



Email – EWVA_Committee@outlook.com

Minutes of Community Meeting Wednesday 28 February @ 7.45pm

Welcome – Lucy Ludovici (Chair)

Lucy welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Valerie Pike, Chair of the Windsor & Ascot Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) organisation. Lucy explained that Val would be giving her presentation first with an opportunity for questions after, which would be followed by the Thames Valley Police update. Any other community matters could then be covered subject to available time.

Approval of Minutes, meeting 17 January 2024

The Minutes of the January EWVA community meeting was circulated and approved.

Neighbourhood Watch – Val Pike, Windsor & Ascot NHW

Val gave a presentation on NHW, how it liaises with the relevant authorities (eg RBWM and Thames Valley Police for our area) to raise awareness of local crime, and ensure it is reported enabling the authorities to act. That NHW provides a deterrent to the perpetrators of crime with participant communities being seen as alert and informed, and actively looking out for more vulnerable neighbours. Val demonstrated several security devices that NHW help provide for vulnerable residents, for example scam call blockers, door latches, fake CCTV cameras, signage etc. Val also drew participants attention to the NHW Facebook page and website. Helen (EWVA Secretary) advised that information on the Eton Wick NHW scheme was available via the EWVA website, with a link to sign up.

Val advised that a local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) covering Datchet, Horton, and Wraysbury was successful in bringing together the community, the Police, RBWM, and representatives from local secondary schools, to discuss and agree a plan of action for local issues.

Helen suggested that representatives from EWVA attend one of the Datchet, Horton, and Wraysbury NAG meetings to observe and take away key learnings that could be used in Eton Wick. Helen continued that perhaps linking Eton, Eton Wick, and Dorney into a NAG might work well as perpetrators of crime in all three areas are frequently the same individuals or groups. Helen offered to reach out to Dorney Parish Council and Eton Parish Council on this matter.

Val responded to a number of questions, the attending PCSO's also answered questions, and topics covered included cold calls and scam calls.

Lucy (EWVA Chair) asked how we should proceed to build an effective NHW group and Val responded that building road by road was the tried and tested formula for success with each road having a NHW Coordinator who fed into the overall neighbourhood scheme. Val suggested that door to door promotion of NHW can be effective and offered to assist with this activity.

Thames Valley Police Update – PCSO James Searle

James gave a short update on the PCSO team members who look after Eton Wick as part of their Windsor Town Centre, Eton, and Eton Wick remit. That PCSO Melita Wright, who had been the assigned PCSO to Eton Wick for many years has now left the police and moved to the USA.

James introduced Apprentice PCSO Lewis Phillips to the meeting, explaining that Lewis had recently started his apprenticeship with Thames Valley Police and would be getting to know the area and the community in depth going forward. Helen advised the meeting that she was already in touch with Lewis who hopes to drop in at Eton Wick Youth Club sessions when possible.

James advised that there were only four reported crimes in Eton Wick during the month of February 2024 that could be mentioned at the meeting, one of which was lamping. The importance of reporting all crime or suspicious activity was stressed as this provides essential information for the Police to build a database of activity and to act. The online 101 service was recommended as a great way to report suspicious activity as the online reports are sent directly to the correct teams quickly.

A community member reported that she had been propositioned on the footpath between Eton Wick and Asda by a youth and was advised that this should be reported and that calling 999 in a situation such as this was appropriate. A short discussion followed about there being recent reports of person(s) exposing themselves to the public, or making unwelcome and inappropriate propositions, on footpaths around Eton and Eton Wick and that to enable the Police to build up information on such events and to catch those involved, it is very important that all such incidents are reported. If you feel that something is not right, trust your instincts and report it.

James listed the Community Policing Priorities for the Thames Valley:-

- To improve engagement with black communities
- To combat violence against women and girls – Project Vigilant
- To combat Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Youth engagement

The Mini Police initiative, PC Ben activities, etc within the RWBM area schools was mentioned. Lewis attending EWYC sessions falls into this category of engaging with young community members.

