



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 10th July 2024 at The Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros Rivaz, Alistair Townsend, John Rowland, Wendy Rowland, Amanda Snell, Kim Carpenter, David Waddleton, Stephen Gosnell, Julia Gosnell, Shirley Young, Peter Eaton, Roger Prior, Simon Carpenter, Ann Currie, David Currie, Dawn Palmieri, David Palmieri, Katie Leach, Malcolm Leach, Maggie Waller, John Harvey, Celia Harvey, Sylvia Ellis, Bryn Lee, Christine Barber, Sgt Steph Day, PCSO Lizzie Davison, Cllr Mark Wilson, Hennie Van Jaarsveld, Barbara Hunt (plus friend).

Apologies: Leonie Bryant, Elizabeth McMahon, Hardip Virdee, Mike Blightman, Kate Blightman, Ben Willcox, Dawn Lee, Barbara France.

1 Welcome & Apologies

2 Minutes & Matters arising

- i. RR will not cover matters that will be part of the Councillor Matters section. RR will include Events.
- ii. Pub quiz was absolutely fantastic; congratulations to SR.
- iii. Pub walk was also hugely successful; thanks again to SR and LB.
- iv. Next new event is 'Eton in Sport' on Thursday, 17th October at the College.
- v. Brocas Fair sets up from Monday, 15th July and will depart on Monday, 5th August. Open and close dates are on signs on the bridge.
- vi. The National Garden Scheme last week at Eton College was fabulous. Dido Milne from CSK Architects won a silver medal for her entry to the Chelsea Garden Show, which was designed for the Autistic Society.
- vii. Bryn Lee and RR both attend the Windsor & Eton Business Partnership, which is an important forum, particularly for connections to Windsor.
- viii. ECA has interactions with Eton College, with Eton Wick Village Association and with the Eton Information Centre

3 TVP Update

- i. PCSO Lizzie Davidson and Sergeant Steph Day from TVP attended the meeting.
- ii. It has been quite a good month from a reported crime viewpoint. There has been a business burglary, a burglary from a garage, but mostly thefts from motor vehicles. TVP have a suspect and have published his details including a photo on Facebook. In Eton Wick there have been a few thefts from unlocked cars or cars with visible expensive

items. TVP have intelligence about who it might be. No known stolen bikes.

- iii. PCSO Lewis Phillips will be doing a continual operation about the bikes on Eton High Street.
- iv. Please report problems to 101 or via Webform. There are reports on Facebook which are not reported to TVP.
- v. An ECA resident saw children shoplifting with no store staff available to report this to.
- vi. A resident asked whether we could re-instate the chicane by the bridge that used to slow cyclists down. A local businessman saw someone in a security jacket cycling the wrong way along the High Street but doesn't know whether he was College security. The College are keen to know of any of their staff who disobey the one-way system.
- vii. Signage is an issue, although experienced local cyclists feel that this is not a contributory factor. Funding is an issue for anything such a building the chicane that used to be there. We need to balance signage against this being a conservation area. Some people will ignore signs.
- viii. Electric pedal bikes cross the bridge; electric bikes are limited to 15 mph, but some have been illegally modified. Could we ban electric bikes from cycling across the bridge?

Action:

Eton Town Council, Cllr MW

- ix. Request to please deter the beggar Robert who has a home and food. Many support homeless charities and similar, but it is frightening coming over the bridge to go home or work etc.
- x. A resident commented that he has recently seen more police in the High Street. This is due to football being shown in pubs.

4 Minutes & Matters Arising (continued)

- i. If interested in helping to maintain Barnes Pool, please contact Peter Eaton or RR.
- ii. College will be testing their siren in September. A previous overnight siren was an error. Preparation is being done so that the right information reaches the right people as far as possible.
- iii. There are spare copies of Eton Matters. Thank you to Rosie, our Editor.
- iv. Eton Action List continues to list problems, including new ones. The bridge balustrade lights have a timing issue. They were ok last week, though some of the lights were very dull. The feeder cable is being replaced. The paving outside 52 High Street is not quite right but the issues are expected to be resolved and at least the pavement is back in use.
- v. Various issues with refuse. If you use a food refuse bin, please check what happens to the contents when they are collected. Do not approach the operatives. If you think that there is a problem, then report it to Cllr MW.
- vi. Refuse sacks for properties who don't have a bin now have to be ordered online. This will be put in Shout Out.
- vii. On Wednesday, 31st July, RBWM are changing their web site. If you have an account, the process varies depending on whether you have a green bin or not.

- viii. Almost all lamp post bases are now devoid of paint due to dog urine. Cllr MW

5 Treasurer's Report

- i. All in good order. No bills outstanding. The first Christmas Lights donation from Baldwin's Bridge Trust has arrived.

6 RBWM Councillor Matters

- i. York Stones outside 52 High Street will be inspected. Monitoring lights on the bridge and cycling on the bridge are being observed. The Cockpit is moving slowly.
- ii. Now that the election is over, need to pick up again who empties bins on the Brocas and rubbish being left by Yardley outside at 102a High Street.

