

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 10 July 2008 at 7.30pm at Emsworth Community Association Centre

Present: Community Board Members

Steve Pearce	Chairman/Resident
Rosemary Osborne	Vice Chairman/Resident
Tim Brooks	Emsworth Business Association
Hilary Millen	Resident
Richard Taylor	Resident
Donald Wells	Resident
Cllr Virginia Wilson-Smith HBC) Councillor	Nominated Havant Borough Council (

Present: Others

Helen Wood	Community Boards' Support Officer
2 Community Safety Officers	Hampshire County Council
6 members of the public	
Cllr Brendan Gibb-Gray	
Lucy Flannery	Havant Literary Festival

1. Welcome and Apologies

Steve Pearce welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from:

Brian Edwards-Picknett	Resident
Richard Galloway	Resident
Jean Tier	Emsworth Community Association
Peter Tier	Friends of Emsworth Hospital
PC Lisa Jones	Hampshire Constabulary

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting/Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to the following amendments:

Attendees - 'Police Community Support Officers' should read 'Community Safety Officers'

Item 6 'public development forum' should read 'development consultation forum'.

Matters arising

a. Item 2a: Youth Council An email had been received from Jacky Burden, Havant Youth Team confirming that there was only one young person on the Youth Council from Emsworth and she was not able to take on any such responsibility at the present time. However, other youth groups had been contacted and it was hoped that it would be possible to find a young person interested in attending Community Board meetings in the future.

b. Item 3 – Survey of schoolchildren using Footpath 71. Steve Pearce had been unable to find enough people to undertake the survey which had been cancelled. It was hoped that further action could be taken at the beginning of the next term.

Cllr Gibb-Gray confirmed that since the last meeting the developers had agreed to a Development Consultation Forum in September and that it would be helpful if Community Board members and residents could attend that meeting.

c. Item 6b No further action had been undertaken regarding verge cutting.

3. Police Report/Environmental Ranger

Police

PC Lisa Jones had submitted a written report:

- There had been a significant reduction in dwelling burglaries, non dwelling burglaries and thefts from motor vehicles in the Emsworth area but owners were still leaving small items on display and vehicles insecure.
- Reported assaults had remained steady with the same amount as this time last year (Total 6 over past 30 days)
- There had been a steady increase in criminal damage including broken windows from youths playing football and domestic arguments resulting in damage to property.
- Public order reports had also reduced although there had been an increase in reports of rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour, mainly due to the fact that members of the public were reporting more incidents.
- Intelligence continued to be received of drugs being used in the Emsworth area (not just in the town centre), licencing checks were continuing and further operations and drug testing were being organised to tackle these issues. A male had been arrested for the possession of a controlled substance.
- The price of scrap metal was very high and any suspicious sightings of anyone collecting scrap or stealing scrap from properties should be reported. A white transit van had been reported as involved in metal thefts in the Havant area (this was not a vehicle owned by travellers)
- Due to the high price of fuel there had also been an increase of fuel theft across the Borough and any suspicious sightings should be reported.
- With the help of the Community Punishment Team the Westbourne Footpath(FP73)had been cleared and thanks were passed to Jim Colbourne for his help
- The Washington Road underpass was free of graffiti

Lisa Jones passed on her thanks to the Community Board for their continued support and thanks were passed from the Community Board to Lisa Jones and Jim Colbourne for the excellent work undertaken on the footpath.

Environmental Ranger

Nick Horton reported that much of his time had been spent with the Travellers who had moved from Bosmere Field. However there were groups at Broadmarsh and in Southmoor Lane. A group in Selangor Avenue had been privately evicted.

A discussion followed regarding travellers accessing council sites despite substantial defences. Community Safety Officer, Sean Lehan confirmed that Travellers went to extreme measures to access sites. With approximately 70 open sites in the Borough information from the public was very important. Nick Horton explained the checks that were made when Travellers arrived in the Borough e.g. welfare, schooling etc. and it was confirmed that permanent sites were being considered. This was an issue nationally.

