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Minutes of Public Meeting Wednesday 20th July, 2022 @ 7.30pm

Diary Update – Jake Hemming, EWVA Chair

EWVA took part in the Community Fair at the Village Hall on Saturday 7 May, joining 11 other community groups showcasing their activities at this event.

Eton Wick joined the many towns and villages across Great Britain in lighting a Platinum Jubilee Beacon at 9.45pm on Thursday 2 June. The beacon was located in Haywards Mead and the lighting ceremony, presided over by the Mayor John Lovell, was attended by over 50 village residents. EWVA provided free refreshments including Jubilee cupcakes, Prosecco, wine and soft drinks, and Jubilee novelties (hats and flags).



Thames Valley Police Update – Jeffrey Pick (Police, Community Engagement & Resilience Officer, Windsor & Maidenhead LPA)

Crime statistics for Eton and Eton Wick for the 31 day period ending 19 July 2022 were shared and a hand-out provided to all attendees. Details as below.

Burglary dwellings* - The police computer shows 1 burglary in Eton and 0 in Eton Wick recorded.
(Police record garage break-ins of integrated garages as a 'burglary dwelling'. These have been removed from the figures, as have (a) burglaries involving domestic cases, (b) parties where items go missing, (c) shared accommodation where items go missing from shared rooms, (d) landlord and tenants, and (e) cases where it is believed that the aggrieved is suffering from mental impairment.)*

Theft from motor vehicles – The police computer shows 0 offences recorded.

Theft of motor vehicles – The police computer shows 0 offences recorded.

Theft of bikes - The police computer shows 0 offences recorded.

Criminal damage – The police computer shows 1 offence recorded.

16 July – Eton Wick Road, car parked on road vandalised.

Public Order – The police computer shows 2 offences recorded.

14 June – Anti Social Behaviour, garage block rear of Eton Wick Road. Youths riding motorcross bikes.

20 June – Domestic incident in Eton Wick.

A hand-out was provided to all attendees with details of the local neighbourhood police team covering Eton Wick. Details as below. Jeffrey explained that Police resources were significantly stretched and that he needed to manage/lower the expectations of residents regarding numbers of police available in the area. Eton Wick is competing for police attendance with areas that have higher levels of reported crime. Jeffrey reminded residents that they must report all concerns and observations, as well as crime, by calling 101 or using the online report form and giving as much detail as possible. Information such as location, date and time, description of clothing, as well as an account of events are essential. Footage from video doorbells can be particularly useful. Such reports of observations and concerns enable the police to build up a picture/profile and make it much easier for them to act successfully.

Jeffrey reminded attendees of the StreetSafe initiative where local residents can report concerns regarding specific streets, footpaths and public areas in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Resident reports can cover areas such as behaviour concerns (eg verbal harassment or feeling like they are being followed), environment concerns (eg poor street lighting, signs of drug use, overgrown bushes) and other observations such as absence of CCTV or empty/rundown buildings.

Jeffrey advised that theft of catalytic converters has increased dramatically with slightly older vehicles most at risk. Dial 999 if you see anyone crawling under a car or jacking up one side of a car in a car park. Removing the catalytic converter takes about 2 minutes and is noisy as they use a grinder.

Jeffrey responded to a question regarding scams explaining that the police don't have the technology to keep up with all of today's scams, in particular those run from outside of the UK by international criminals.

YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Local policing teams are groups of officers dedicated to serving the community. Teams are made up of officers based in the area, supported by additional officers from the wider area. Teams work closely with local authorities, organisations, partners and residents to decide policing priorities. This helps teams find long-term solutions to local problems.

