

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Chris Curry

Food Festival Access - A number of residents were very concerned that access to their homes or places of work was going to be completely closed for vehicles between 9.30 and 17.30. This is a stricter condition than in previous years when some movement was allowed, dependent on need. This new arrangement was an inconvenience for many and a significant concern for some. Fortunately, the Food Festival Committee was able to discuss the detail further with the Police who have revised the original ruling. By the time you read this, I hope that the Festival will again have passed off as a great success enjoyed by many and with minimal inconvenience to those directly affected by access limitations.

50 Bath Road - A second planning application has been submitted for this site since I last wrote. The ERA Committee felt that we should use our Planning Consultant to help contribute to our objection to this proposal. This effort along with local residents in and around Bath Road and letters from others in Emsworth who responded to the suggestion we made at our ERA QGM in July, as well as the letter of objection from the Community Board helped to defeat the latest proposal.

This subject is discussed on page 1 but it is very pleasing to see the efforts of many individuals and organisations in Emsworth achieve a satisfactory outcome. We must expect yet another application or perhaps an appeal.

26 New Brighton Road - The ERA will be presenting our case to the Inspector at the Civic Offices on 18 and 19 September and hope for a rejection of the Appeal. We have a number of grounds to object on the present proposal including the location of the building on the site, the density of the flats in the development and the provision, or lack of it for residents and visitors parking. Again we have had some professional advice in advance of the inquiry.

Oak Tree Drive Development - This was formally refused on 27 June with an impressive list of 12 reasons for refusal. The next step is unknown at the time of writing.

A27 Site - Whilst opposing the access road in the strongest possible terms, in principle we support the idea of having a westbound service station and hotel, accessed from the A27. Our response to that plan was detailed in the last issue of The EMS.

Interbridges East - We still await a response from Jackie Batchelor at Havant Borough Council to our request for a Tree Preservation Order on part of the land that was originally compulsorily purchased for the purpose of landscaping alongside the A27T. After my initial letter was, "lost in the post," I was assured on the 11 July that the matter would be taken care of soon.

Multidisciplinary Response Team - A talk on the role of the multidisciplinary response team was given at the last QGM. This explained the way that the team, which operating from the former Cottage Hospital, links with GPs, carers and Social Services to support those who can be treated at home. This resulted in a large number of questions most of which were answered at the time.

Elizabeth Emms later supplied answers to the remaining questions. These are posted on our website and paper copies will be available at the next QGM for those who are interested.

Emsworth residents registered with a West Sussex GP benefit from a similar service called 'Intensive Care at Home', as part of their Community Nursing service.

Apology - Since the meeting of 18 April, we have e-mailed or written to those of you who gave your details as potential objection letter writers or attendees at HBC Development Management Committee meetings. Unfortunately, owing to an administrative error those of you who volunteered to write objections may have received a letter with the incorrect initials or first name. I apologise for this error.

Road Rage?

Brendan Gibb-Gray

Havant Road is again in the news; Hampshire Highways have partially resurfaced the stretch between Clovelly Road and Selangor Avenue. The explanation is that funding is scarce so they have only resurfaced the worst parts. Additionally, the Highway Authority have told Havant Borough Council that funding cannot be found to resurface the cycle lane in distinctive red tarmac. HBC have been advised by the County that if they think this is necessary, the funding should come from money allocated for the pavement repair programme. Many of our pavements in Emsworth are in a bad state and it would be unfair to take much needed funds away from this allocation. The A259 cycleway was laid about 12 years ago and as anyone who cycles along it will testify, it floods opposite Selangor Avenue and is badly worn with some serious cracking along its entire length. We are trying to get the rest of Havant Road resurfaced and the cycle lane upgraded as soon as possible.

Hampshire County Council have not yet revealed plans to continue the improvements and alterations to the road layout and extension to the cycle lane along the stretch between Convent Lane and Bridgefoot Path. The Community Board and your councillors have submitted a detailed summary of defects and whilst rather hopeful noises are coming from Winchester, no firm plans have been seen.

Business Association News (EBA)

Brendan Gibb-Gray

The EBA have three main projects this year. As always we will be celebrating Christmas and the arrival of Santa and the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights, on THURSDAY 29th NOVEMBER in The Square. Our school children will as always be singing Carols and lots of fun is promised. Please put this date in your diary, more information will be displayed locally nearer the time.

As reported elsewhere in The EMS, the EBA is in the forefront in helping to make plastic bags in Emsworth a thing of the past. We are allocating a considerable sum of money to kick-start this effort. Already the publicity and support for this has been considerable and traders are reporting that they are giving out less plastic bags and more people are bringing their own reusable shopping bags. This is good news for business and the environment.

Our main project this year is to improve the eastern approach to the town on the A259 at the Hermitage Bridge. We have submitted a Design Plan to West Sussex Highways to place a boat on the grass triangle and fill it with plants and flowers. The Highways Authority and Chichester District Council have been most supportive and all the indications are that this feature will match the attractive planting on the town roundabout.



The eastern entrance to Emsworth – in need of a 'flower boat'

This again was an EBA initiative with the support of Havant Borough Council. We hope to have the boat in place and planted by the end of October and we are sure residents and visitors will approve of another stunning feature at a gateway position into the town. The EBA has an option on an additional boat, so if anybody has any ideas as to where it might be placed we would be delighted to hear from you!

Our grateful thanks to Carol Haskett of GCS Computers and Dave Wagg of Emsworth Home Hardware for completing the preparation work in getting this exciting project off the ground.

More news can be found on the EBA website at www.emsworth.org.uk



Emsworth Design Statement

David Jones

The ratification period of the EDS ended on 15th August and I thank all those who took the time and trouble to read the draft and complete a response form. I received 241 forms of which 98%, including 17% with comments, provided ratification. Almost all of the other 2% were also in general agreement except for various specific points. All significant comments are being considered by the Core Group and I will reply to those residents with the results of the group's consideration. It is very gratifying and important to know that the EDS will have the full support of the residents.

Access to the draft was also provided to HBC for further comment beyond that given during the evolution of the EDS. A reply has been received from Frank Campbell, Corporate Director, who is concerned with some fundamental issues, such as topic coverage of the EDS, due, not least to the radical changes to much of the planning system now being imposed throughout all levels of government.

I hope that resolution of these issues will be history by the time that the next EMS is published, and that formal submission of the EDS to HBC will have been made. In the meantime, any significant developments will be made public on the ERA noticeboard.



Emsworth Community Board

Steve Pearce

I am sure we all agree that Emsworth is a wonderful place to live. Emsworth has a real sense of community and its environment is continually changing, sometimes in positive ways like the work that has been done on the pavements and A259 underpass this year. Others more worrying like the large Interbridges development application which has the potential to grid lock and divide Emsworth. Some changes go unnoticed like the continual work that goes on to keep litter and graffiti to a minimum. The Community Board is involved in all these plans and activities. It contributes to the work of Havant Borough Council to develop future planning guidelines as well as presenting community views on council services and local planning applications. Together with your local councillors, it works on your behalf to ensure Emsworth changes with the times yet remains the lovely place it is now.

The board comprises 15 elected local residents and meets at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Emsworth Community Centre. These meetings are open to the public and we welcome views and comments from residents. There are regular updates from the police and environmental ranger, special presentations on hot topics and regular reports on our activities. Come along and join in, we want to hear about ideas and issues which affect the Emsworth community. You can also send your views to me directly at steve.pearce@btinternet.com or phone 01243 431615. Together we can make a difference to Emsworth today and in the future.



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