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Minutes of Public Meeting Wednesday 19 October, 2022 @ 7.30pm

Diary Update – Helen Branscombe-Davies (Secretary)

Helen advised that Jake Hemmings had resigned from the role of Chair, EWVA. Nominations for the role of Chair were invited from attendees at the meeting but no responses were received. In the interim Helen advised she will cover the role of Chair whilst remaining in position as Secretary. Requests for nominations for the role of Chair will be made via social media and the EWVA mailing list.

In partnership with RBWM, EWVA organised and hosted a World Café event on the evening of Wednesday 21 September 2022. The event was held on the upper floor of the Eton Wick Village Hall and total attendance was approximately 60 people. NB - total numbers included representatives from RBWM, partner organisations providing information, Thames Valley police, and representatives from EWVA.



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

Helen advised that the hybrid format with community residents able to take part in focused group discussions if wished, just visit information stands and talk directly to participating support organisations, or both, appeared to work well. There were some great focus group discussions, for example the possibility of residents being able to leverage community bulk purchasing power to invest in the provision of low-cost environment friendly electricity from solar power.

In partnership with The Windsor Cycle Hub, EWVA organised and hosted a Dr Bike session in the Eton Wick Sports Hall on Sunday 16 October 2022. The event was fully booked, and the Windsor Cycle

Hub team managed to fit in an extra couple of bicycles on the day with a total of 20 bicycles checked and adjusted, plus a number of bicycles security marked and registered. Details of the services available on the day are shown below.



The Windsor Cycle Hub will be holding a Dr Bike session in Eton Wick Sports Hall on 16th October 2022

The Dr Bike is FREE and we will check / adjust:

Brakes: calliper and cable adjustment, cable, and (if necessary) block replacement

Gears: indexing check and adjust and (if necessary) cable replacement

Chain: check for wear, lubricate if necessary

Tyres: puncture repair, inflated to recommended pressure (psi)

Plus: check nuts and bolts are secure; check headset and bottom bracket; check and replace missing bar plugs/cable end caps.

All bikes **must** be registered prior to the event at www/https://windsorcyclehub.org/dr-bike-bookings

Residents were reminded of the Eton Town Council sponsored AED (automated external defibrillator) training from Thames Valley Heartbeat which takes place on the evening of Thursday 27 October in the Eton Wick Village Hall. Contact the Clerk of ETC to book a place.

email - clerk@etontc.uk
phone - 01753 860377



Thames Valley Police Update – not available at meeting

Crime statistics for Eton and Eton Wick for the month of September 2022 have been provided following the meeting, and details for Eton Wick are shown below.

Burglary dwellings* - The police computer shows 0 offences 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.

Theft – The police computer shows 1 offence of parcel theft from a doorstep in Eton Wick on 17 September.

Criminal damage – The police computer shows 1 offence recorded.

21 September – Criminal damage to motor bike recorded.

Public Order – The police computer shows 0 offences recorded.

Rural Crime – The police computer shows 2 offences of lamping/hunting recorded.

