

Minutes of Community Board Meeting held at Emsworth Community Association Centre on Thursday 9 July at 7.03pm

Present: Community Board Members:

Tim Brooks	Emsworth Business Association
Brian Edwards-Picknett	Resident
Keith Gittins	Resident
Jackie Muller	Resident
Chris Phippard	Resident
Donald Wells	Resident
Cllr Virginia Wilson-Smith	Havant Borough Council (HBC)

Others:

Helen Wood	Community Boards' Support Officer
Councillor Ray Bolton	HCC
Councillor Brendan Gibb-Gray	HBC
Tim Slater	HBC
PC Jon Butler	Hampshire Constabulary

6 members of the public.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Brian Edwards-Picknett (Acting Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting including Tim Slater (HBC), a member of the community board review team who was attending as an observer; County Cllr Ray Bolton; and Cllr Gibb-Gray.

Apologies had been received from Hilary Millen, Rosemary Osborne, Richard Taylor, and Jean and Peter Tier.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were approved subject to the following amendments:

Item 2. Bus Shelter. The cost of a bus shelter should read £3,500.

Item 5. Emsworth Memorial Garden. This should read 'The President of the Memorial Garden Committee reported on a milestone in the history of Emsworth – installation of the 234 names of Emsworth's war dead had commenced after fifteen years of communal effort'.

3. Police Report

PC Jon Butler provided a graph showing crime statistics for Emsworth for the period 12 June to 9 July, for 2008 and 2009, to enable comparison. This showed that crime figures had decreased, with the exception of dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries. This was encouraging especially in view of the economic situation.

Cllr Gibb-Gray questioned recent thefts from shops. It appeared that there was a current trend in targeting 'Co-ops'.

It was questioned whether there had been issues with traffic accidents near the Mill Pond where a number of small roads led on to the main road. PC Butler confirmed that this was not currently an issue but that if problems did occur the matter would be referred to the Road Policing Unit.

PC Butler was thanked for attending the meeting.

4. Environmental Ranger

Apologies had been received from Nick Horten who had confirmed that anti-litter patrols had been increased in the Emsworth area, particularly relating to dog fouling in the Nore Barn area. Although no-one had been issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN), possibly due to the high visibility clothing worn by the Environmental Rangers, the zero tolerance message had been reinforced by talking to people met during these patrols. A resident suggested that the rangers wore less obvious clothing, similar to that worn by car parking officers.

5. Links to Schools

Stuart Wood, Transport & Implementation Team Leader at HBC , provided information on submissions being made to Sustrans through their “Links to Schools” initiative to implement a network of cycleways linking schools throughout the mainland Borough. Partners would include HBC , HCC , schools and Portsmouth City Council. It was necessary to meet certain criteria and there were several possible sources of match funding. Letters of support from the schools and support from the community board were required. Maps showing the proposals were circulated and discussed.

Specific issues in Emsworth, and following discussion included:

- the link between Glenwood School and Emsworth Primary School and need to consider options for existing path which was very narrow. It was proposed to try and widen the path to a minimum width of 2.5m either on the allotment or residential property side to allow cyclists and pedestrian will double prams to pass each other safely. Widening the path on either side had major issues but would be explored before any decision was made. Some residents believed that it was preferable to have a narrow path than no cycleway. The path was currently used mainly as a school route by both cyclists and pedestrians with no problems. There were no plans to light the path
- the requirement for planning permission if the footpath was widened
- change of status of footways
- Footpath 71 status/conversion to shared cycle and footpath route
- concern over access route to Interbridges site, need to ensure this had the right designation to ensure a safe route and to follow up concerns when planning application made
- contacting relevant landowners

- new shared 3m wide lit pedestrian/cycle path between Havant and Warblington running on the north boundary of Warblington School
- agreement was being sort on the line of the path. It might be necessary to take 1.5m from Network Rail land and for the other 1.5m to be constructed on school land. If there were issues with utilities in Network Rail land it might be necessary to reduce the width of the path to 2.5m with the majority being constructed on school land
- the need for planning permission
- plans to widen footpath from Selangor Avenue towards Havant by 2 - 2.5 metres
- Horndean Road Footpath widening at St James School. It was proposed to widen the footway north of the crossing point to Emsworth Recreation Ground to 2.5m/3m and construct new access to the school at this point
- confirmation that any tree lost during works would be replaced by two trees in school grounds and the hedgerow would be replaced
- maintenance of the cycleways would be Highways Authority or Havant Borough Council.

Post Meeting Note: The path running from Washington Road to Emsworth Recreation Ground had highway status and therefore the path had highway rights. If successful with the Sustrans submission and with agreement from the Highway Authority it was intended to change the status from footpath to foot/cyclepath. The public footpath rights (footpath 71) only came in to force if the Highway Authority relinquished its rights over the path. At this point in time Stuart Wood could see no reason why the Highway Authority would do this and therefore did not see this as an issue in the converting the path to having highway cycle status.

Community board members gave support to the proposals.

Stuart Wood was thanked for attending the meeting.

6. Public Open Forum

A resident reported that the cycle path along the Hayling Billy Trail and the cycleway to the Eastern Road were much appreciated. Stuart Wood confirmed that the next phase would be undertaken in August with a new crossing at Langstone Avenue.

Cllr Gibb-Gray confirmed that the consultation period for the Local Development Framework Core Strategy ended on 24 July 2009.

Emsworth market would be held on 2 August 2009 in South Street car park.

7. News Round-Up

a. Youth Project.

Chris Phippard reported that the group was working hard to provide activities for young people. A football team had been established with the help of StreetSport. Local school premises were being converted which would enable more facilities to be provided for young people in Emsworth. The group were working with the police and Guinness Hermitage and considering further activities such as rugby and street dance.

b. Local Development Framework Draft Core Strategy.

Tim Brooks had read the document which he considered to be interesting, showed where the challenges were and the areas of deprivation etc. However, the document did not provide solutions to the challenges. There were no strategic sites in Emsworth but everyone was encouraged to look at the document and respond to it, as this would be an important document for the next 20 years. A reply would be made from the community board.

Cllr Gibb-Gray confirmed the need to protect farmland, streams and water courses and the need for more allotments. This would be the last opportunity to comment until 2026 and everyone should be involved, as all parts of Emsworth were likely to be affected.

The need for additional housing was questioned. Cllr Gibb-Gray explained that the current accommodation mix was not sufficient for the future. Although it was predicted that the population would slightly decrease there were more people living on their own and people were living longer, hence the need for more flexible housing.

Keith Gittins spoke of the site at Hampshire Farm where it was proposed that there would be open space, nursing home, doctor's surgery and pharmacy. Cllr Gibb-Gray confirmed that these were developer's proposals, no planning application had been submitted and it was likely that there would be a Development Consultation Forum for this development.

8. Any Other Business (for Community Board members)

Cllr Virginia Wilson-Smith confirmed that the final dedication of the Memorial Garden and Roll of Honour would take place at 2 pm on Friday 24th July.

Tim Brooks confirmed that the Mill Pond would be cleaned by the council on 22nd -24th July.

It was confirmed that there were currently no Havant HAT meetings scheduled as the structure was under review by HCC .

The next LSP Board meeting would be on 23 July. Any items should be forwarded to Keith Gittins.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 13 August 2009 at 7.30pm at Emsworth Community Association Centre.