



Phone – 07586 997346
Email – EWVA_Committee@outlook.com

Minutes of Public Meeting Wednesday 19th January, 2022 @ 7.30pm

Diary Recap

The Chair provided a diary recap of EWVA activities in the three months since the last public meeting. The opening of Rashid's Bridge in Bell Lane on Saturday 13 November 2021, a project led by EWVA with help from Eton Town Council and NISA. The bridge is in memoriam of NISA employee Rashid and the Chair hoped that many people would visit the bridge and walk over to the lovely green space on the other side and hold fond memories of Rashid who worked in the Eton Wick NISA shop.



Another successful year of Eton Wick Christmas Lights was organised by EWVA with the lighting up ceremony on Saturday 4 December. A successful fundraising collection was also made on the day with donations totalling £104. The Chair thanked Claire Taylor for her years as the Christmas Fairy and welcomed Janice Caldwell who takes over as Christmas Fairy for 2022. The Chair also reminded that volunteers and helpers are always needed for the Christmas lights and other events and encouraged meeting attendees to come forward and offer their help by approaching any EWVA Committee members or sending an email or posting on Facebook etc.

Thames Valley Police Update - Neighbourhood Sergeant Cat Griffiths & PCSO Aneta Welnik

Sergeant Griffiths explained that she covers Windsor Central which includes all of Windsor town centre, Eton and Eton Wick. She described Eton Wick as a wonderfully quiet, low crime area.

Sergeant Griffiths provided a summary of all crimes reported in Eton Wick for the period 2 December 2021 to 13 January 2022.

- Attempted burglary with a window opened but no evidence of entry.
- Theft from motor vehicles with one vehicle being opened and nothing taken and another vehicle where sunglasses and £35 cash were taken.
- Theft of a vehicle from the motor museum in the village.
- A wildlife crime with two dead foxes and tyre tracks.
- Two incidents involving quad bikes on Crown Farm land.

Sergeant Griffiths explained that because this is a rural community it can take the Police a while to get here and stressed the importance of reporting all crimes, dangerous quad bike activity, and suspicious behaviour as soon as possible or as soon as it is safe to do so.

Sergeant Griffiths acknowledged that lamping is an issue in the area advising that 999 should be called because this is usually part of a much bigger crime and that the Police take lamping and other wildlife crimes very seriously as it inflicts unnecessary cruelty and frequently involves damage to farmers' property.

Churchyard Update - Rev La Stacey

Rev Stacey advised that the annual cost to keep the churchyard mown is about £3,000 a year and that does not include the cost of hedge cutting. The hedge was last cut before 2021 and will be cut right back this year, to a height of 6' and made much narrower at a cost of about £1,500 with keeping it trim costing about £500 per year thereafter.

Total churchyard maintenance costs for the 2021-2022 year are likely to be £4,500 and then approximately £3,500 per annum ongoing. Rev Stacey petitioned for village residents to make contributions to the churchyard fund.



Eton Wick Waterways Group Update – Laura Regazzacci

Laura presented a full and detailed update, the content of the handout made available to all attendees is shown below.

1. The Thames Water Project

After years of campaigning by the EWWG and complaints from riparian residents Thames Water are finally acknowledging the fact that the Roundmoor stream and its connected waterways are no longer fit to take the quantity of treated water that it releases from the Slough treatment works. It has been acknowledged that the quantity of water has increased year on year since the first licence was granted to Thames Water in the 1960s, to release treated water from their Cippenham Sewage Treatment Works into the Roundmoor stream. Following the recent Panorama 'River Pollution Scandal' documentary and consequential government legislation, the Environment agency are currently directing all water companies to improve the quantity and quality of effluent entering British rivers. The Roundmoor river has been described by the EA as 'not achieving a good standard' mainly due to the water industry (treatment works contribute 99% of the flow). However, the status quo until this time has been to permit water companies to release polluted water into rivers, provided that they can prove that the storm water within their holding tanks has reached full capacity.

Thames Water have been pursuing alternative routes to access the Thames without using the Roundmoor, the Jubilee River being the most obvious alternative among others.

