

# Eastcote Residents' Association

## Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

### Venue Elsie Fischer Room at St Lawrence Church

**Present** – Alison Holtorp (Chairman), Chris Groom, Irene Groom, Karen Spink, David Harper, Chris Hankin, Keith Barnard, Ian Murray, Cllr Catherine Dann, Cllr Teji Barnes, David Payne, Carolyn Derecki, Alison Akerman, Jackie Redrup, Deesha Chadha, Dev Chadha, Linda Laurie, David Stephens, David Payne, Arthur Plummer, Malcolm Penny.

1. **Apologies for Absence** Cllr Eddy Lavery, Cllr Becky Haggard, Cllr Michael White, Cllr Nick Denys, Pamela Jean Marr, Andrea Gohil, Elizabeth Beggs, Alison Dungworth.
2. **Amendments/Approval of Minutes** The Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were agreed by a show of hands after a minor amendment – under 6.6 Planning it should read 50, Rodney Gardens not 51, Rodney Gardens.
3. **Matters arising from the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 meeting**
  - CG reports that he has booked a speaker for the AGM – Sqn Ldr Tenniswood from RAF Northolt.
  - IG reports that the Elsie Fischer Room invoice has been corrected and paid for.
  - OPEN FORUM – has been booked for **TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER at St. Lawrence Church (Main Hall)**. Friends of Eastcote House Gardens have agreed that we can use their microphone equipment. As the Open Forum is the day before our October meeting, it was decided to cancel the October meeting. Thomas More Church is unable to offer us any evening in October or November.
4. **New Resident Issues**
  - No new issues raised
5. **New funding requests**
  - Discussed at the executive meeting.
6. **Committee Reports**
  - 6.1 **Chairman's Report - AH**
    - National Women's Register – Cllr Dann and AH were invited to attend the January meeting to discuss the lack of community facilities for local people, especially the young, to meet and socialise in the centre of Eastcote. The group has since emailed their concerns to ERA and AH agreed to another meeting to see how they feel they can progress this idea.
    - EVCAAP –
      - Met with Leslie Crowcroft and it was felt that the inclusion of conservation issues should be included as a separate report within the ERA minutes to increase awareness and emphasise our support for such important local issues as water pollution, land encroachment etc. Such issues to be included in the newsletter, and, contact information to be included on the back cover. **ACTION IG/LL**
      - Funding – whilst the panel does not need a great deal to function it has no source of income. With the committee's approval AH suggested that for the time being they can apply to ERA for payment of any affiliation fees etc. **AGREED**
      - With the committee's approval it was felt that ERA should make a small donation to cover wear and tear when borrowing equipment. (post meeting LC asked that full costs of repairing any damage caused whilst borrowing equipment be met by ERA and that equipment would only be available if not required by ECP) . **AGREED**
    - Green Belt - it was thought to be a good idea for both the Conservation Panel and ERA to sign up and Ian Murray agreed to represent both groups and will arrange application form for ERA. **ACTION - IM**

- Treasurer – AH met with Alison Dungworth to hand over the files. Currently in the process of changing signatures and are working together this month with a view to AD taking over on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. The constitution and current payment procedures were discussed and it was felt that further documentation of procedures would be necessary.
- Nextdoor – is a new forum to encourage neighbourliness and whilst it operates worldwide each area is isolated and by invitation only. There has been some misinformation on the site with regard to ERA and AH met with one of the leads to discuss how to deal with this going forward. A member has agreed to monitor and email me any issues as they arise. Maybe we should consider posting our ‘What is ERA....’ leaflet in the documents section. – this was agreed. **ACTION - AH**
- Festive Fair Evaluation Meeting – As part of the Town Centre Redevelopment Scheme the Council organised the Christmas Fair with the intention that in future a community group would take it over. ERA was the only community group at the meeting.

## **6.2 Conservation - CG**

- The volunteer group continues to maintain the area around the Eastcote War Memorial.
- DP reports on the Coln Valley refurbishment projects which include an improved Visitors Centre:- café, new toilets, children’s playground and new signage. The Visitors Centre at Denham Country Park is now the centre for bookings etc. They are still fighting against the expansion of the airport and HS2. There is the possibility of further funding (compensation) should HS2 go ahead.
- Friends of Highgrove Woods no longer active, but there is still a working group in this area.

## **6.3 Finance – AH**

- Green Belt Fee £25 reimbursed to EVCAAP
- Monthly Meeting Hall Hire £200 Paid – this includes £20 deposit for Open Forum

## **6.4 HARA (Hillingdon Alliance of Residents Associations) – IG**

- IG reports that the January meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## **6.5 Health and Community Voice**

- The latest reports have been received and distributed to members.

## **6.6 Newsletter - LL**

- LL had a meeting with Arthur Plummer and he has agreed to take over, working with LL on the May issue, taking over from the Autumn issue. Articles for the May issue to LL by the 10<sup>th</sup> March. A suggestion was made that we run a small competition in the Newsletter – photos with the caption “where is this?”

## **6.7 Parks Report - KB**

Eastcote House Gardens.

- The replanting of the beds in the walled gardens is progressing well. Work is being done along the edge of the gardens along the High Road. The Plough for the Prairie bed is being refurbished.
- The Hinman Shield has been awarded to the 4<sup>th</sup> Eastcote Scouts for their contribution to local conservation. They, apparently, are looking for £250,000 funding for a new clubhouse project.