Fly tipping and numbers of abandoned vehicles were significantly down.

Thanks were passed to Nick Horton for attending the meeting.

3A Havant Literary Festival

Lucy Flannery attended the meeting to provide information on the forthcoming Havant Literary Festival to be held from 25 – 28 September 2008, the first to be held in the Borough. This was to be a celebration of the written and spoken word with over 50 events including talks, workshops, poetry, children's events etc. Local writers would be featured and links with P G Wodehouse, Nevil Shute and Keats would be celebrated. Further information could be obtained at: www.havantlitfest.hampshire.org.uk

There would be a huge press campaign but word of mouth was very important. Leaflets were distributed to those present and posters would be forwarded to Steve Pearce to go on local notice boards.

Thanks were passed to Lucy Flannery for the information provided.

4. Review of ECB Open Morning at International House

An open morning had been held by the Community Board at International House.

The Street Audit posters were attractive, full of information and provided a very good focus for discussion.

The ECB posters had also been successful in provoking discussion.

A Community Board member outside, inviting people in had proved very successful. However, better pre-event publicity could increase the number attending.

Serving refreshments had provided a second focus for discussion as well as making the occasion more pleasant for visitors.

Ideas for the future

- Printing ECB mission information on the back of personalised business cards for ECB members
- Review of public transport services in Emsworth, especially for people in the north part of town.
- All ECB members who attend open mornings to report back on issues raised by members of the public.
- Prepare a short verbal explanation of the ECB role that can be used when meeting members of the public.
- Pre-publicity and 2 posters outside to attract attention and create awareness.

Comments and suggestions from members of the public

- A public toilet was needed in North Street
- More action was needed to reduce speeding traffic along main approach and access roads i.e. Havant Road, Horndean Road, New Brighton Road and Southleigh Road
- HBC had asked for some sections to be removed from the Emsworth Design Statement (EDS). Ann Davies suggested that these sections should be collected into a new document that ECB (and ERA) could use as a reference point for future reviews of planning applications and any other local matters. The EDS itself would remain as a prime reference point.

The next open morning would be in two months time. Any ideas regarding displays would be welcomed. There was an issue with the name 'International House' as the name did not actually appear on the building and therefore created some confusion.

Thanks were passed to those people who had helped at the open morning.

5. Updates from ECB Sub-Groups

Travel Group – a report by the Travel Group could be found at the end of the Minutes.

Natural Environment Rosemary Osborne explained that she had been in contact with Peter Vince, Environmental Quality Manager at Havant Borough Council for the last 1½ - 2 years and there had been successes and considerable improvements to Hollybank Park.

One of the main issues had been at Washington Road underpass and the Community Board had been consistently told that there was no money to clear debris on the adjacent private land. However this work had been carried out during the previous two weeks due to 'Britain in Bloom' as the dignitaries

would be walking through the underpass. It was frustrating that no work had been undertaken until an event took place.

Cllr Gibb-Gray explained that 'Britain In Bloom' was a national competition and Nore Barn and the Memorial Gardens had been chosen. He confirmed that judges had been very impressed by the Memorial Gardens. A great deal of work had been undertaken by Havant Borough Council and such competitions brought funding which benefited both Emsworth and the Borough. Emsworth could also receive some very good publicity for Nore Barn and the Memorial Gardens.

There was a short discussion regarding the lack of resources generally and the need to look for opportunities, such as the excellent work undertaken on a local footpath by the Community Punishment Team. This had been arranged by Lisa Jones who had confirmed that the Team could be used in other areas.

Built Environment Tim Brooks confirmed that there had been very few planning issues in Emsworth. Two bungalows had been demolished on Western Parade and would be replaced by two, four bedroom houses. There had been no real reason to object.

Health There had been no issues since the previous meeting.