Action: tell Cllr MW who to contact in Yardley RR

- iii. There will be a new RBWM web site from Wednesday, 31st July.
- iv. There is a borough wide project to replace lamp post stumps which was expected to be completed by now. Cllr MW will chase.
- v. Stonebridge Field and Broken Furlong have lamp posts which were deemed to need to be replaced, but this hasn't happened.

Action: take photos and follow up Cllr MW

- vi. Please re-assess whether the bent lamp post by Budgens is a safety issue; it is an image issue for visitors and locals.
- vii. Financial situation for RBWM remains very precarious.
- viii. A resident reported that a meeting in Windsor said action would be taken about pigeon "mess" resulting in guano on the pavement, but the problem continues. The issue outside 103-107 High Street needs resolution. Locals keep clearing outside their shops/homes. Brian Warren might install netting but this might need a planning application

Action: talk to Brian Warren RR

7 Eton Councillor Matters

- i. There will be a full Town Council meeting on Thursday, 11th July.
- ii. There will be a football tournament on Sunday, 14th July from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at Haywards Mead in Eton Wick.
- iii. There are 2 vacancies at Eton Town Council for Eton which will be advertised in Shout Out (and elsewhere). In addition, because there were no candidates for the Eton Town Clerk position, Bob Austen will remain in post (he is due to retire), until a replacement is found.
- iv. The Eton Town Cllrs vacancies will be advertised from Friday, 12th July until Friday, 16th August.
- v. Dawn Lee has produced a non-political Eton Town Council newsletter which will be delivered in week beginning Monday, 15th July.
- vi. RR congratulated ML on his re-election as Mayor.

- vii. There are three potential applicants so far for Eton Town Councillors.
- viii. Dawn Lee is getting the re-decorated council offices registered to have a wedding licence.
- ix. The Town Council is working with partner organisations – there is a good team.

8 Business Information Update

- i. This is a new agenda item so that we can find out more about businesses in Eton.
- ii. Alistair Townsend runs Eton Vet. He lives on Eton High Street and has his own independent practice in Uxbridge. He can provide home visits in Eton and Eton Wick in evenings and at weekends. He can work with our existing vets for some services. Best contacted using WhatsApp, his website www.etonvet.com or by phone.
- iii. Dave Currie, whose wife Ann owns Beaubelle Tailors here and in Windsor, has taken over the licence of the Flaming Cow and is making changes for it to re-open as The Rancher with an American themed menu. Initially opening Wednesdays to Sundays, aiming longer-term for 7 days a week 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. He will keep a close eye on Deliveroo, Uber and Just Eat cyclists who use of the bridge to help achieve compliance and safer cycling. Rubbish bags will be collected daily – meeting advised DC that foxes and rats may rip open bags. Working with the landlord about the steps. www.theranchereton.com (however this URL isn't working on older computers, so do pop in!).
- iv.
 - High Street businesses – ECA don't have a view on paint colour changes.
 - Fresh and Fine is now TinyTown with yellow branding. Landlord (Baldwin's Bridge Trust) was expecting a nail bar rather than crafts for children.
 - Tastes is now painted pink – was previously green.
 - The Cockpit saga continues with some positive signs.
 - Eton Mess will possibly become a Turkish restaurant.
 - Work at the old Venture site is almost completed.
 - Eton Stationers Ltd has closed, with Eton Stationers (i.e. not limited) having taken over.
 - Eton Brides have closed in Eton but still have an outlet in High Wycombe.
- v. RR is talking with Janet Walker of the College to keep retail premises as retail where the premises are College-owned, and not to convert to residential.
- vi. Barbara Hunt reports that the Eton Information Centre is doing ok and is recovering from the impact of Covid. Income is increasing, and the walking tours are going from strength to strength.
- vii. If you are involved with Rotary or Lions, then please contact Barbara. www.visiteton.info
- viii. Windsor Information Centre has closed except for remote contact. BL and RR are working with Cllr MW and others in Windsor to see how Eton can help.
- ix. We want to encourage people to stay overnight in Windsor & Eton, which increases local spending, as was identified in the Borough Local Plan.
- x. The Christmas Programme for the Eton Information Centre is being developed.

- xi. Next fund-raising ball will be on Saturday, 22nd March 2025.

9 Eton Porny School

- i. Good recent OFSTED visit included the comments: “exceptional” and “breathtaking”. There is positive parental engagement. This is a tribute to the staff.
- ii. Oversubscribed for Years 1 and 2.
- iii. Tesco currently has Porny School has one of its three “stronger starts” charity options. Please donate your green tokens to the Porny School option. You may have to ask for the green token(s).

10 AOB

- i. There was no AOB though RR mentioned that the named bricks exercise in Jubilee Square is about to be repeated. For a contribution, you can have your name put onto one of the bricks.

11 Next Meeting Date

- i. Date of next meeting is Wednesday, 25th September.

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