22 September - Rural Crime Team are investigating.

RBWM Update – Cllr Samantha Rayner

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>



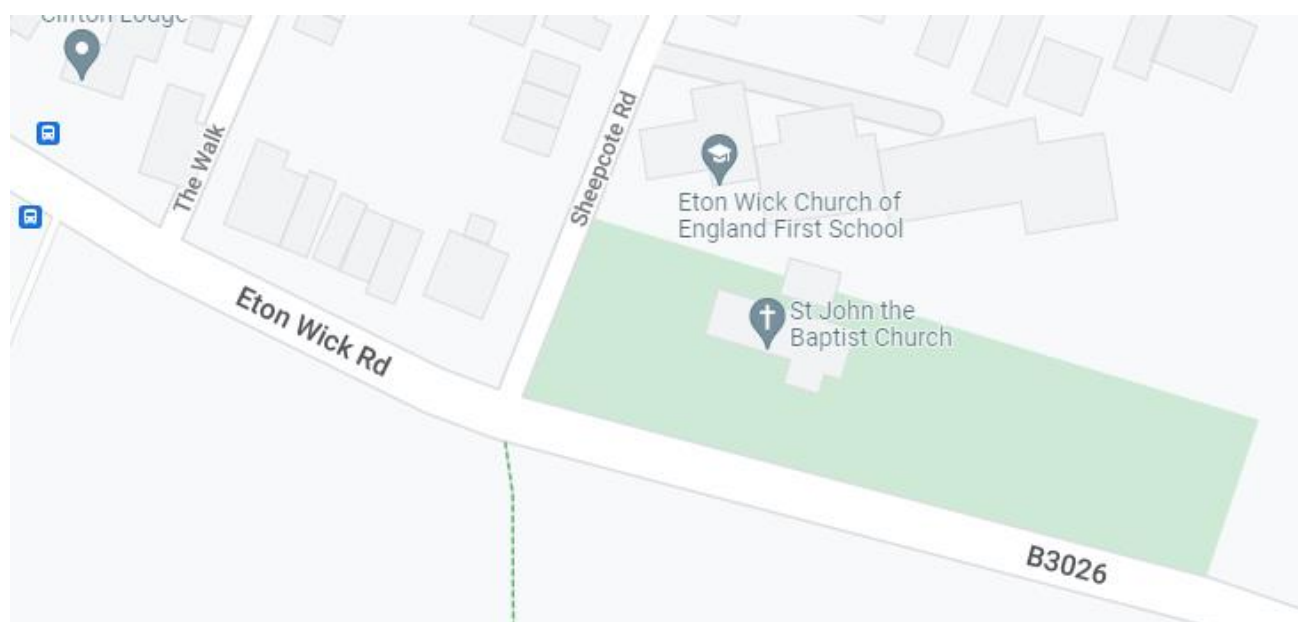
Cllr Rayner thanked all residents who had taken part in the survey of residents' views, attitudes and priorities in July and August 2022, advising that the results have now been finalised and provide a robust source of data on residents' perceptions of the council and, views on their communities, their priorities, concerns, and wellbeing. To see the headline results of the survey, click on link below.

https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/2022_residents_survey_headline_results_2.pdf

Cllr Rayner also advised that Duncan Sharkey had resigned as Chief Executive of the RBWM to take up a new role as Chief Executive of Somerset County Council. He is replaced, on an interim basis, by Trevor Reeves, who took over as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Services on 3 October 2022.

She continued that the annual budget process is currently underway, and this will go in front of cabinet in November and is then likely to proceed to public consultation.

Cllr Rayner Advised that the road crossing works on Eton Wick Road (B3026) on the stretch immediately adjacent to St John the Baptist Church, and before Sheepcote Road as you enter the village from Eton, will commence in early November. The works comprise the installation of a full width speed hump across the road to slow traffic down and make it safer to cross for children attending Eton Wick First School on Sheepcote Road. Please note that part of B3026 Eton Wick Road from the junction with The Walk to the eastern boundary of St John the Baptist Church will be closed between 9am & 3pm, from Monday 7 until Wednesday 9 November 2022.



Cllr Rayner also advised that following the cessation of additional government funding provided to bus companies during the pandemic, some bus services to Eton Wick village will change, reduce or be removed. An example given was the No. 15 bus where the service has been withdrawn between Eton Wick and Maidenhead as passenger numbers for this journey were low. The service will now run hourly between Slough and Eton Wick improving the frequency of the service on the most used route. To see the new timetable for the No. 15 bus from Thames Valley, click on the link below.

<https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/courtney/CTNY/15-timetable-20221030-17133fa8.pdf>

Laura Regazzacci asked Cllr Rayner about the school bus cost to parents and the “unfairness” of the current system where a 3-mile journey rule is applied to decide whether residents qualify for free school bus travel for their children and the 3-mile boundary cuts through the village with some children qualifying and others not. The cost per child is £700 per annum, making this exceedingly expensive for local families, particularly those with more than one child attending St Peter’s middle school. A discrepancy in process for middle school applications for village families was reported, with confusion and alleged misinformation as to eligibility for free transport to the St Peter’s middle school. A lengthy discussion followed in the room.