He continued that the Windsor, Eton, and Eton Wick team's priorities are:-

- To combat ASB
- Youth engagement
- Speeding
- To engage with local businesses
- Cycling in pedestrian zones

A community member asked if the Police patrolled in Eton Wick? James answered yes, they do, however visibility could be improved, and he gave the example that he and Lewis were currently assigned an unmarked Corsa which did not promote visibility. A discussion on how best to achieve a visible presence took place with recommendations from community members including foot patrols on a Sunday morning when church and football led to a higher footfall in the village centre. Another prime time for a visible presence was suggested as when school buses either pick up, or drop off, in the village.

Community members informed that they were aware of cannabis smoking, drug dealing, and people exposing themselves all being current issues that the Police need to address. Locations where these activities had been witnessed were shared at the meeting. James thanked attendees for the information and again stressed the important of reporting these events either using 999 or 101 as appropriate.

Lastly, the TV Alert service was discussed, and Helen advised that she would promote the QR code via village social media to encourage community members to sign up to this valuable service. Website link for sign up is <https://www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/>

Eton Town Council Update (incl. Planning) – Cllr Malcolm Leach, Mayor of Eton & Eton Wick, Eton Town Council

Malcolm advised that the Eton Town Council (ETC) chambers and offices at 102 High Street Eton were currently being refurbished and the next full council meeting would be held at the Baldwins Institute, Eton, on the evening of Thursday 14th March.

Malcolm informed that there are two vacancies for parish councillors to represent the ward of Eton Wick and that anyone interested in becoming a parish councillor can find information on the ETC website.

RBWM Update – given on behalf of Cllr Mark Wilson by Cllr Malcolm Leach, Mayor of Eton & Eton Wick, Eton Town Council

Malcolm advised that Cllr Mark Wilson sent his apologies and had provided a short update to Malcolm for sharing at the EWVA meeting.

Work to reinstate Eton Wick Library is ongoing with the positive news that funding has been secured for part time library staff. Although the number of hours could not be confirmed it was thought to be around 6.5-7 hours/week. It was also hoped that the opening hours could be increased through use of volunteers who would not be able to provide all the services of a librarian but could still operate a book in/out service and supervise community use eg the "Knit 'n' Natter" group. Malcolm stressed that nothing is confirmed or finalised at this time. The timescale for reopening the Library is still unknown, and likely to be in excess of 2-3 months. Malcolm reassured that significant work is going on in the background to push for progress.



Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG) Update – Laura Regazzacci

Laura advised that the Roundmoor and Boveney watercourses were currently subject to storm outflow, were discoloured with unpleasant silt deposits, and smelt of sewage. Laura and other members of the Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG) had reported the pollution to the Environment Agency (EA) through the 24/7 reporting hotline (number below) and encouraged all villagers to do the same to raise the profile of the issue.

Laura also advised that a catchment area meeting and inspection of the Roundmoor and Boveney rivers had been organised by EWWG and was taking place on Thursday 29th February. This should provide the EA with evidence of the current levels of pollution due to storm outflow from the Slough treatment works.

info@etonwickwaterwaysgroup.org

Any Other Business – Lucy Ludovici (Chair) and Helen Branscombe-Davies (Secretary)

Helen advised that EWVA continues to be active in bringing local information and news to the community via social media and village notice boards. The EWVA website continues to be updated regularly and now contains a page where local traders and businesses can advertise free of charge.

Helen presented statistics on visits to the website and social media. >3,500 visitors to the EWVA website in the last year, up 360 in the last 30 days. >2,000 people reached by posts made on the EWVA Facebook page in the last 28 days including posts shared to the two EW groups (Only In Eton Wick, and Eton Wick Village).

Helen reminded that as EWVA pay for and maintain a village information website she had reached out to other village groups to see if they would like their own page(s) at no charge. Page design and management would also be provided free as the aim is to maximise the value of the website for the benefit of all groups in the village with everyone fully maintaining their own identity and no conflict of interests.

Lucy (Chair) thanked everyone for their time. No AOB was raised and the meeting closed slightly later than planned due to some great value added discussions through the evening.

Future Events

Residents are reminded to follow EWVA on Facebook and social media, visit the website and subscribe to our email mailing list to be kept up to date throughout the year.

Lucy Ludovici
Chair

Helen Branscombe-Davies
Secretary

Alison Hill
Treasurer

Janice Caldwell
Social, Fundraising, and Christmas Events