

From the Chairman

Having taken over from Chris Curry at the January AGM, I am very pleased that Chris will continue to be involved in the ERA. Chris, together with Lorraine Clode and myself, met with four key HBC officers to discuss planning matters (see p7). I hope this will be an ongoing process and will let you know how it develops.

The ERA continues to receive occasional requests from planning consultants to discuss applications with the ERA, presumably in an effort to persuade us to support their clients. We routinely decline these requests, and are very wary of making commitments.

Since the launch of 'The Emsworth Design Statement' (EDS), we have been using it as a key tool in our evaluation of planning applications, and it is pleasing that HBC planners are supportive of the EDS. Councillor Gibb-Gray is no longer on the HBC Development Control (Planning) Committee which has been reduced to six members. Some regret this, believing he will be less able to represent Emsworth's interests. I, and many others, think he will be even more influential, being free of the constraints imposed on a member of the Committee.

The EMS deservedly continues to grow in popularity, and following requests from Southbourne residents to have a copy regularly, we now leave extra copies of each issue in Southbourne Library.

I was disappointed in the lack of response to my request (page 6 of the April issue) for your opinions on how we are doing - are we on the right track? I (and your committee!) would like to hear from you at quarterly public meetings and by letter, email or telephone - good news or bad. Do please let any committee member know what you think of the ERA, and how we are doing.

Ken Gilchrist



News

Western Gateway Boat Project

An old Danish lifeboat has been donated to the EBA. After seeing the enjoyment and improvement the boat at the eastern gateway to Emsworth has brought to residents and visitors, we are exploring the possibility of "launching" a second project along the A259 near the Warblington roundabout. Funding has been provided by a generous donation from the Emsworth Food Festival and we are working with Hampshire Highways and Havant Borough Council to select a site and consider the various legalities/planning considerations. At the same time, Tim Gilmore from Dolphin Boatyard will complete the necessary repairs to the boat in order that it will be safe and secure in its new role. We hope this will complete another attractive entrance to the town and will continue to delight residents and of course our visitors. We have a target of completing this project towards the end of September, so please watch out for details of the "launching" ceremony!

Emsworth Markets

The next Sunday Market will take place on 2nd August and this will be followed by another during the Emsworth Seafood Week on Sunday 25th October. Please pencil these dates in your diary. We are conscious of our responsibility of running the markets with the least inconvenience to residents living in the central area by keeping noise and disruption to an absolute minimum.

Goodbye to Christmas in the Square?

Over the last ten years or so, the EBA have put on a community Christmas event for children of all ages in St. Peters Square at Christmas. I am sorry to mention Christmas when we are still waiting for Summer to arrive, but this year's event is in serious jeopardy due to the lack of volunteers. We take for granted that every year the Tree and lights will adorn The Square and Carols will be sung, but the logistics are considerable and require an army of "Elves" to make this happen. If you are able to help, please contact Brendan Gibb-Gray on 01243377355.

Queen Street Planters

Thank you to everyone who has passed on such nice comments about the attractive tubs at the top of Queen Street. We are particularly grateful to local residents for keeping a watchful eye and giving them the occasional drink of water. The EBA is committed to maintaining Emsworth as a great place to live, visit and shop! Thank you.

Carol Haskett [GCS Computers]

Welcome to our new County Councillor

Councillor Ray Bolton was elected County Councillor for Emsworth and St Faiths on 4 June after a vigorously contested campaign.

Whilst canvassing, a number of issues were raised on the doorsteps. Hardly surprisingly both Ray Bolton (Conservative) and Ray Cobbett (Liberal Democrat) discovered similar issues, which are wholly or partly the responsibility of Hampshire County Council. Ray Bolton says he will investigate all of these to see what can be done and that a number of them are already being addressed by HBC / HCC. He also stressed that only about one in a hundred residents he spoke to had a concern.

The ERA fully appreciates the demands on the County Council and is realistic that not all issues can be resolved overnight especially in these difficult times. But we are also aware that we are in a corner of Hampshire that is a very long way from Winchester and rely on our County Councillor to bring the concerns of the people of Emsworth, and the part of Havant he also represents, to the attention of the County.

Issues raised on the doorsteps: a combination of the lists from both candidates. Many of these are on-going and have been covered in The EMS over the years. Some of them are the responsibility of bodies other than Hampshire County Council e.g. Havant Borough Council, The Environment Agency or one of the Railway companies.

The major issues

1. Improved youth recreational facilities
2. Major housing development plans without necessary infrastructure improvements
3. Clarity of coastal defence plans and responsibilities including flooding in Bath Road
4. Encouraging parents to use Hampshire schools (as opposed to those in West Sussex)
5. Better bus shelters and bus service improvements
6. Completion of cycle paths going somewhere and doing the difficult bits
7. Speeding motorists along the Havant and Horndean Roads. More mobile traffic speed indicators
8. Disabled accessibility to north side of Emsworth Station
9. Parking throughout Victoria Road and Bridge Road

Important issues of maintenance and detail

10. Condition of some roads and pavements in North Emsworth also Bosmere Gardens & Beacon Square
11. Signage clutter around A259 roundabout and safer crossing point there.
12. Rusty lampposts
13. Rusty railway bridge over North Street.
14. More local facilities for household waste recycling and clearer information.

Several people asked for more information on what the county councillor is doing for Emsworth. I hereby issue an open invitation to Ray Bolton to revive the regular column 'News from Winchester', which David Gillett used to write for The EMS.

It is the first time since I have been editing The EMS that I have had the opportunity to welcome a new councillor to Emsworth, Welcome Ray and we look forward to cooperating with you in addressing Emsworth's problems and helping to keep it the great place to live that the 99% of satisfied residents believe it is.

Richard Jannaway, Editor

County Council Election Results

Candidate Name	Party	Votes	Percentage
Bolton, Ray	Conservative Party	3144	46.66%
Cobbett, Ray	Liberal Democrats	1648	24.46%
Harris, Stephen	UKIP	807	11.98%
Youle, Mary	Green Party	546	8.10%
Ogden, John	Labour Party	406	6.03%
Greenham, Grant	English Democrats	187	2.78%



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