- The Jubilee option has been pursued rigorously by Thames Water but failed to impress both the Environment Agency and the local planners because the river is a controlled flood relief system for the whole catchment and not a natural river.
- Any further attempts to break through the red tape on this would have taken many years and possibly still never be approved.
- Also worth noting is that had the Roundmoor stream been starved of treated water it would have reverted to a little muddy ditch.

The plan has finally been approved to tunnel across the common and Eton College land south of the common to create a separate route for storm water to be pumped through this pipe during extreme weather events as well as diverting treated water in excess of 1000 litres per second from the Roundmoor at all times. The plan is to complete this by 2025, when a new licence is due to be issued to the water company. (This 2025 ultimatum by the EA has motivated an earlier solution than would have been achievable for other alternatives)

Pros:

- The Roundmoor, Boveney and Common brook will retain current levels and not increase any further in size/width.
- Our streams & rivers will no longer be subjected to the release of partially treated or untreated sewage during or after extreme weather events.

Cons:

- Disruption to nearby residents and traffic during construction
- It will take 3 years to complete, during which time we may well suffer the consequences of further extreme weather events as we did in 2014.
- The current level of the Roundmoor and Boveney will remain as it is, with summer levels continuing to be high due to the weed overgrowth.

2. The Hydrology Report

Last summer the EWWG/EWVA commissioned an independent scientific survey of the whole Eton wick catchment from Dorney to Eton. The aim is to better understand the causes of flooding in our village and to ascertain the best mitigation measures that can be achieved to prevent flooding of the type we have experienced increasingly over the last twenty or so years. **We have received some insights of the report so far but await the official data-backed report soon.**

One of the key questions the hydraulic modellers are investigating is the extent to which Jubilee River groundwater seepage is influencing the raising of standing water levels on Dorney common, in combination with/addition to, the impacts from the increased Slough Treatment works output. The Jubilee River at Manor Farm Weir was cut into the gravel & clay alluvial bed material and not lined with clay, so as to not impact the crossflow of groundwater.

Available aerial imagery shows evidence of the progressive raising of groundwater levels year on year since 2003 until the banks of the Roundmoor Stream over-topped during the 2013-2014 winter floods. (We suspect that this could also be the cause of flooding on the Moores lane footpath and around the railway arches north of Eton Wick Road last summer).

The report is also investigating the possibility that historic sewage sludge has any influence on nutrient levels within the Roundmoor Stream. This, together with the elevated temperature taken of the Roundmoor is what we believe to be the case. (Temperature of water in the Roundmoor was taken last week was found to be 11 degrees compared to 4 degrees in the Jubilee when the air temperature was only 3 degrees)

The bio-engineering team are currently investigating a number of options for optimising conveyance through the Roundmoor Stream catchment. Due to the complex nature of catchment hydrology however, reliable recommendations can only be provided when the modelling study is complete.

Public meetings will be arranged by us once we are in possession of the report and Thames Water will also be running drop-in sessions for residents, especially but not exclusively those who live next to the water courses. These are due to take place within the next month and residents will be informed of the timings.

Please post your questions to: info@etonwickwaterwaysgroup.org

RBWM Update – Cllr Samantha Rayner

Cllr Rayner started her update with a report on Crown Farm explaining that there are two separate cases. Firstly, the car workshops and spray sheds to the back of the property. Legal action is being pursued, firstly for the non-compliance regarding the cars, car parts and shipping containers and secondly Unit AA and the hours of work. This case has been ongoing for many years, and an update from RBWM Enforcement officer Victoria Goldberg, is that the Covid delayed court case happened on January 14 with further dates for court appearances expected in April/May. The second case relates to the land purchased by Mr Sines at Crown Farm. Victoria has been in close and constant contact with Mr Sines' agent and a site visit is organised for Friday 21 January 2022 to record everything that has happened since purchase. It is hoped that RBWM tree team will attend to follow up on enforcement notices previously issued covering tree and hedge removal which required action before the end of 2021. RBWM are waiting for a temporary application for change of use for the site to be submitted to cover changes already made but not regulated. The application will provide information on how the site is currently being used and RBWM are still waiting for information on long term plans for the site.

Cllr Rayner commented on the Shepherd's Hut planning application and advised that RBWM had spoken to a number of village residents and with the applicant/developer and were keeping informed of the situation.

