

## Emsworth Community Board

### Minutes of Meeting held at Emsworth Community Centre on 14 June 2007 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

**Present: Community Board Members**

Stephen Pearce (Chair) (SP)  
Rosemary Osborne (Vice Chair) (RO)  
Virginia Wilson-Smith (VWS)  
Ken Gilchrist (KG)  
Frances Jannaway (FJ)  
Helen Barnard (HB)

**Residents/Members of Public/Police  
etc.**

Jayne Emery (JE)  
Malcolm Emery (ME)  
Mike Iddon (MI)  
Tim Brooks (TB)  
Brian Edwards-Picknett (BEP)  
Martin Bonner (MB)

**Also present:** Helen Wood (HW) Community Boards' Support Officer  
Approximately 50 members of the public

#### Item

Act

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, and explained that the main focus of the meeting would be planning and the work of the Community Board (a diagram was on display). It was explained that the meeting was a Community Board meeting open to the public, not a public meeting. However, input from members of the public would be welcomed. A video would be taken during the meeting snippets of which would be placed on the website.

Apologies had been received from: Maurice Clarke, Donald Wells, PC Lisa Jones, Sgt Ian Grey, PC Heslin and Cllr Brendan Gibb Gray.

#### 2. (a) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

#### (b) Matters Arising

A joint meeting of the Community Board and the Residents Association had been held regarding planning matters and a further meeting would be held. The Community Board and Emsworth Residents Association were working closely together to represent the views of the people of Emsworth.

Town Access Plans – The Community Board had run a project regarding cycleways. It was proposed to extend this to include mobility scooters etc. As this issue was part of a wider Hampshire County Council Plan this was now to be called Community Street Audit.

A series of work had been undertaken around Emsworth including dropped pavements, dual footway/cycleway etc. A walkabout will be undertaken to consider any issues which may need to be taken to a further meeting with Hampshire County Council. Anyone with any concerns were encouraged to contact Community Board members, Steve Pearce at [steve.pearce@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.pearce@btinternet.com) or the Community Boards' Support Officer.

Virginia Wilson-Smith reported that the Mill Pond had been opened but not cleaned on this occasion. The Environment Agency would be opening the Mill Pond approximately every 4 weeks in future.

Car parking at Bank Holidays. Virginia Wilson-Smith had investigated this matter and confirmed that car parks were free of charge on Bank Holidays but normal restricted waiting times applied on streets.

Poor workmanship at the brick crossing outside The Ship would be rectified by the contractor on Sunday 17 June.

Underpass surface. Tony Cailes (HBC) was waiting for the final invoice to ascertain whether any monies remained for work to be undertaken.

Mirror – Hampshire County Council did not wish to replace this due to cost. Tony Cailes would consider alternatives.

### **3. Summary of Reports/Documents Circulated**

Minutes, of the previous meeting, agenda for the current meeting and members contact details had been circulated to Community Board members.

### **4. Police Report**

A written report had been provided by Lisa Jones who was unable to attend the meeting.

ACSO presence had increased and PC Brian Heslin had also been acting on behalf of Lisa Jones.

At the last meeting Sgt Grey reported that there had been an increase in thefts from motor vehicles, non dwelling, dwelling burglaries and distraction burglaries. As he stated a separate team were dealing with the distraction burglaries, with investigations ongoing.

Regarding the thefts from vehicles and other burglaries there had been 3 arrests and reported incidents had decreased

The Denvilles area was still experiencing these crimes. Marked and unmarked patrols were being deployed to cover not only these areas but also hot spot areas within Emsworth, one of which was the Emsworth Sailing Club and car park, that had been experiencing some anti social behaviour.

Lisa Jones had been liaising with Councillor Brendan Gibb-Gray regarding the state of the Washington Rd underpass, and meetings were still ongoing regarding the damaged fencing / safer route to the businesses on the A27 Trunk road.

A call had been received from a distressed resident in New Brighton Road following a road traffic incident which involved a 6 year old child being knocked off her bike by a motorist. The child had suffered minor injuries, investigations were ongoing but Lisa Jones stressed to all vehicle users that there were many residential roads within the area of Havant and Emsworth that had a 30mph limit for this reason. Motorists should allow more time for their journeys.

Work had started to increase police presence regarding road related offences which would include the issuing of Fixed Penalty tickets for using mobile phones whilst driving and for not wearing a seat belt.

