

## The A259, the Emsworth Liveability Project and the Community Board

**Background:** - In February 2004, Havant Borough Council was identified as a pilot authority to receive Liveability funding from the Government. The award provided funding to undertake sustainable environmental improvements aimed at improving public areas within the Borough.

With the involvement of newly established community boards, a number of strategic projects were identified and through technical review and assessment by the Council's Strategy Board 13 projects were identified across the Borough.

A sum of £200,000 has been allocated for a project in Emsworth with the aim of making improvements to crossing the A259 and reducing the divisive effect that the road has on the community.

**Constraints:** - Works cannot exceed £200,000. They must be able to be completed by 31 March 2006, be technically achievable and where they are on the highway must be approved by Hampshire County Council.

A public workshop was held in May and a number of proposals were identified.

**The Proposals:** -

<b>A - Path from Palmers Road to Subway</b>	<b>Estimated cost</b>
A1 - Replace small set of steps with a ramp to improve access for disabled persons.	£30,000
A2 - Provide lighting on the path between the subway and Palmers Road car park to improve safety	£5,000
A3 - Improve signage of car park from North Street and A259	£10,000
<b>B - North Street Subway</b>	
B1 - Security mirrors to give view of underpass	£1,000
B2 - Handrails both sides of ramp	£5,000
B3 - Anti-slip surface on ramps	£10,000
B4 - Light reflecting paint in Subway	£15,000
B5 - Public Art Panels in the subway with possible theme of 'The Echo'	£6,000
B6 - Reduce gradient of subway steps - cost range	£100,000 - £150,000
<b>C - Crossing the Road</b>	
C1 - Improve crossing refuges in North Street north and south of the roundabout.	£20,000
<b>D - A259 between Millponds</b>	
D1 - Replace existing lighting with lower level, ornamental columns, with warmer light, less 'trunk road' looking.	£60,000
D2 - Remove railings and island at bus stop east of roundabout	£2,000
D3 - Replace existing railings with more decorative style with a theme significant to Emsworth	£24,000
D4 - Information Board (as at Bridgefoot Path)	£6,000
D5 - Notice Board (as in The Square)	£5,000
D6 - Sculpture	from £15,000
<b>E - Roundabout</b>	
E1 - De-clutter central feature	£1,000
E2 - Raise central island with chevrons built into the island	£30,000
<b>F - Brook Meadow</b>	
F1 - Improve initial length of footpath up to bridge	£2,000
F2 - Treat woodwork of bridge and walkway	£1,000
F3 - Paint underpass with light reflecting paint	approx £15,000

The next stage is to prioritise these proposals and you are invited to assist in this process by answering the questions below.

**Please list the seven items you consider most important and the five which are least important by writing the letters A to F and the numbers in the box below.** E.g. if you think 'A1' is the most important write 'A1' in the top left hand box. When you make your choices you need to consider the cost of the individual proposals. For example, if you consider that rebuilding the subway steps is important. You need to consider whether it is worth spending between half and three quarters of the whole budget on this one item, and in that case which other items you would of necessity leave for a future project.

Q1 Top priorities	Q2 Lowest priorities
<b>1 is top priority</b>	
1	<b>1 is lowest priority</b>
2	
3	1
4	2
5	3
6	4
7	5

**Q3 Thinking about the improvements suggested do you think they would improve the unity and image of the village?**

Yes  No  Not sure

**Q4 Please write any further comments you have**

**Q5 About you - are you male  or female**

**Q6 What is your age group** 16-19  20-40  41-60

61-75  Over 75

**Q7 OPTIONAL If you would like to be contacted at a later date concerning this project please send your Name, Address, Telephone number and email if you have one.**

You may write it all in a letter, cut out the list and send it with your written comments, or print and complete the (larger format) form from the ERA web site [www.emsworth-residents.co.uk](http://www.emsworth-residents.co.uk) : click the link for [latest news] where you will also find a series of photographs of the area to illustrate the proposals.

Send your answers to:

Engineering Manager  
Havant Borough Council  
Civic Centre,  
Havant  
PO9 2AX

by Friday 15th July

They have a tight schedule and cannot consider answers received after this date.

### Lumley sluice falling into disrepair

Frances Jannaway

Many residents will be familiar with the very pleasant walk along Lumley Footpath which follows the original course of the River Ems. This very old footpath links North Street via Seagull Lane with Lumley, crossing the River Ems between Lumley Mill and Constant Spring. A sluice, the Lumley sluice, controls the overflow from the River Ems into the Lumley Stream, which then flows in front of the cottages in Lumley Road, down into Peter Pond and then into Slipper Mill Pond.



Lumley sluiceway

The Lumley sluice is part of the heritage of Emsworth; there has been a sluice here since about the 16th century. This historic sluice is falling into disrepair and is in danger of breaking up completely within the next year or so. The last time it was repaired/replaced was about 20 years ago by Mrs Mitchell, the previous owner of Constant Spring.

Ownership and control of the sluice is unclear and probably dates back to the time when the Town Mill on Queen Street was operating (the so-called mill rights). Since the mill ceased operating in the mid 20th century, the flow has changed considerably due to abstraction of water at Walderton pumping station, climate change and the ad hoc control/repair of the sluice.

It is very urgent that this sluice is properly replaced and properly regulated. Otherwise the houses in Lumley Road or the bottom of Queen Street will be flooded in winter. And in summer, the sluice must be controlled precisely so that both Water Voles (the most endangered mammal in Britain) in the main branch of the River Ems, which flows through Brook Meadow, and the fish in Lumley Stream have sufficient water levels. Temporary repairs are not appropriate here. A long-term solution is required which can only be found through communication and cooperation between all the interested parties, i.e. local residents, landowners, relevant authorities and nature conservation groups.

I am willing to coordinate the formation of a community group to carry out this project. Please contact me if you would like to help. Tel: 01243 430314; Email: brettelf@ntlworld.com

### Red Cross hall on the way out!

What will replace it?

Richard Jannaway

The Red Cross hall in Emsworth House Close may soon have to close. Groups who have used it for many years are in the process of finding new accommodation. The Red Cross are taking no new long-term bookings. The hall, the property of Hampshire County Council, is leased to the Red Cross who use it to supply invalid aids for the Emsworth area. They rent space on a session basis to a wide variety of groups.

A British Red Cross spokeswoman from their Winchester office, Felicity Liberman, told The EMS that the hall was worn out and potentially unsafe. It is a 40-year old prefabricated structure that had a designed life of 25 years. Last year it was given a one-year safety certificate, they are awaiting the results of this year's inspection. Mrs Liberman told us that there were no plans to replace it but it would stay open all the time it was safe to use. If the hall had to close they would transfer the disabled aids service to Havant.

**Loss of community space** - When this hall does have to close, it will mean a loss of scarce community space in Emsworth. The ERA will be keeping a close eye on plans for the site and will do all it can to ensure it is retained for community use.

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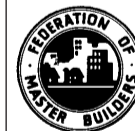
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