A further question from the room was regarding vehicles speeding through the village and whether it would be possible to have speed indicator signs at both ends of the village to raise driver awareness of the need to slow down to 30mph. Claire Taylor (EWVA Treasurer) reported that when this was investigated a few years ago the cost to instal such signs was circa £60,000. A lengthy discussion in the room included whether the speed limit across Dorney Common could be reduced from the current national speed limit (60mph) to 40mph and Helen Branscombe-Davies (EWVA Secretary) agreed to reach out to Dorney Parish Council with a view to see if they can assist with a request for a reduced speed limit across Dorney Common.



Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG) Update – Laura Regazzacci

Laura reported that the maintenance plan by Thames Water, which started in June 2022, continues this autumn and up until June 2023. Water levels throughout that period are being monitored by the hydro-engineering company Cain Bio-Engineering, for Thames Water. The purpose of this activity is to add real-time data to any works that are carried out to improve flow throughout the Eton Wick Waterways, and to plan and cost maintenance for future years. For that reason, the EWWG volunteer group have only made limited contributions to the maintenance and weed control this summer, leaving it to the main Thames Water contractor (Maydencroft) to do the bulk of the work. The first main cut by the contractor was carried out in late June/early July and resulted in a significant improvement to flow and a reduction in river levels, the like of which had not been seen by residents in the summer since before 2014. Whilst EWWG urged Thames Water to follow this up with an earlier second cut, they were unable to contract the works until mid-October which resulted in residents facing higher water levels in August and September due to a return of the in-channel weed growth along most of the water course.

The EWWG team picked up some work on the Boveney in late summer that was left untouched by Maydencroft due to nesting waterfowl in June/July as well as removing fallen willow boughs that were causing impedance to flow. On Friday 30 September EWWG were joined by volunteers from Thames

Water, including two from the project team to carry out a fuller clearance of weed on the Boveney along the entire stretch of the Boveney at Haywards Mead recreation ground. This resulted in a drop in river levels on the Boveney by about 10cm in places and allowed a pair of swans to make their way upstream as soon as it was cleared.



Section of the Boveney at Haywards Mead before weed removal 30/09/22



Same Section of the Boveney after weed removal 30/09/22



EWVG volunteers working with Thames Water volunteers on the Boveney at Haywards Mead 30/09/22



A pair of swans make their way upstream following the weed clearance on 30/09/22

Residents should have seen the Maydencroft operatives clearing both waterweed and phragmites (AKA 'Norfolk Reeds') from both the Boveney and Roundmoor rivers starting 17th October and working for four weeks. Whilst EWWG feel that this should have been done sooner, we look forward to seeing an improvement to flow immediately afterwards and throughout the winter months as a result.

Please post any questions to: info@etonwickwaterwaysgroup.org

Eton Town Council Update – Peter Lawless, Eton Town Council

Peter advised that the RBWM owned Sports Hall in Eton Wick, and the Eton Wick Youth Club on the ground floor of the Village Hall were now being managed by ETC. Bookings had been secured for four nights a week for the Sports Hall from local archery clubs and the Eton Wick Youth Club was due to relaunch in early November 2022.

Peter further advised that the grit container from under the Eton Wick Christmas tree in the Bell Lane shops area needed to be moved and that his efforts to find agreement at RBWM or their contractors to undertake this move had, as yet, proved unsuccessful.

A question was raised regarding the newly installed and much larger village noticeboard adjacent to the Christmas tree and how access to display on the noticeboard should be achieved. Peter advised that the Clerk of Eton Town Council should be approached for permission to display notices in the new noticeboard. There was a general discussion in the room which resulted in agreement that the best way to gain access to the village noticeboard is via the Eton Wick Library.