### **5. Planning Matters**

Steve Pearce explained that Community Board meetings normally covered a range of topics but that it had been decided to concentrate on planning issues at this meeting. There were two aspects of planning to be considered – the setting of guidelines, currently the Havant Borough District Wide Local plan which would be replaced by the Local Development Framework. Objections to plans could only be made if the guidelines were not met.

A joint meeting had been held on 16 May between Steve Pearce and Frances Jannaway from the Community Board, Chris Curry Chair of the Residents Association, Cllr Gibb Gray and Andrew Biltcliff from Havant Borough Council. Concerns regarding the new

system of planning were discussed and a wide range of topics covered including the quality and sustainability of affordable housing which has to be provided where developments have over 15 dwellings. The main outcome was to establish a relationship with the Planning Policy Group.

There was difficulty in establishing a Local Development Framework acceptable to the Government. A first draft had been submitted to Government Inspectors who had suggested that key issues e.g. education should be left out. The necessity of good design was stressed by all who felt that Havant Borough Council should demand higher quality from developers. Reserve housing sites were discussed in transition between Local Plan and new Local Development Framework. It was confirmed that once the South east Plan (currently being ratified) came into effect the Hampshire Structure Plan would cease and all reserve housing sites would be re-assessed. The reserve housing site in Emsworth was Hampshire Farm. There was a brief discussion regarding infrastructure which PUSH wishes to be in place before houses are accepted.

Steve Pearce stated that it was important to understand the different terminology and strategies.

Tim Brooks had attended a workshop regarding the Havant Borough Urban Design Guide (a guide for developers, residents etc.) on 25 May with approximately 60 people attending. Everyone attending had been very enthusiastic and passionate about ensuring that the guide was suitable constructed and included sustainable development, maintaining the character of the Borough, vehicles, pedestrians, cycles, safety, conservation, tree lined avenues etc. The next stage would include local surveys during the summer.

Steve Pearce felt it was encouraging that the community was being engaged and that the Community Board had been asked to assist in putting guidelines together. The feeling was that notice was being taken of the views of the community.

Daphney Haywood was introduced to provide information on a planning application by Wimpey development at Oak Tree Drive. (Plans were also displayed)

The area in the Local Plan was allocated for housing.

The Planning Application was for:

68 dwellings

138 car parking spaces within the cartilage plus garage courts

A mixture of housing types – flats houses etc.

41 letters had been sent out with 24 responses raising issues of density, appropriate location, access, mix of houses, wildlife and trees, car parking and the number of storeys involved. Consultations had been held with agencies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency etc.

The Planning Authority had raised a number of key issues with the developers.

Questions were asked concerning the development including the request for a definition of affordable housing (housing managed by Housing Associations for rent). There was a discussion on the provision of flats, the number of dwellings, devaluation of current properties, the distance to the nearest primary school, the use of an incorrect road name, the architectural design and use of suitable materials, lack of shops and public transport, amenity space for the flats and garden size.

There was a discussion on the lack of playing facilities for children, particularly those living in the flats (Daphney Haywood noted this issue), the identification of existing play areas for improvement and the provision of facilities on site. The Community Board felt that there should be provision on site. A financial contribution for play areas would be

DH

sought. Daphney Haywood confirmed that the Open Space Plan was available on the Council's website.

It was not known whether there had been any consultation with West Sussex regarding access and road layout as Long Copse Lane ran into West Sussex although Westbourne Parish Council had been consulted. Daphney Haywood to check. DH

The current status of the application was questioned. It was confirmed by Daphney Haywood that the application was current. A meeting had been held with the applicant's agents where a number of concerns had been expressed. The Planning Authority were waiting to hear whether the application would be withdrawn or proceed. If the application remained unchanged it might be refused although this could go to appeal. If the application were to be re-submitted there would be a further chance to object.

Chris Curry, Chair of Emsworth Residents Association spoke of the recently introduced Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which involved a pre-meeting for developers to present plans. At that meeting 100 points were raised by residents regarding the proposed development at Oak Tree Drive, 20 of which related to density. None of the points raised were changed when the application was presented to the Council. If no action were taken on points raised at pre-meetings there appeared little value in holding such meetings. It was important that developers were made aware of this.

Daphney Haywood confirmed that the SCI was fairly new and developers did not always take on board the comments made. However the SCI was ensuring more involvement and was a useful means of communication and was starting to have an effect.