Communication An extra notice board had been erected outside the Baptist Church in North Street and it was recognised that better use needed to be made of it. It was also recognised that the web site needed to be improved.

Community and Recreation Richard Taylor reported that the group had not yet met but it was felt that action was needed in the Hollybank Park Play area as there were increasing numbers of children in the area.

6. Public Forum

It was reported that a garden had been opened by Lucy Docherty with all proceeds going to the Memorial Gardens. This had been a very successful event which had raised approximately £300.

7. Any Other Business (for Community Board Members)

Jim Colbourne questioned the spending of monies allocated to County Councillors as there did not appear to be any information relating to how the money had been spent. Steve Pearce agreed to contact David Gillett and ask where the money had been allocated. Action: SP

Rosemary Osborne spoke of a letter published in The Ems regarding access for the disabled at the station and a request for help in obtaining a ramp. Virginia Wilson-Smith told those present that David Willetts and David Gillett were trying to resolve this issue. Cllr Gibb-Gray confirmed that it was a statutory obligation for Network Rail to provide such a ramp.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14 August at 7.30 pm at Emsworth Community Association Centre.

Report by Travel Group meeting 9 July 2008

Steve Pearce, Hilary Millen, Donald Wells

It was agreed that the travel sub-group would concentrate on a limited number of achievable aims for 2008 rather than trying to address all the potential issues under the "Travel" heading. The selected objectives were:

1. To set up a footpath group including local residents. The key aims would be to survey and record the identity, status and condition of all Emsworth footpaths. Then to identify actions we could take to improve the footpaths, either by direct action, by utilising other resources or by lobbying local authorities. We would focus particularly on signposting footpaths and clearing them of undergrowth.
2. To produce a map of local cycle ways and footpaths
3. To lobby for measures to reduce speeding on roads in Emsworth.

One of our first actions would be to request volunteers from among local residents to join the new footpath group. This would be done at the next ECB meeting and by an EMS article.

We noted the concerns of residents from the northern part of Emsworth about the poor bus service into the main town. Getting better bus services is essentially concerned with getting more subsidies from the local authorities which has been pursued by our ward councillors in the past. We did not feel we could make a major new contribution to this effort.

Following this meeting, I spoke to

- Brendan Gibb-Gray, ward councillor
- Jim Colbourne, local resident,
- Tracey Ford, Sustainable Transport Engineer, HBC
- Peter Sollars, Ramblers Association Footpath Secretary for S. Hampshire

The conclusions were:

- Brendan and Jim would like to join the footpath group. Brendan would like us to consider appointing footpath wardens in Emsworth.
- HBC Transport Group has commissioned from Groundworks, the printing of a cycle map for Havant. This is nearing completion but delayed due to the departure of a key staff member

- Steve Mountain from HBC is developing a Sustainable Travel Strategy for Havant. This will cover all forms of travel other than by motor vehicles. I will be contacting Steve next week when he returns from holiday to see how we might participate in the task
- I believe we should follow the example of HBC and call our Community Board sub-group "Travel Group" instead of "Transport Group" to make the inclusion of pedestrian travel and footpaths more obvious.
- The S. Hampshire Ramblers Association carried out a survey of all footpaths in their area last year. This lists and categorises the footpaths and identifies improvements needed. Peter Sollars will send us this list which immediately helps us with one of our key objectives. Peter and I agreed that our two organisations should keep in contact and involve each other whenever this would be appropriate.
- ECB should request HCC to be the designated local body at parish level to agree or object to HCC proposals to remove signposting of footpaths. (This function is normally carried out by the local parish council.)

We ought to seek the support of our ward and county councillors in getting the new A259 cycle lane near to Bridge Road designated as a mandatory cycle lane with solid white line in order to prevent vehicles parking on it. If this was not possible then we should try to get double yellow line parking restrictions introduced.

Steve Pearce
Chairman, Emsworth Community Board