Planning Update – Peter Lawless, Eton Town Council

Peter advised that he had met with the developer of the Shepherds Hut site the previous day (Tuesday 18 October) as the developer had concerns that RBWM would not approve the submitted planning permission request for the Shepherds Hut. Peter continued, that the developer was considering withdrawing the planning application and had requested to meet with Cllr Samantha Rayner and Peter to discuss options.

There was a lengthy discussion in the room during which the following points were made:

- Pavement repairs were needed adjacent to the development.
- Further consultation with village residents was needed before any plans progressed.
- Any local meeting with the developer should be attended by a representative from EWVA and the community to ensure absence of bias.

Peter agreed to go back to the developer and to see to organise a meeting which met the attendance criteria as above.

Christmas Lights Update – Janice Caldwell (EWVA Christmas Event Organiser)

Janice advised that preparations for the Eton Wick Christmas Lights event on Saturday 3 December were underway and on schedule. This would be the first year that the Eton Wick Christmas Tree, planted at the Bell Lane shops, would be used. In previous years a tree had been purchased and brought to the village as the tree planted for the purpose had not reached sufficient stature. All agreed that it is great news that the living tree will be used this year.

Janice further advised that a local tree surgeon would be pruning the living tree into a better "Christmas Tree" shape and that posters advertising the event would soon be ready for circulation and posting on the EWVA website and social media. Janice confirmed that the upstairs of the Village Hall was booked for the brief social following the event which was scheduled to take place at 4.15pm on Saturday 3 December.

Churchyard Update – Rev La Stacey

Rev La advised that the churchyard had been cleared of sundry items left on graves in line with Church and Diocese policy which is that decorations can only be placed on graves for one year following burial. All items collected are held for a 3-month period and are available for collection in person during that time.

Rev La also advised that the gardener is doing a great job and there was a possibility that the probation service could provide labour to assist which would be very helpful as the annual cost to keep the churchyard tidy, hedges cut etc, was circa £3,500. Fundraising was again needed to be able to fund future years.

Rev La further advised that the Church provides a coffee morning on Wednesdays and toddler groups take place on Thursdays and Fridays. They are hoping to introduce a free lunch on Mondays, 12-2pm, with the first lunch planned for Monday 14 November. A local caterer will be cooking and delivering the lunch so it will arrive hot and ready to serve. It is likely that the lunch will comprise soup and a bread roll. Rev La commented that the Church is working with RBWM on the “Warm Spaces” initiative for the winter and that this was especially needed this year due to the cost of living crisis.

Finance Update – Claire Taylor, EWVA Treasurer

In her Finance Update, Claire advised funds were relatively healthy and that the positioning of a collection box in the village Nisa was proving successful with funds raised so far being sufficient to cover refreshments at the Christmas Lights event.

Eton Wick Youth Club (EWYC) Update – Helen Branscombe-Davies, EWYC Secretary

Helen advised that EWYC are holding an Open Evening on Monday 31 October with a Halloween theme, inviting parents/guardians to bring their children along to meet the Youth Leader and view the facilities.



The Youth Club relaunches on Monday 7 November with a 7-week autumn term. Two sessions are available:

Juniors (age 8-12) 5.30pm to 7pm

Seniors (age 12-16) 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Helen stressed the need for adult (age 18+) volunteers to help out at sessions as otherwise the Club may have to turn young people away due to the regulatory and insurance requirement to have a ratio of 8:1 for young people to adult volunteers.

A question from the room asked if the Youth Club and Sports Hall would be available for booking for parties etc. Helen advised that the Sports Hall would be available, and that Eton Town Council could be contacted for bookings.

Future Events

Claire advised that Remembrance Poppy installation will take place on Saturday 22 October at 3pm, asking for volunteers to assist.

The Christmas Lights switch on event with local entertainment and refreshments, will take place on Saturday 3 December at 4.15pm.

Helen advised that the EWVA Public Meetings are booked in for the year ahead and published on the EWVA website and social media. The dates in 2023 are currently planned as 18 January, 19 April and 19 July and 18 October. 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.

Helen Branscombe-Davies
EWVA Secretary

Claire Taylor
EWVA Treasurer