There was a short discussion regarding the criteria used and whether the same criteria was used by the Planning Authority and the Appeals Inspectors. Steve Pearce confirmed that this was an issue which would be pursued by the Community Board and the Residents Association. It was recognised that there could be differing interpretations.

Thanks were passed to Daphney Haywood.

## **6. ECB Sub-Group Plans for 2007/2008**

Three of the sub-groups formed had provided statements regarding the aims and objectives. Copies of these attached to the minutes.

### **Environmental Sub-Group**

Rosemary Osborne reported that issues which were to be actioned by Peter Vince (HBC) remained outstanding. These included:

- replacing plastic bottle banks which had not been replaced
- labels on waste bins providing advice to dog owners
- litter and waste in areas in private ownership
- dog bin had not been replaced at the Mill Pond although the area was cleaner.

A fire had occurred in the underpass affecting tiles and lighting. Peter Vince and Lisa Jones had been informed.

A resident commented that her son had been clearing rubbish in Hollybank Woods but had been told to cut back on the amount collected due to a lack of budget for disposal. It was felt that education was the only means of improving the amount of litter created.

Frances Jannaway reported that the trees planted in Horndean Road Recreation Ground had been weeded and mulched to ensure they survive.

Built Environment Sub-Group. Tim Brooks reported that there were 4 people in the sub-group which would work with Emsworth Residents Association.

Permission for the development at 26 New Brighton Road had been refused.

**7. Market Town Initiative (MTI)/Town Partnership**

Emsworth Town Partnership was to be formed to involve all community groups in Emsworth and would pick up specific projects. Brendan Gibb-Gray was the Chairman and an article would appear in The Ems. It was seen as important that the Community Board worked closely with the Town Partnership. A Chairman and Treasurer had been agreed but a Secretary was required.

**8. Feedback on Hampshire Action Team Meetings (HATs)**

HATs were seen as a means to promote the views of Emsworth residents to Hampshire County Council as County Councillors met on a regular basis and the Community Board was also involved in key issues for the area.

One of the biggest areas of concern was the lack of co-operation and consultation by Hampshire County Council. HATs provided a means of communication with various Hampshire County Council departments with the Community Board being ideally suited to forward information from residents.

An issue of major concern was provision of activities for youth with much of the funding ending and facilities closing down. It was recognised that funding was required.

A meeting had been held regarding the reduction of speed limits from 40 – 30 mph in towns and villages. However, there was the desire among residents to reduce down to 20 mph in particular areas and to increase the perception of drivers. It was confirmed that the Council could not change speed limits without consulting the Police. Hampshire County Council had a '20 is plenty' project promoting signs outside schools and there was a desire to ensure this happened outside all Emsworth schools. It would be necessary to contact Margaret St George with specific issues clearly identified with priorities, evidence, community consultation and sources of funding before October. Frances suggested that this be an item on a future Community Board agenda and that surveys were carried out in Emsworth.

**9. Havant Community Partnership**

Notes had been circulated and some areas covered. To be discussed further at a future meeting.

**10. Any Other Business (for Community Board Members)**

Comments were passed regarding the points raised on planning issues and it was felt that consultations with the community were improving.

Thanks were passed to all those attending the meeting.

**11. Date, Time and Venue of next meeting**

**Thursday 12 July 2007** at Emsworth Community Centre  
(7pm for Board members & 7.30pm for members of public)

## **Aims and activities of ECB Environmental subgroup for the next 12 months (May 2007)**

### **Aims**

- 1) greatly reduce the amount of litter, dog mess, flyposting, flytipping, inappropriate graffiti and pollution in Emsworth and the surrounding area
- 2) promote tree planting in public places such as parks, recreation grounds and schools
- 3) promote tree after care by the community as much as possible
- 4) encourage individuals, other community groups, schools, etc., in their efforts to conserve and improve the natural and built environment
- 5) encourage the use of parks and recreation grounds for sporting and other recreational activities by people of all ages
- 6) promote pooling of resources by ECB, other community organisations, schools, and residents to carry out environmental projects
- 7) improve communications between HBC, HCC and the public on Environmental matters