## **6.8 Planning – JR**

JR issued a report which will be circulated with these minutes. She also highlighted the following:-

**From previous meeting:-**

- **81 Field End Road** – still no date as yet for the North Planning Committee to hear this application.
- **Eastcote Motor Services:-**
  - The application for changes to Condition 2 of the approved plan (canopy height, moving retail outlet forwards and move of staff parking and bin stores) was heard by the North Planning Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and the application was approved, with a condition to be added regarding the lighting to the retail outlet – to be written and approved after the meeting.
  - Application for 9 illuminated and 1 non-illuminated advertising signs. At this evening’s NPC meeting for the Condition 2 application, the Chairman, Councillor Lavery took the

unusual decision of stating in advance that this advertising application will be determined by the committee. The Eastcote Conversation Panel and ERA intend to write in to object and the residents of Flag Walk are raising a petition.

- Application for a premises licence for the retail outlet – the previous site (petrol station and small shop) was open 24 hours a day. The current licence application is for general 24 hour opening, late night refreshments and a 24 hour alcohol licence.
- 'Late night refreshments' relate to the sale of hot drinks and hot food after 11 at night and before 5 in the morning. The applicant's agent has confirmed that the food will only be a limited range of small microwavable items.
- The 24 hour alcohol licence is the most concerning and we had intended to object. However, we will not be doing so – we have been in touch with the applicant's agent and the Licencing department and come to the conclusion that we will not succeed as we can only put forward the possibility of future problems occurring. We would be up against a situation where the applicant will provide factual information showing that they have not actually had problems in the past. A condition has already been agreed on the licence – during night time hours all transactions will take place through a night pay window. Our best recourse is to wait until the site opens and then report and record any incidents that occur immediately to the council.
- **Black Horse Public House** – the retrospective application for the temporary garden structure was refused. This will now be an issue for Enforcement – we have no current information on the status of this at the moment.
- **124A Field End Road** – application for a children's nursery. ECP and ERA have written asking for refusal. The applicant has now provided a Transport Plan – ECP has written to further object and ERA will do so. The Plan contains many errors, specifically relating to references to the site being in Pinner.
- **50 Rodney Gardens** – the applicant lost the court case and was fined. The appeal was dismissed regarding the previously refused, retrospective planning application. Currently, it is not known what Enforcement action will be taken.
- **52 Field End Road** – there is still no date set for this application to come before the NPC.
- **The Case is Altered Public House** – this application was approved at the NPC. An application for a revised alcohol licence has been made to cover the additional bar areas. ECP have made a representation asking that conditions be placed on the licence to shut the new front garden bar at 11.00 pm to reflect the closing time that was previously applied to the general garden area; to ensure that Haydon Hall and the areas surrounding the pub are kept free of litter from the pub and the use of the public address system be added to the existing condition relating to loud live and recorded music. ERA will be making the same representation.

#### **New Applications –**

Information on the following applications can be found in the February Planning Applications Report:-

- Land adjacent to 29 & 33 Dollis Crescent
- Audit House – 260 Field End Road
- Bishops Ramsey School, multi-use games area
- Frank Welch Court, High Meadow Close – 5 additional rooms to the care home under construction

#### **6.9 SNT/Police – CH**

CH reported

- The SNT Ward Team (Eastcote & East Ruislip) met on 18th January 2017. The Police reported that there had been 40 burglaries over the last 12 weeks with 15 of them occurring in the week before Christmas. This is a worrying number but not a significant change from the previous year when there were 39 burglaries in the same period. The incidents were largely attributed to two groups, one of which has been apprehended.

- The SNT will be holding coffee mornings from 10.30-11.30 at Eastcote Library on 10th March, 17th March and 21st April -- they will be on hand to give advice on crime prevention.
- A large part of the meeting was devoted to discussing the situation around Eastcote Station Car Park and the alleyway leading to it. The meeting was attended by a good representation of shopkeepers from the area. Councillor Denys is going to follow up on some of the issues raised. **ACTION - ND**

#### **6.10 Road Stewards – AA**

AA sent in the following report:-

- AA will be reminding all Road Stewards that all subs are now due in. **ACTION - AA**
- Some people outside our area would like a copy of our Newsletter. It was suggested that they pay in advance for membership and postage and we look for a volunteer to administer the mailing list. **ACTION - AH**

#### **6.11 Transport - IM**

- IM reported that he attended the meeting in January. The rumour that the Croxley Link had been cancelled was untrue and it is still on the schedule. TfL has vacant land sitting idle.

#### **7. A.O.B.**

- Xmas Fair/Lights – A meeting regarding the Lights was cancelled. A report on the Fair was emailed to everyone. Discussion then followed as to whether we should take over the responsibility of running it this year, but no final decision was made. The date Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December was suggested. (Post meeting it was pointed out that this is Tree Dressing Day)
- Cllr CD reports that Carol (Chairman of Chamber of Commerce) is no longer in contact. AH will endeavour to find out the name of the new Chairman. **ACTION - AH**
- There is a problem regarding the gates to the Tennis Courts and Bishop Ramsey School – there are 3 gates. The gate into the Tennis Courts is the responsibility of the Council and they are left open, the other gates are the responsibility of the school and are opened and closed as necessary.
- The repaving of the conservation area from Morford Way towards the Ascott looks very nice. AH will write a letter of thanks to the Council. **ACTION - AH**
- There were concerns that the raised around the trees might be a trip hazard **ACTION - AH**
- The tarmacking outside the Ascott appears to be very uneven with puddles forming. It is unclear whether it is finished although the contractors appear to have gone. Cllr Barnes to investigate and AH to write letter of thanks. **ACTION – CLLR TB/AH**
- It has come to our attention that surveying marks have appeared on the pavements outside Aldi and also Hammond Roberts:- “why” Cllr CD to investigate. **ACTION – CLLR CD**

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

**The next Committee Meeting will be on WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in the Elsie Fischer Room, St. Lawrence Church starting at 7.30pm.**

**Reports and apologies to Irene Groom.**