WINDSOR CENTRAL, ETON & ETON WICK

Contact details for Team email:

windsorcentralNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk



Inspector Mike Darrah



Sergeant Stefanie Day



PC Jon Brooks



PCSO Melita Diprose



PCSO Liz Davidson



PCSO David Bullock



PCSO James Searle





Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG) Update – Laura Regazzacci

Laura Regazzacci gave a **brief update for EWWG** – The pipeline project and improvements to the treatment works are due to be completed by 2025, when the EA will be granting the next permit to dispose of treated effluent into rivers. From then onwards, as explained below, untreated, or partially treated flood effluent will be diverted to the pipeline directly to the Thames. In the meantime, EWWG insisted that Thames Water (TW) address the problem of flooding on our two main rivers so that they flow at a regular rate through summer as well as winter, except at times of very high rainfall. That is why the hydrology report was commissioned by EWWG and why Thames Water are now carrying out the maintenance trial, which will be completed by June 2023.

Thames Water Presentation:-

Lead members of the Jacobs team, working for TW then gave a presentation on the current status of the Slough Treatment Works improvement project, due to complete by 2025. They illustrated the gradual increase in the size of the catchment area feeding sewage and run-off fluvial water into the works over the past 120 years. It was very clearly shown how the volume of water entering the works has increased significantly since 1960, when the first licence was issued to dispose of treated effluent from the works into the Roundmoor Ditch - since re-classified as a river by the Environment Agency (EA). The amount of water entering the stream from the works is always equal to that coming into the works from the sewerage system, and this volume is monitored closely by the EA in order to comply with the volume permitted under licence by the EA. The only exception is at times of prolonged wet weather, when the storage facility at the works cannot cope with the volume coming into it due to the sewers being infiltrated with storm water. This is obviously a matter of resilience, and part of the improvement plan is to increase resilience. An update was given on the pipeline project, which is designed to take all excess flow directly to the Thames just downstream from Boveney lock and works are due to start next year.

The audience then contributed many questions including the following:

Q. When the maintenance plan is completed, who will continue to carry out the work required to keep the streams flowing effectively around Eton Wick?

A. TW will deliver a schedule and method statement to landowners, the local authority and residents, although they will not be taking responsibility for maintenance beyond the trial, but they will assist EWWG to find solutions.

One resident believed that they had been told to clear the weed themselves.

Laura stated that EWWG team do not encourage residents to enter the stream themselves, although some do this voluntarily to clear weed from their frontage. The reason for the volunteer group being formed 3 years ago was to assist residents make up for the shortfall of maintenance by the EA and/or landowners. EWWG has never stated that riparian residents have a responsibility to carry out general river maintenance, other than to ensure that anything they build, install, or grow on their side does not impede the flow of the river. This follows EA regulations that are enforceable by law.

The EWWG position on the future is that it is not feasible for the volunteer team to match the level of expertise and manpower that was effectively delivered by the contractors this year, and that assistance will be required from other sources in the future – yet to be defined.

Q. Many riparian residents have had to build up flood defences over the last 20-30 years to protect their property from erosion due to the rising level of water in the Roundmoor and Boveney streams. Others who have not built up have suffered damage to banks and loss of property.

A. The TW project team showed a photograph of one resident's solution to the rising level of water, it showed that the wall had had to be raised several times as levels rose over the past 45 years, resulting in a rise of at least one meter over the original bank. A level monitor had been placed by TW at this location, which was suggested by EWWG. The TW team reassured the audience that the quantity of water leaving the works will not increase once the pipeline is completed because any excess due to future development within the catchment or during prolonged rainfall, or both, would be taken up by the pipeline, which is to be 140cm in diameter and therefore 'future-proof'. Furthermore, if the maintenance plan being trialled this year is adopted and properly funded on an annual basis, then river levels should remain constant as they have been since the recent weed clearance by the TW contractors.

A. Laura made it clear that EWWG has never suggested that owners of properties abutting the river should have to bear the cost of building their own flood defences and should instead have applied to the EA for advice and assistance. It is the EA who have allowed the river levels to rise above pre-existing levels by granting permits to increase outflow from TW. In a very few cases the EA have previously assisted residents with flood defences on the Roundmoor, although this was some time ago. This is a historic issue and while some residents have gone ahead without consulting the EA on their flood defences (brick walls, sheet metal pilings & concrete abutments), those who did not have the resources were left more vulnerable to flooding as a result.

