



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 5th March 2025 at the Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Anthony Cove, Bryn Lee, Christine Barber, Linda Tarbox, Margaret Hayes-Powell, Anna Pett, John Hunt, Celia Harvey, John Harvey, Adrian Greensmith, John Rowland, Wendy Rowland, Peter Robinson, Peter Eaton, Bridget Bartlett, Monaliza Cadwallader, Barbara France, Amanda Snell, Julia Gosnell, Stephen Gosnell, Elizabeth McMahon, Hardip Virdee, Shirley Young, Sylvia Ellis.

Apologies: Kim Carpenter, Simon Carpenter, Annelie Van Jaarsveld, Hennie Van Jaarsveld, Ben Willcox, Mike Blightman, Katherine Blightman, Maggie Waller, Malcolm Leach, Katie Leach, Stewart Rogers, Kathryn Rogers, Cllr Mark Wilson.

1 Petition about tackling use of catapults against swans

- i. Swan Support are leading a petition to raise the priority of tackling boys using catapults to attack swans. 200 signatures are needed for RBWM to escalate with the police. Attendees were invited to sign this petition during the meeting.

2 Welcome & apologies

- i. Welcome to Peter Robinson who will present at the Business Information Update.
- ii. Wendy Hermon from Swan Support planned to attend but unfortunately wasn't able to make it.
- iii. Welcome to Anna Pett, our new town clerk.
- iv. Welcome to Linda Tarbox and Margaret Hayes-Powell – deputy mayor and one of our ETC councillors respectively.
- v. Cllr Mark Wilson sent his apologies; he was unable to attend because of time change of a RBWM Cabinet meeting.

3 RBWM Councillor Matters

- i. Councillor Wilson was unable to attend this meeting but gave us a quick rundown on any outstanding issues from the last meeting when he attended our litter pick on Sunday, 2nd March.
- ii. There will be a 9% Council Tax increase (had requested 25%) so RBWM need to borrow £103 million to balance the books.
- iii. Foodbanks - if you know of anyone who is struggling in the community, please e-mail secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk and/or chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk

4 Minutes & matters arising

- i. RBWM are aware that there are few public electric car charging points in Windsor, and for Eton, only those at Thames Valley Athletics Centre are available.
- ii. The planning application for the pumping station in Tangier Lane was for a generator building, and the description has now been clarified. Romney Lock Keeper has access to manage the penstocks. It is not known if the pumping station is still in use.
- iii. There is interest in the vacancy for a local councillor, with interviews being planned.
- iv. The proprietor of Cappadocia took their signs down for work to be done on the windows. They want to add holiday accommodation in the roof area and are talking with planning and local residents. The building is not listed but is mentioned in the RBWM book of interesting buildings and is a classic example of a 1930s pub building. There will be a pre-application and a planning application.
- v. With reference to the application at the rear of Windsor Brides, it is possible for planning permission for new residential accommodation to be given with the proviso that they will not have an automatic right to residents parking permits. Several people were concerned that this may not be implemented in practice, and/or could be bypassed by buying season tickets.

5 Chair's report

- i. Safety and Policing - at about 17:20 on Monday, 24th February there was a knife incident in the High Street. Please check your CCTV for someone in a grey hoodie and black jeans. Police are investigating. Additionally, there was a rough sleeper in The Sash Box Window Company's entrance, they have now been moved on. There have been more issues with nighttime economy and drug use.
- ii. The Eton Walkway sign on the bridge was damaged by a car, luckily it was caught on CCTV. Police have a suspect and we hope to claim on their insurance. RR asks us to keep reporting these incidents.
- iii. High Street Properties:
 - Cappadocia – see section 4.
 - Willow Café – now more eggs and avocado than burgers.
 - Eton Sports extension – nearly complete.
 - Cockpit – significant progress has been made since the last meeting update.
 - Premier Stores will re-open at 10:00 am on Monday 10th March with a new name. Opening hours will be 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
 - The antiques shop where Warren Properties used to be will move on 26th March. No replacement business has been apparent thus far.
 - Tastes Delicatessen is for sale as a going concern; the owner has indicated that she can focus on her bookshop at number 88 instead.
- iv. Bryn Lee, our Deputy Chair and other Eton volunteers, are organising the Eton Information Centre Dinner Dance on Saturday, 22nd March. There are still a few tickets available – contact Ros, Bryn or Amanda. Thanks were extended to Celia and John Harvey for bringing in four more people.

