

Emsworth Community Board

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 11 September 2008
at 7.30pm at Emsworth Community Association Centre

Present:

Community Board Members

Steve Pearce	Chairman/Resident
Tim Brooks	Emsworth Business Association
Brian Edwards-Picknett	Resident
Richard Galloway	Resident
Hilary Millen	Resident
Jackie Muller	Resident
Richard Taylor	Resident
Jean Tier	Resident
Peter Tier	Resident
Cllr Virginia Wilson Smith	Havant Borough Council

Others

Enid Ashley	Havant Community Partnership Manager, HBC
PC Lisa Jones	Hampshire Constabulary
Diane Robbins	Police Community Support Officer
13 members of the public	

Tim Pointer, Community Safety Team Leader, Havant Borough Council, attended for Item 5.

Action

1. Welcome and Apologies

Steve Pearce welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Rosemary Osborne and Malcolm Emery.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting/Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising

- a. Item 5c – ECB Open Morning 16 August. Steve Pearce reported on a successful open morning with a reasonable number of people visiting and giving good feedback on local issues. He thanked Community Board members who had assisted with the event. The next open morning would be on Saturday 25 October, again at International House.
- b. Item 7b - Viewing By-laws. At the last meeting a member of the public had requested information about viewing Havant Borough Council by-laws. Steve Pearce advised that by-laws could be viewed in Civic Offices on request, free of charge.

3. Police Report

Diane Robbins reported there had been 4 vehicle crimes, including burglary from vehicles and one stolen car. Graffiti had been reported in the Washington Road Underpass. Otherwise it had been fairly quiet.

4. Environmental Quality Ranger's Report

Nick Horten had provided a short report as he was unable to be present. Fly tipping and abandoned vehicles remained low. The fly tipping surveillance camera had been deployed in the Emsworth area.

5. Drinking in Public Places Order (DPPO)

Steve Pearce explained the background to this item: that the principle was welcomed but there had been concerns expressed at the August Community Board Meeting around the potential repercussions from the DPPO such as the effects on people having a quiet drink outdoors with family and friends.

Tim Pointer explained the role of the Community Safety Team at Havant Borough Council, which was to give professional advice to councillors to inform their decisions.

In 2005/06 the Leader of the Council had asked if a DPPO could be considered for the whole borough. 8 DPPOs had been put up initially in various areas. The principle was that the police had a difficult job, being expected to challenge anti-social behaviour and whereas in public houses they had powers, outdoors they had only limited powers concerning over 18-year olds having consumed excessive alcohol. The DPPO enabled police to step in and take positive action when they feared that anti-social behaviour might occur, to prevent problems arising.

The Community Safety Team had done research to identify, over an 18-month period, whether alcohol-related problems were more of an issue for the whole borough, or not. The primary care trust statistics indicated that Havant was poor in terms of alcohol abuse across the whole borough, and that this was also linked to sexual abuse. The fire service statistics confirmed that many fires were alcohol-related. Additionally, there had been a big increase in fires in open spaces across the whole of Havant Borough. The police, the primary care trust and the fire service all supported a borough-wide order. Alcohol-related crime was responsible for 50% of all crime in the borough

In addition, a survey of shopkeepers confirmed a high level of alcohol-related offences; and in a Citizen's Panel consultation, drunken behaviour had been identified as a key concern.

The feedback from the areas of existing DPPOs had been that those areas were now quiet but drinking on the fringes of those areas had increased ie the problem had moved.

Tim explained that the 18 months' statistics for rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour and for fighting/criminal damage had shown that there was hardly any area which did *not* have alcohol-related incidents. Visits to other local authorities had been made, including to Gosport, Portsmouth and Fareham.

All the information gained had been presented to councillors at Licensing Committee and The Executive; and there had been a notice in The News for one month. However Tim acknowledged that communication about the DPPO had been poor because the information had had to be promulgated very quickly – the signs had to be put up where people could see them and

know the DPPO was in force.

Questions were asked concerning summer evening picnics and outdoor events and whether these would be affected. Tim explained that the key sentence in the notices was “if asked to stop drinking by a police officer.” PC Lisa Jones commented that the DPPO was linked to anti-social behaviour and if there was no anti-social behaviour taking place there was no reason why outdoor events would be affected.

Steve Pearce commented that the wording on the signs was good but the symbol indicated no drinking, which was not good in view of the fact that people could still drink. Tim Pointer explained that the signs were only going to be put up in areas where problems had been identified.

Tim was thanked for his presentation and for giving the background to the issue.

Discussion followed on a further community safety issue: speeding on Havant Road. A speed limit flashing sign had been put up which had been very effective, but it had only been present for three weeks then had been moved elsewhere. PC Lisa Jones explained that patrols on Havant Road were being increased.

PC Jones then gave notice that she was moving in October to policing duties in Purbrook, Widley and Crookhorn. She thanked the Community Board for all the support given to her. Steve Pearce on behalf of Community Board members thanked Lisa for the helpful way she had conducted police business in Emsworth and wished her well for her new area.

6. News Round-up

- a. Reports from Sub-Groups
Planning – minded to object to a planning application regarding 64 Havant Road (10 flats).

Environment - nothing to report other than the graffiti in the Washington Road Underpass (see Item 3 above).