Following concerns raised by Eton Wick First School re the safety of children crossing the road outside of the school, RBWM put a request in to Highways who have now come up with a plan to create a table crossing outside the Church and School. This will go out for consultation. The plans have been shared with Rev Stacey and EWFS and the school have responded that they are very happy with the proposal.

The change to a every two weeks black waste collection across RBWM was now in place and Cllr Rayner asked residents to contact her should they have any comments.

Lastly, Cllr Rayner provided an update on the Platinum Jubilee year which officially starts on 6 February (Ascension Day) with services in Windsor, Eton Wick and St George's Chapel. During the year events are planned all over the borough to celebrate and commemorate this fantastic occasion. The Windsor Platinum Jubilee Celebration Committee are focusing on organising a number of events over the long bank holiday weekend (June 2-5, 2022). Beacon lighting will take place along the Long Walk on the evening of Thursday 2 June which will be part of a national beacon lighting event. (Claire Taylor advised that Eton Wick have also registered to take part in the beacon lighting which will be at

9.45pm.) On Saturday 4 June they will have 70 cars, one for each year of the Queen's reign, and a big picnic and on Sunday they are hoping to break the Guinness Book of Records by having the longest picnic table along the Long Walk and inviting the community to come along and be part of this.

100 Club & Finance Update – Claire Taylor, EWVA Treasurer

Claire reported that EWVA finances were in a pretty robust state. The fiscal year end for EWVA is approaching and final bank accounts have now arrived and the accounts can be prepared for audit.

A collection at the Christmas Lights event raised £104 and Claire thanked everyone who helped in the run up and on the day itself. Claire advised that bookings are already in place for the 2022 event.

A £300 donation from Nisa's national charity has been received and they have requested we install a wood clad rubbish bin on the far side next to Rashid's Bridge to keep the area clean, clear of rubbish and looking smart and tidy. Plans are to approach Eton Town Council to make up the money required.

100 Club draws are now up to date from April to December 2021. Anyone who had their subscription finishing in December needs to pay if they wish to be involved in this year's draws. Claire advised she will be in touch with all winners from the April to December 2021 draws to advise their winnings. The cost is £2/month with 50% going to EWVA and 50% towards the prize fund. In 2021 first prize has been £3.60, 2nd prize £2.70, and 3rd prize £1.20.

The Shepherds Hut Planning Application Update - Linda Tarbox, Eton Town Council

Linda reminded the meeting that EWVA hosted a Zoom meeting earlier in January 2022 which was attended by the developer and their architect so that they could describe the proposals in detail to the community and answer questions. Following that meeting Cllr Rayner called the planning application in which means that it now goes to the planning panel who look at it in more detail.

Linda advised that ETC have identified nine major points that they are looking at. These include, but are not limited to:-

- The footprint of the building
- Deliveries
- Staff and customer parking
- Lack of rear access or emergency exit to ground floor commercial space
- Junction of Eton Wick Road with Princes Close and visibility of traffic
- Proposed new parking spaces on Eton Wick Road

Linda advised that she has met with the developer and put all the points to him, and he is looking at ways to rework the plans to resolve the issues raised. Furthermore, on Monday 24 January six members of ETC have organised to meet with the developer and his architect to further discuss how he will be responding to the points raised.

Linda advised that ETC is also gathering evidence to support the retention of the original pub building so that this challenge to the application can be raised. This is alongside the group working on how to make any new development right for the village if the challenge to the demolition is not successful. Linda explained that ETC has to be realistic and cover all angles.

Linda reminded that if anyone has any points to raise, and not yet done so, to submit them to the borough or raise them with their town councillor.

Any Other Business

Guest speaker – Diane Carpenter

Diane advised that she is purely a volunteer at the Charity shop in the village and posts on the Only in Eton Wick Facebook community page with the permission of the shop owner who does not use social media. Diane requested that people do not leave donations for the charity shop outside on the pavement when the shop is closed as this causes a number of issues.

Future Events

The Chair advised that the EWVA Public Meetings are booked in for the year already and published on the EWVA website and Facebook posts. The dates for 2022 being 20 April, 20 July and 19 October with agendas being published on social media in advance of each meeting. Events for the summer are planned which will be promoted over the next couple of months including the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. 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.

Jake Hemings
EWVA Chair

Helen Branscombe-Davies
EWVA Secretary

Claire Taylor
EWVA Treasurer