

Emsworth Community Board

Minutes of Meeting held at Emsworth Community Centre on 14 December 2006 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Community Board Members

Ken Gilchrist (Chair) (KG)
Frances Jannaway (Vice Chair) (FJ)
Maurice Clarke (MC)
Brian Edwards-Picknett (BEP)
Stephen Pearce (SP)
Helen Barnard (HB)
John Tweddell (JT)
Martin Bonner (MB)

Helen Wood (HW) Community Boards' Support Officer

Present: Residents/Members of Public/Police etc

Harold Groom
Albert & Margaret Murrell
Brendan Gibb-Gray
Donald Wells
J Colbourne
B Clarke

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

Apologies had been received from: Linda McInnes; Virginia Wilson-Smith; Richard Soloway; Jayne Emery; Rosemary Osborne; Lisa Jones

2 (a) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

(b) Matters Arising

Item 9 Frances Jannaway confirmed that a notice had been placed on the ERA notice board concerning the 101 non emergency number and this would also be publicised in the next edition of The EMS.

The wish to have a young person on the Community Board was expressed again. This matter is getting urgent. Helen Wood to check with Nicola Kennett. Action: HW

Helen Wood also to check the possible provision of a youth shelter with Nicola Kennett. Funding has already been obtained by Jayne Emery from a police fund but is not enough to pay for the shelter. Additional funding could be obtained from YOF (Youth Opportunities Fund) but must be applied for by the young people themselves. Action: HW

3 Summary of Reports/Documents Circulated

Helen Wood summarised the documents circulated to members and those on display.

4 Police Report

WPC Lisa Jones had provided a written update relating to the area which Ken Gilchrist read out:

The theft of satellite navigation systems continued and the theft of bicycles had also increased.

Lisa Jones asked that drivers keep their speed down as there had been two fatal accidents recently.

Those with elderly neighbours were asked to check on them during the winter and everyone was reminded to keep Christmas presents out of sight. Lisa Jones wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

5 Emsworth Centre Liveability Project

Ken Gilchrist and Frances Jannaway had met with Borough Council Officers Tony Cailles and Dave Oliver to discuss the opening ceremony by the Mayor on Saturday 17 February 2007. This would be for the works undertaken at the roundabout, underpass, finger signs, ramps, lampposts etc. A map showing the finger signs was circulated and the signs were displayed for those present to view. Frances Jannaway explained the positioning of the new signs which had been ordered.

There was a discussion about the venue for the opening event and it was agreed that International House would be the best venue as it was in the middle of the town and would attract passers-by on the day. It was intended that there should be displays promoting the Community Board. However, it was also agreed that other venues such as the Baptist Church Hall in North Street should be considered for future events.

Frances Jannaway confirmed that a plaque would be unveiled near the subway and the wording was discussed. Frances Jannaway and Brian Edwards-Picknett would finalise wording for the plaque which was to be made by a local company. Maurice Clarke emphasised the need to include the words Emsworth Community Board on the plaque since the Board had been involved in deciding what should be included in this major Emsworth project. A resident also suggested that the wording should include the fact that Emsworth was a 'friendly' community.

6 Feedback on ECB Planning Workshop on 18 November

Steve Pearce summarised the outcomes of the ECB Planning Workshop held on 18 November 2006 details of which had been circulated to Community Board members.

It was felt that the Emsworth Community Board could benefit the local community by:

'Becoming the voice of the people;
Providing a balanced view for the community;
Having the ability to influence council thinking and decisions;
Providing a focus for community involvement and
By making things happen.'

However, it was recognised that there were issues which required resolving. These included:

'Reaching an understanding with the HCP ;
Concentrating on what was important to the community;
Engaging with the Community;
Resolving funding issues;
Improving efficiency and
Developing the project management process.'

Cllr Brendan Gibb-Gray asked whether the relationship of the Community Board with other organisations such as various associations such as Emsworth Residents Association, other Emsworth organisations and local Councillors had been considered as he felt that there were sometimes tensions in those relationships. It was agreed that the relationship with the ERA had been discussed but not that of the Councillors although Virginia Wilson-Smith had flagged this up informally several times.

The Community Board wished to approach key organisations and work together - the role of the Community Board and Councillors was important and boundaries needed clarifying.

There was a discussion about the Design Statement, the involvement of the Community Board and the importance of this when considering future development in the town. Frances Jannaway would ask the Secretary to distribute copies.

Action: FJ

Brian Edwards-Picknett spoke of cross fertilisation with other organisations and the fact that Chris Curry from the Emsworth Residents Association had addressed Emsworth Community Board regarding the A27 development and that the Community Board had written to the Council, backing up the views of the ERA . Steve Pearce proposed that the Design Statement be reviewed and agreed (or otherwise) by the Community Board.

A resident asked whether the Community Board could be considered formally as a Parish Meeting which would have more legal powers and would be like a 'minor parliament'. There was a short discussion about Parish Councils and Parish Meetings. The resident did not believe the community was properly represented on the Emsworth Community Board which he felt should have members representing different organisation within the community. It was suggested that each member of the Community Board present explain which organisation they also represented. It was confirmed that these included the ERA , Brook Meadow Conservation Group, Tree Warden Scheme, Community Association, Neighbourhood Watch, the Hampton Trust, the Business Association, the Food Festival, the Museum, the MTI, the Design Statement, and the Fire Service.

Thanks were passed to Steve Pearce for organising the workshop.

