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ERA Chairman's Report

I would like to take this opportunity in my first Chairman's Report to thank and acknowledge Chris Curry for his enormous contribution and strong leadership of the ERA. Much water has passed under the bridge since I first joined the ERA committee in 1976. After temporarily leaving Emsworth to work abroad, I was re-elected as an ERA committee member in 2001. Since then the ERA has been led by three Chairmen, the last of whom was Chris Curry.



During Chris' tenure, the focus and priorities driven by Havant Borough Council (HBC) were to build an increasing number of new houses. In response to this onslaught, Chris ensured individual proposals and plans were amended, reduced in scope or rejected by HBC following written submissions or personal appearances from Chris at HBC Development Management Committee meetings. He has also been a major contributor to the emergence of the Emsworth Design Statement and spearheaded the ERA's submissions to the consultations on the many aspects of the Local Development Framework. I am delighted that Chris is willing to stay on as a member of the Committee so he can retain his focus on planning strategy. He will continue to keep a close eye on the proposed larger developments in Emsworth and do his best to ensure the principles of the Emsworth Design Statement are adhered to.

But Emsworth life is not just about Planning and during his period in office, Chris gained the Committee's approval to give donations from ERA funds to valuable Emsworth causes such as First Responders and the planting of several Oak trees in Horndean Road Recreation Ground, through Emsworth Tree Wardens. Photo of Chris putting finishing touches to planting one of the Oak trees (above left). There are of course, countless other examples I could cite.

So for all this I would like to place on record my personal thanks, and that of all the ERA Committee. I will do my utmost to carry on his good work and look forward to meeting the challenges ahead.

Now to the business since the Chairman's last report ...

David Jones and I attended the annual review of Hampshire Police Authority of the 2009/10 Budget. The total budget expenditure is £340.5M, 10.5M higher than 2008/9. However, the headcount will reduce from 3,842 in the current year to 3,775 in 2009/10.

At the same meeting, the Fire & Rescue Authority Review indicated gross expenditure rising from £64.2M to £65.9M. But headcount is budgeted to fall from 50,839 to 50,790.

In March, I was contacted by Stuart Forrest of Banner Homes who intend developing the Oak Tree Drive site. They will be holding an exhibition in Emsworth to gain support for their proposal. I have asked them to send us their plans, so that we can decide on our approach.

I attended the "site viewing" of the felled trees just north of the Horndean Road/Southleigh Road junction. Chris Curry had already written to Andrew Skeet (arborist at HBC) about this inappropriate tree work. About 20 people turned out on 4th March when the Portsmouth Evening News sent a reporter and a photographer. If you have not seen the damage, try to have a look and if you agree that this drastic felling was inappropriate, please complain to HBC.

Finally, through The EMS, we are trying to widen the scope of our activities. Planning will always be very important, but we want to be more active on other issues. Chris Suter has already made a start by cooperating with the ECB (see the Public Transport article on page 4).

Ken Gilchrist

Is the ERA on the right track?

Here is a list of topics that the ERA can, and sometimes does, get involved with. Some of these the ERA tackles alone and some in cooperation with the Emsworth Community Board and Emsworth Business Association. In addition, there are many matters in the Emsworth Design Statement (EDS) and especially the Supplement to the EDS, which residents have expressed concern about in other surveys. These could provide ideas for future ERA action.

Please indicate your view on each of the topics by ticking the relevant box.

ERA Involvement	A Not enough	B About right	C Too much	D I will help with this
Local Development Framework (new planning documents)				
Planning applications				
Speed limits/traffic calming				
Public transport				
Parking				
Footpaths and pavements				
Cycle paths and safety				
Promoting the Emsworth Design Statement				
Protecting our natural environment				
Trees in Emsworth				
Litter and Dog Fouling				
Parks and recreation grounds				
Health Care and Hospitals				
Schools in Emsworth				
Flood Threat				
Practical activity (e.g. litter picking and other clean ups)				
Working with the Emsworth Community Board				
Working with the Emsworth Business Association				
Other things you think the ERA should be doing: Please mention especially those things you would be willing to help with. Continue on a separate sheet if you wish. If you can help, please tick column D.				

If you have ticked anything in column D please send us your contact details:

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

You can complete this questionnaire on the ERA website and email it to us if you wish.

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