### **Activities**

- 1) monitor and report incidents of litter, dog mess, flytipping, flyposting and inappropriate graffiti; vandalism; pollution of watercourses to HBC's Environmental Services, Police or Environment Agency, respectively
- 2) monitor and check progress of actions to be taken by HBC's Environmental Services as outlined in the ECB's Clean-up report of October 2006 and HBC's reply of 5 March 2007
- 3) maintain pressure on HBC's Environmental Services to keep the underpasses in the town centre swept clean
- 4) endeavour to ensure that the other underpasses are also cleaned and maintained to an acceptable standard liaising with HCC, Highways Agency and Railtrack as appropriate
- 5) liaise with HBC's engineering department to ensure that the works to the central underpass are completed as promised under Liveability project, for example replacement of broken mirror, new surface in underpass, new lighting covers in underpass
- 6) monitor skatepark concerning quality of graffiti art and promote its renewal with HBC if required
- 7) organise litter picking sessions around underpasses, footpaths, verges, alleyways
- 8) organise and carry out after care of recently planted trees, such as weeding, mulching and occasional watering of the 16 trees planted along southern path on Horndean Road recreation ground
- 9) suggest locations and species for tree planting in autumn/winter 2007
- 10) support the proposal by Ann Gilchrist to make Emsworth a plastic-bag-free town also during major events like Emsworth Food Festival and offer an alternative
- 11) support and encourage initiatives such as 'Park Events' and HBC's 'Street Sport' scheme
- 12) provide residents and community organisations with information and/or contact details of the relevant local authority department or appropriate body to enable them to sort out the environmental issues themselves.

## **Emsworth Community Board – Built Environment & Planning Group**

### Aims

1. To ensure the views of Emsworth residents are taken into account in the development of planning strategies and guidelines affecting Emsworth.
2. To support, object to, and/or comment on, all planning applications which could have a material effect on the quality of life of a significant proportion of Emsworth residents.
3. Generally, to represent to HBC and other relevant bodies the views of Emsworth residents on all matters concerning the development and planning of the built environment in Emsworth.

### Activities for 2007/8

1. Monitor local planning applications to identify those which are “relevant” to Emsworth Community Board i.e. those which could have a material effect on the quality of life of a significant proportion of Emsworth residents. This includes applications for development on the western borders of West Sussex as well as those in Havant Borough.
2. Make formal ECB response to HBC planning department, or Chichester District Council if appropriate, on relevant planning applications.
3. Attend HBC Development Management Committee meetings which are considering relevant planning applications.
4. Make formal representation to Appeals concerning relevant planning applications.
5. Establish and maintain a good working relationship with the staff of HBC planning policy and planning control departments.
6. Contribute to HBC consultation exercises, meetings and workshops for the development of local planning policy and guidelines.
7. Seek the views of Emsworth residents on planning matters via the monthly ECB meetings and other channels as appropriate.
8. Maintain a close working relationship with Emsworth Residents Association to exchange views on planning matters and participate with them in activities to support the interests of Emsworth residents and further the aims of the ECB planning group. Such activities could include holding joint public meetings and joint meetings with HBC planning officials.
9. Maintain a good working relationship with Emsworth Councillors in order to support the interests of Emsworth residents and further the aims of the ECB planning group.

## **Emsworth Community Board – Communications Group**

### Aims

1. To get the name and purpose of Emsworth Community Board known to the majority of Emsworth residents who are concerned about the town and their community.
2. To increase the number of people attending ECB monthly meetings to at least 25 per meeting.
3. To promote queries and comments from Emsworth residents on issues which are relevant to the ECB.
4. To ensure that Emsworth residents are kept informed about HBC and HCC activities and services which affect quality of life in Emsworth
5. To ensure that the views of Emsworth residents are made clear to HBC, HCC and other agencies who plan and provide services and facilities in Emsworth

### Activities for 2007/8

1. Update and improve the ECB website as a means of promoting the board, increasing public attendance at board meetings and attracting input from Emsworth people
2. Ensure that the ECB website and the ECB web pages on the HBC and HCP websites are consistent, complementary to each other and mutually linked
3. Produce and display posters publicising board meetings
4. Seek funding for an ECB promotional leaflet and produce such a leaflet for widespread distribution within Emsworth
5. Investigate the funding and setting up of periodic open mornings for the public at International House.
6. Submit media articles to publicise and promote the activities of the board
7. Organise an ECB presence at public gatherings e.g. The Emsworth Show and Food Festival
8. Conduct informal soundings of local views from local people and retail businesses.
9. (Longer term) Set up ECB notice boards in selected positions around Emsworth