- v. Kent Phippen, owner of The Glenholme Healthcare Group in the High Street was rated 70th out of 500 companies surveyed by the FT as the 'UK's Best Employer'. Additionally, Roger Line, who owns the Cockpit, has won the Thames Valley Awards – Business Leader of the Year. Congratulations to both!
- vi. Eton Arts Week is Saturday, 24th May to Sunday, 1st June. It starts with 80 artists painting "En Plein Air" on the 24th (25th if bad weather), with paintings on display and for sale on Sunday, 25th. The second weekend is an exhibition of work from 25 amateur artists. During the week:
 - stream 1: artists can pay to exhibit art for sale in shop windows.
 - stream 2: activities for children.
 - stream 3: educational events such as candle-making.
- vii. Please e-mail secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk if you wish to volunteer during the Arts Week.

6 **Treasurer's Report**

- i. Richard Cox has the completed accounts to audit ready for the AGM on Wednesday, 16th April.

7 **TVP Update**

- i. No update was available apart from incidents mentions earlier.

8 **Eton Information Centre Update**

- ii. EIC needs to be self-funding. Income sources include the ball (dinner dance), auction at the ball and the Arts Week.
- iii. The EIC has been refurbished recently with more space to display quality items for sale.

9 **Business Information Update – Peter Robinson**

- i. Peter represents the Castlevue Retirement Village, which has new owners and is under new management.
- ii. They aim to help people live better for longer. They host events and afternoon teas, amongst other fun get-togethers.
- iii. They currently have vacancies – contact Peter if interested.
- iv. RR reports that Castlevue have provided 3 items for the EIC auction at the ball (dinner dance).

Business Information Update

- i. Bryn Lee had attended the Windsor and Eton Business Partnership meeting on Wednesday, 5th March.
- ii. January footfall in Eton was 290,000, an increase on last year. There are 7 shop vacancies. Car park figures are 6% down compared to last year.

- iii. There are plans to close the main Windsor Post Office, but staff and locals are fighting this.
- iv. Windsor has LVEC funding and EIC is aware of the activities, supported by English Tourism.
- v. There are three state visits planned for this year.

10 Events

- i. The Golden Curry evening on Thursday, 30th January was a success and raised £26 for ECA. LB will organise another when Cappadocia opens in the next few months.
- ii. The litter pick on Sunday, 2nd March resulted in over 30 bags of rubbish and recycling. Every litter pick finds 200-300 empty beer and cider cans in South Meadow Lane (hedgerows) which our volunteers clear, only to be replaced by the time of the next litter pick. LB has spoken to Cllr MW about this. Unfortunately, there was a delay in the bags being collected which resulted in someone thinking they were fly tipped – this has now been resolved. Thanks to Eaten Café for the egg and bacon butties. Next litter pick likely to be end of April/beginning of May.
- iii. The next pub walk is still to be fully locked down, however, it is likely to be a walk round the reservoirs in Wraysbury with a trip to the Perseverance pub, and transport back via the train. Details will be provided closer to the time, which is likely to be mid-April.

11 Eton Town Council Update

- iv. For the third time, the council are applying for CCTV to cover the Meadow Lane area. It could link with the College and with RBWM monitoring. This could help with anti-social behaviour, with fly-tipping, with the repeated littering of beer and cider cans and maybe with the attacks on swans. We need to fund CCTV.
- v. The council is ordering a bench for South Meadow in recognition of Douglas Hill.
- vi. Peter Eaton is doing a lot of work to update the register of public spaces and common land in conjunction with ETC, and there will be an event in 2026.
- vii. Thanks to Margaret Hayes-Powell who has been talking to Jack Rankin (our MP) and Matt Barber about anti-social behaviour. This included a walk-about to discuss the issues.
- viii. If you witness or find something that isn't right, please report incidents either to 101, or using the TVP online service.
- ix. It was noted that it is difficult to read plaques on benches on the bridge. Action: ask Paul Roach to have the plaques cleaned or replaced RR
- x. Use of the Eton Council Office for weddings is rolling out slowly. There is more information in a recent Shout Out newsletter.

12 AOB

- i. Three trees have been cut down but not replaced in Eton, all in or adjacent to the Crown & Cushion car park. RR is asking for the replanting regime and timescale.

- ii. The question was asked whether we should continue to run the Christmas event every year. The answer was a unanimous yes from the attendees.
- iii. The deadline to apply for naming bricks at Jubilee Square is Monday, 31st March. You can apply through the EIC, or by e-mailing secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk. Ron Lewandowski is addressing the deterioration of some of the bricks.
- iv. "Eton Matters" has now been delivered. If you live in Eton and haven't received a copy, please contact secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk
- v. The next meeting incorporates the AGM; it will also include nibbles and drinks – Wednesday, 16th April at 6.30pm, at the Hop House The George.

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