Please post any questions to: info@etonwickwaterwaysgroup.org

RBWM Update – Cllr Samantha Rayner

Cllr Samantha Rayner provided an update including, but not limited to, discounted resident parking, cost of living support, Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the World Café initiative.

Cllr Rayner encouraged residents to sign up for the first-hour-free resident parking scheme, advising that the Library can help if people are finding it a challenge to register.



Cllr Rayner reminded residents of the RBWM 'Here to Help' campaign which, along with community partners, raises awareness of support available to help those struggling to cope with the rising cost of living. There is a dedicated webpage for those struggling financially, such as with food, rent, heating or other essentials.

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/here-to-help>

In addition, Cllr Rayner advised that there had been over 50 street parties in RBWM over the Platinum Jubilee weekend in early June and that events would continue in the borough for the remainder of the year.

Cllr Rayner advised that a World Café would be coming to Eton Wick in September/October 2022. These free World Cafés are a great chance to talk about issues with RBWM staff and discover exciting community-led solutions. EWVA is working with RBWM to bring this great initiative to our village and will publicise via social media and our website once a date has been agreed.



<https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/world-cafes>

Cllr Rayner encouraged residents to make use of Library facilities during the holidays to keep children reading throughout the summer.

In addition, Cllr Rayner touched on the news that Eton Town Council has been working with RBWM with the aim of making better use of several local facilities to serve our communities. This includes the Sports Hall located behind the Village Hall and the three Eton Wick recreation grounds. More information will be provided to residents via EWVA and ETC as it becomes available.

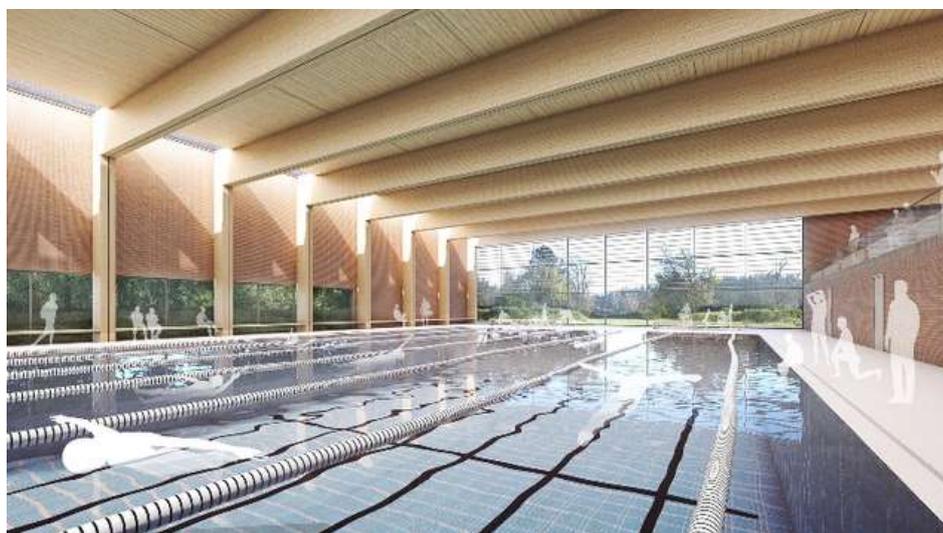
Cllr Rayner responded to a question from Norman Crawford regarding a planning proposal for a communications mast. Mr Crawford advised that residents of Bellsfield Court recently received a letter from Waldon Telecom detailing the intention of a telecommunications company

called Cornerstone to erect a 5G communications mast on the roof of the block of flats in Bell Lane. Cllr Rayner advised that she was unaware of this communication to residents and confirmed that RBWM had refused planning permission for the mast. Mr Crawford advised that Bellsfield Court residents have petitioned the Housing Association, Abri, and have been told that nothing can be done to prevent this installation due to the Electronic Communications Code. This code allows Waldon and Cornerstone to override all objections and allow this installation to go ahead despite Abri's refusal and the refusal of planning permission from RBWM. Cllr Rayner advised that she would investigate.