6a Treasurers Report

Steve Pearce had produced a Financial Statement, which had been circulated to members, showing the monies held by the Community Board. This was currently split into 'General Administration Fund' and Memorial Fund', a list of monies received and 'Memorial Garden Budget Outlook'. Once a bank account had been set up it would be possible to apply for lottery awards and further donations. Three signatories would be required for the bank account. At the end of the financial year the accounts would need to be approved. Any Community Board member with the relevant qualifications to undertake this should contact Steve Pearce.

Thanks were passed to Steve Pearce.

Mr Murrell asked whether the Co-op had been approached for funding for the Memorial Gardens. It was confirmed that this would be progressed once the wording and the costing had been agreed. There was also an issue with match funding and it was hoped that a lottery award could be obtained. This was likely to be applied for in January 2007.

7 Memorial Garden Project

A memorial service, instigated by Virginia Wilson Smith had been held at the Memorial Gardens on 11 November 2006. Harold Groom provided the Community Board with photographs which recorded the first wreath laying ceremony on the site which was seen as a landmark.

The main issue regarding the project was finalising what was required. Paul Hurst of HBC would be providing a plan and a meeting of interested parties would be held, including Sarah Sanderson early in January next year. Two seats had been ordered and delivered and would be installed once the appropriate location had been agreed.

£1,200 remained for provision of an Information Board and permission had been received to move the 'Cold Harbour Road' sign. It was envisaged that progress would increase in January and a meeting of the Task and Finish Group had been arranged for the following week.

Action: T&F Group

There was a general discussion about the trees to be planted and their location and the work to be carried out by Havant Borough Council during the winter. It was generally agreed that a complete design needs to be made for the whole memorial garden area including seats, information board, paths, walls, name plaques, planting etc. rather than doing it piecemeal. Although this would certainly take a bit longer it was felt that this was necessary both for obtaining funding and for achieving the aim of creating a special place.

Thanks were passed to Harold Groom for his continued involvement and for the photographs of the 11 November Remembrance service.

8 Project Progress Reports

Clean Up Campaign – Maurice Clarke informed the Community Board that the Litter Report had been forwarded to Dawn Baxendale on 6 December but there had been no response. Helen Wood to pursue. Action: HW

Cycleway Project – A cycling stall had been provided at Green Living Fair on 11 November where leaflets and a survey had been available. The survey had provided a great deal of interesting and useful information. Views obtained would be included in a report to be sent to Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council which would put forward a clear view of improving cycling facilities. A meeting would be held early in January with Peter Savage from Hampshire County Council, Tracey Ford from Havant Borough Council and local residents representing cyclists. Cllr Brendan Gibb-Gray asked to attend this meeting and this was agreed.

The Town Centre Access Project had looked at crossing points on the A259 and some improvement work would be undertaken near Bridge Road and outside the Butchers with work scheduled to commence after Christmas.

A member of the public, Donald Wells, suggested a pedestrian bridge should be built to alleviate the problems of cyclists and pedestrians at this narrow point.

There was concern about cyclists sharing the footway with pedestrians and also about drains in the cycle tracks and the surfacing used for those tracks.

Tree Planting Project in Recreation Ground – Frances Jannaway reported that Andrew Skeet of HBC had been considering the types of trees to be planted. He had also been in contact with Portsmouth Water Company and had been informed of pipes at the proposed location for some of the trees (along southern path). The proposed Lime trees would therefore be replaced with double flowered wild cherry trees and Oaks would be planted in the northern part of the park. This work would be undertaken and funded by Havant Borough Council.

John Tweddell said he would write a report on the Footpath Project for the next meeting.

9 Public Forum

A resident, Mr Clarke, raised the issue of fly posting and provided examples of the notices which had been displayed well beyond the appropriate date. He felt that people erecting such notices should also be responsible for removing them and that a notice board should be provided for such notices. There was a general discussion about the display of notices ranging from those advertising a car boot sale to planning application notices. Ken Gilchrist said the Community Board would follow this up.

A resident, Mr Colbourne, had been unable to attend the previous meeting which had included a presentation on the MTI and was concerned that the Community Board minutes did not include discussion of the provision of toilets in Emsworth. Cllr Brendan Gibb-Gray confirmed that this issue was well documented by the MTI and that he would speak to Sarah Snowden about this.

Cllr Brendan Gibb-Gray thanked the Community Board and Support Officer, on behalf of Emsworth, for the work that had been undertaken during the year. He emphasised that the members worked on a voluntary basis, provided a good spread of expertise and that a lot had been achieved for the benefit of the community.

10 Any Other Business (Community Board Members)

Frances Jannaway informed the Community Board of a Core Strategy Workshop being held in January and confirmed that she would report back to a future meeting.

Helen Wood passed on an invitation for two members of the Community Board to attend the next meeting of Havant and Bedhampton Community Board on Wednesday 24 January 2007 at 3 p.m. as work had been undertaken by a sub-group to improve communications and they wished to involve other Community Boards.

Brian Edwards-Picknett, being the Publicity Officer said he would attend. Action: BEP

Frances Jannaway spoke of a stile on the footpath from Westbourne which had rotted and was no longer in use. She had spoken to Cllr Gibb-Gray who had suggested a letter from the Community Board to the Chief Executive at Hampshire County Council could be effective. A resident confirmed that this had been reported many times but had been informed that remedial action was of low priority. There was however concern over health and safety. It was agreed that a letter should be sent. John Tweddell to pursue. Action: JT

It was noted that Steve Abraham was no longer the Environmental Ranger for Emsworth.

Helen Wood read an email concerning work to be undertaken to replace the footbridge adjoining Emsworth Mill Pond. This had been forwarded by Virginia Wilson-Smith with a request that the matter be brought to the Community Board's attention.

11 Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

Thursday 11 January 2007 at Emsworth Community Centre
(7pm for Board members & 7.30pm for members of public)