Travel – Steve Pearce reported.

Activities

Membership had now been extended to include representatives from friends of Nore Barn Woods, Brook Meadow Conservation Group and Emsworth Heritage Trail. The sub-group was appealing in the October issue of EMS for volunteers to help with footpath monitoring

Steve Pearce had met with Havant Disability Access Forum to understand their needs and agree their assistance with audits when needed.

Steve Pearce and Jim Colbourne (resident) had held a key meeting on 4 Sept with Justin Harvey from Hampshire County Council Rights of Way Department, who was responsible for liaison with voluntary groups working to improve footpaths in their area. Justin had been very supportive of the group's activities and had given helpful guidance on the form of path

audits that Hampshire County Council would be keen to receive.

Justin's most frequent contacts were with local parish councils who had special rights regarding rights of way. He would ascertain what parts of the Hampshire County Council support to Parish Councils could apply to the Emsworth Community Board e.g. copies of definitive maps, eligibility for small grants scheme, right to review signpost removals, joining Parish Councils' workshop.

He would respond to concerns on footpath signpost removal and other matters.

A second meeting of the Rights of Way Sub-Group had been held that morning (11 Sept)

- Agreed updates to control list of paths to be monitored
- Focus on "Selangor Path" as first subject of footpath audit
- Agreed principles of audit method and reporting
- Reviewed issues surrounding recent proposals to upgrade path from King St to Queen St.

Issues

Another Emsworth Community Board member was needed to perform a secretarial function eg keeping audit reports and photographs, and organising path-monitoring activity. (There was already a minutes secretary).

The issue of raising funds for path improvement activity needed to be addressed. Community Boards were not allowed to hold funds so either a separate body similar to the Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden needed to be formed, or the Emsworth Town Partnership might be used.

- c. Feedback from Havant Community Partnership (HCP) Board and Havant Hampshire Action Team (HAT). Richard Galloway reported that revised Terms of Reference for Community Boards had been agreed at a meeting of the Community Boards' Chairmen and the HCP Chairman, Cllr Tony Briggs, on 9 September. He outlined the role of the Community Boards in being a conduit to inform the HCP strategic board about community issues.

7. Ongoing issues and activities in Emsworth

- a. Potential redevelopment of South St. Steve Pearce reported on a meeting in Winchester attended by himself, Tony Lee (Business Development Manager at Havant Borough Council) and Cllr Brendan Gibb-Gray, with representatives of the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). This was to seek £80,000 for this redevelopment. Steve was cautiously optimistic and was now seeking people for a team to drive the project forward. At the next Emsworth Community Board Open Morning at International House on Saturday 25 October, ideas and views would be sought.
- b. Emsworth Memorial Garden. Cllr Virginia Wilson-Smith reported that the Friends of the Memorial Garden had been awarded a Discretionary

Community Action Award of the “Britain in Bloom” competition and had been commended for this community involvement project. The plinth in the garden would be dedicated on 11 November and the name plaques were to be installed fairly quickly. Steve Pearce wished to acknowledge the fantastic work done by the friends.

- c. Emsworth Village Design Statement (VDS). Steve Pearce reported this was reaching implementation stage. It was required to be ratified by HBC and this had now been done. It was now to be printed and put onto the internet. Printed copies should be available in about a month. David Jones commented that the purpose of the VDS was to record what Emsworth was, and why people wanted to keep it as it was. He suggested the introduction of the new planning system, the Local Development Framework, had downgraded VDSs. Originally they were to be supplements to the Local Plan; now they were to be documents “for material consideration”. Some information had been extracted by the council and this was to be issued as a supplement to the printed VDS.
- d. Street Audit. Steve Pearce reported this was going to contribute to the Town Access Plan, because there was now going to be a sustainable travel plan for the borough. The street audit work had been recognised as invaluable for the development of the sustainable travel plan.
- e. Railway Inn. This had now been reopened.
- f. Victoria Cottage Hospital Site. Peter Tier reported on receiving notification from the relevant doctors’ surgery that day, advising that a business plan was being put together, as approval had been given by the Primary Care Trust for development of the site for a large medical centre.

8. Public Forum

Nore Barn Woods. A member of the public commented that there was only one picnic table in Nore Barn Woods – could more be installed. The waste bins were smelling and were sited far too close to the benches. Steve Pearce commented that this was an issue for Havant Borough Council.

The question of a sandpit for children was raised, since they had to resort to digging in stones/pebbles. Steve Pearce explained that Chichester Harbour Conservancy had said no to this, but he would try again to see if this could be progressed.

SP

9. Any Other Business for Community Board Members

- a. Richard Taylor reported that the Recreation and Leisure Sub-Group had not met to date, but suggested that the equipment in Hollybank and other play areas was outdated and needed upgrading. Some of the mothers were happy to be involved and progress this as a project. Also there was concern over what was available for young teens to do in Emsworth, and young families. Perhaps a “parents and teens forum” was needed.
- b. Jackie Mullen asked whether there was any news on recruiting a youth representative for the Community Board. Steve Pearce reported no response to date.

Action

- c. Discussion took place on whether to hold a Community Board meeting in December. It was agreed not to hold a formal meeting but to have a social get-together.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 9 October at 7.30 pm at Emsworth Community Association Centre.