Eton Town Council Update – Linda Tarbox, Eton Town Council

Linda first clarified the situation regarding plans for Eton Town Council to manage local facilities as Cllr Rayner had mentioned the ground floor of the Village Hall in her update. Linda advised that ETC are nearly ready to start taking bookings for the RBWM owned Sports Hall but that the ground floor of the Village Hall, the historic home of Eton Wick Youth Club, was currently out of scope whilst negotiations continue between RBWM and the Village Hall.

Linda responded to a question from the room regarding free use of the Eton College swimming pool for Eton Wick residents. Linda advised that she would investigate with Eton College. *Further to the Public Meeting information on use of the Eton College swimming pool is now available. Please see below:-*



Community access to "Athens" – the new Eton College swimming pool

Membership is restricted to permanent residents of households who live in properties in specified locations. Click [here](#) for locations. Proof of residency will be required as part of the application process. From Monday 26 September you are requested to email facilityhire@etoncollege.org.uk to obtain the link to an online application form. Details regarding documents required, code of conduct, access times and membership fees will all be available via the link. Swimming permit holders will then be allowed access to the facility from Monday 3 October.

Planning Update – Jake Hemming, EWVA Chair

Jake presented the plans for the proposed additional six parking bays adjacent to the Bell Lane shops. In response to a query from the room he confirmed that parallel parking bays were proposed to comply with planning requirements and that bollards would prevent parking/driving on the pavement in front of the shops.

Jake advised that the planning application for the Shepherds Hut was awaiting a date for review by the RBWM planning panel.

Finance Update – Claire Taylor, EWVA Treasurer

In her Finance Update, EWVA Treasurer Claire Taylor advised that dog poop bags provided by EWVA, with support from Eton Town Council, were no longer disappearing from dispensers on Haywards Mead and South Field at the significantly high rate previously reported. Hopefully the EWVA plea for dog owners to use the bags as intended, as otherwise EWVA will not be able to continue to provide them, had been heard.

Claire advised that an EWVA collection tin in the village Nisa had raised nearly £50 in the first month. Money collected will contribute towards the Eton Wick village Christmas lights. EWVA thanks the team at Nisa for their support.

Environment Update - Claire Taylor, EWVA & Wild Eton Wick

Claire called upon village residents for their help in watering trees more recently planted in the village, advising that wastewater can be used rather than just poured away down the drain. If residents would like help in identifying which trees most need watering, please email EWVA_Committee@outlook.com

Claire also advised that there are no trees in Eton Wick, except at Crown Farm, that are covered by a Tree Protection Order (TPO). Claire asked village residents to nominate trees to be protected so that EWVA and Wild Eton Wick can work with RBWM to get our trees safeguarded so that future generations can benefit from them.

A question was raised in the room about a tree recently felled on the corner of Colenorton Crescent and Stockdales and what was the reason for it being cut down. This was answered in the room with another resident confirming that the tree had been diseased.

Lastly, Claire advised that the Eco Action Hub want resident feedback on what is wanted from an Eco Action Hub. Please email wildetonwick@gmail.com with your thoughts and suggestions.

Future Events

The Chair advised that the EWVA Public Meetings are booked in for the year already and published on the EWVA website and social media. The remaining date for 2022 being 19 October with dates in 2023 currently planned as 18 January, 19 April and 19 July. Advance notice of each meeting will be published on social media, EWVA website, in Library and on village noticeboards.

Events for the remainder of 2022 are being planned and these will be promoted over the next couple of months. 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