occasion due to late timings for school children, half term and long leave. WEBREW have designed a new beer and local distillers, Tarbay Botanists have created a new gin for the celebrations.
- III. Windsor & Eton Society are engaging in the Facelift Project – making Windsor and Eton smarter; painting facades, hanging baskets etc. One area of concern is the passage way from Eton High Street to Eton Court car park, it is in need of painting and

sprucing up. It was agreed to be renamed Queen Elizabeth's Arch (voted on by attendees).

- IV. Vegetation still encroaching into the structure of Windsor/Eton Bridge – works are still outstanding to remove this, as well as the vegetation on the bridge itself.

Clr Sam Rayner

- V. The Cockpit sale is progressing.
- VI. Black bag two weekly waste collection – the expectation of having residents to keep black sacks inside their properties for two weeks at a time is unacceptable. This now needs to be escalated as a public health issue and many complaints have been received about this situation.

Roads to be identified as the ones in need of attention.

RR & Clr Sam Rayner

6. Green Group Update

Several hundred donated crocuses have now been planted by Barnes Pool. Meeting has taken place with Excellent Plants in order to make sure they are continuing their work with the surrounding areas in and around Eton.

Any volunteers who would like to get involved in Green Eton with this and their ongoing projects, please contact secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

7. Events

Henry VI and Anne Thackeray Richie exhibitions @ College – attended by 25 locals; 2 very interesting exhibitions, both of which are running throughout the first half of 2022. Any further interest, please email secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk where we may be able to organise another private tour, if numbers permit.

Next litter pick - this has been organised for a **Sunday, 27th February** so we can accommodate the Eton Boys who very much enjoy joining in and helping. With less leaves on the trees and hedgerows, there will be more exposed litter to collect.

Next pub walk – ‘Beat the January Blues’ has been organised for **Sunday 6th February** and the destination will be Gogo's at Windsor Racecourse Marina. The walk covers 7.5 miles to our destination but less than 2 miles to come back to Eton. Walk will start at 10.30am for the longer route but attendees can take the shorter route there and back should the longer route be not suitable; set off time will reflect this shorter route so we all meet at the venue together for 1pm.

Jubilee Street party – 4th June 2022.

Full College Tour – to be confirmed, date wise.

8. AOB

Bollywood filming

Concern was given that the film crews that film in the High Street/bridge are not licensed and may be a health & safety risk with the equipment they use. Opinion was conveyed that these groups do bring in revenue to the High Street and encourage others to visit Eton via their

medium of film. There is a benefit in the additional footfall but health & safety concerns should be addressed.

Paul Roach is to be contacted to check on license status.

RR

High Street

Concern was given by a resident who feels the High Street is dark, miserable and with too many empty premises. Eton Travel renovation works have plywood boarding up the windows and this isn't very appealing to see as you enter the High Steet. Agreed that Eton Travel will be contacted to replace these boardings, if possible, with something more aesthetically acceptable.

RR

Ideas are welcome to help towards a better, more lively High Street.

There has been an ongoing issue with a man begging outside the arch near Costa Coffee – it has been confirmed by Thames Valley Police that he isn't homeless and at this point, they are working with him to make sure the needs that have been put in place for him are utilised correctly. For clarification, the ECA were instructed by TVP to inform the local residents (via our newsletter) to not donate monies to him as this encourages begging and antisocial behaviour from other parties.

Eton tour bus

Concern was given regarding tour buses going down the High Street and the lack of walking space due to pavement closures from ongoing construction. The important point was made that the tour buses bring footfall and is a valuable connection to the Eton Information Centre activities.

Eton Town Council Update

- I. Eton Court car park passage way – see section 5.III.
- II. South Meadow pavilion – progressing well; plans and drawings are done and is now going out to tender. This is principally going to be a community facility as well as a changing room for the football club.
- III. Hardstanding down by the river next to The Flaming Cow – signs are to be made up to keep this area safe from vandalism/abuse. Eton Town Council are adopting this piece of land so it comes under their responsibility for its upkeep.
- IV. Electric car charging units – communication made between RBWM and the company who would like to install/run the units and the processes are being discussed.

9. Next Meeting Date

Date confirmed as Wednesday, 2nd March.

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