

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

David Jones

Emsworth Cottage Hospital

Without any doubt, the main issue and topic of conversation has been 'our hospital', and what we can do to save it. The East Hampshire Primary Care Trust (EHPCT) has provided four opportunities for residents of Emsworth and Havant to hear their proposals, and to question their team. Residents have attended in strength, and while there is no doubt that the EHPCT, like many, if not most other PCTs, has very significant financial problems to overcome, it is clear that we have considerable doubts over the cost effectiveness of the proposals. We have been given no evidence that Social Services can handle the transfer of responsibilities that is envisaged, either in terms of finance or trained staff, and everything points to a gap of at least 15 months before the additional facilities, now being built behind Emsworth House, will be available to Social Services. Availability of funds and trained staff in the NHS and Social Services remain the crux of the problem, from whatever angle it is considered.

Havant Borough District-Wide Local Plan

The Local Plan has now been approved, with no changes to that following the Inspector's recommendations after his Public Inquiry. In particular, the status of the reserve housing site at Hampshire Farm, the site for 55 houses off Oak Tree Drive and the Interbridges (west) site for industrial purposes are now all included. For more, information, see the article on page 7.

This Plan is scheduled to last until 2011, though the South East Plan is expected to start 'superimposing' from 2008. The first impact has been to consider and comment on the Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement, part of the new Local Development Framework. In principal, increased involvement by the community in the future planning of our Borough, and particularly Emsworth, deserves to be supported. However, the major decisions are being imposed, directly or indirectly, by central government, and with the inevitable ever increasing loss of 'space', the room for manoeuvre or alternatives is reducing the potential for significant community involvement.

Probable future housing figures are now appearing, and these will be discussed in the next edition of The EMS, although some brief information appears in the article about the South East Plan in this edition on page 7.

The August Bank Holiday Show

The annual show provides the ERA with a valuable opportunity to publicise, particularly to residents who do not attend our quarterly public meetings, what the committee does and the current issues. The displays this year attracted a lot of interest and I am most grateful to all the 'helpers'.

Market Town Initiative

Emsworth Update

Brendan Gibb-Grey

Many residents will remember that Emsworth, Hayling Island and Lee-on-Solent were nominated to bid for funds to maintain and improve aspects of life in our communities. This initiative is funded jointly by the Countryside Commission and the South East England Development Agency. We will work closely with the local authority and of course the Emsworth Community Board.

An initial public meeting was held in Emsworth towards the end of last year, but progress stalled pending the appointment of a full time coordinator. Sarah Snowden has now taken up her post and will be working with us and the other towns as we conduct a comprehensive 'health check' here in Emsworth. This will involve the collection of information and data to establish gaps in the provision of services and community needs.

Other towns in England had a 'head start' and have achieved much through taking part in the research and the implementation of projects.

Below are some examples of their achievements:

- Increasing pre-school education
- Provision of childcare for working parents
- Improvements in community health care
- Culture and heritage projects
- Support for shops, businesses and other services
- Sustainable transport: buses, trains, cycle paths and footpaths, etc.
- Affordable housing - meeting local needs
- Civic initiatives, e.g. street art, signage, etc.
- Facilities for teenagers, clubs, internet cafes, etc.
- Sports facilities and open spaces
- Education, leisure and recreation

There are many other examples and you are invited to an open meeting to be held on Monday 10th October 2005 in the Emsworth Community Centre. An informal workshop will take place between 3pm and 6pm, followed by the main presentation during which we hope to form four work groups. Please make every effort to attend and find out more about this interesting initiative.

Emsworth Business Association

(EBA) News

Brendan Gibb-Gray

Shopmobility - Thanks to the determination of a local resident, Bruce Hailstone, Shopmobility is still alive and well in the village. Bruce has managed to keep the mobility scooters maintained and fully charged, they are hired out on a short and long-term basis. Customers are delighted with the freedom and independence their use brings. If you need one or know someone who might, please give Bruce a call on 01243 373777 who will be delighted to explain all about the scheme.

EBA Directory - No "cowboys" included!

It has been eight months since we announced that we planned to publish a Business Directory for Emsworth and the surrounding area. After much hard work by MindWorks Marketing this is now a reality with copies being distributed to homes in Emsworth, Denvilles, Westbourne, Southbourne Printhead and Hambrook. The Directory will also be available in shops and other businesses throughout the locality. We hope that within a couple of months every home will have one, using it as a local and reliable "yellow pages." It is pocket size so can be carried easily and will take up much less room in your home. More than 450 large and small businesses are listed and the vast majority are independent local people determined to supply old and new customers with top quality products and services. In addition, the document contains interesting information and walks around Emsworth. Flip through the pages and see if you recognise any local characters among the photographs! Initial comments have been very favourable and already we are receiving enquiries from businesses not shown in the current Directory to be included in future editions. The EBA would like to thank Havant Borough Council for funding some of the costs associated with its production.



Christmas Celebrations in Emsworth - Thurs 1st December 2005

Amanda Thomas - EBA Treasurer

The Emsworth Business Association was very conscious of the disappointment expressed by Emsworth residents and businesses about the lack of decorations, lighting and activities during the run up to Christmas 2004. The EBA intends to address this in 2005 but we need help.

Working with our partners Havant Rotary, we are at an advanced stage of planning the event to be held on 1st December. We hope we have found an imaginative and altogether different way for Father Christmas to arrive in St. Peter's Square. This will remain a closely guarded secret until the day! It is also our intention (subject to approval from HBC) to place a large decorated tree in the centre of St Peter's Square and have more Christmas lights around the town centre. Traditionally, there will be carol singing and entertainment in The Square, followed by a Christmas concert in the Baptist Church. Mulled wine, mince pies and clementines will be distributed and there will be late evening shopping with Father Christmas. We hope this will make this an occasion to be enjoyed by residents of all ages.

All this does not come without considerable financial commitment. We made an appeal in the last edition of The Ems for financial donations from businesses and individuals to help fund the event. We are delighted with the response but we still need more to ensure we have sufficient public liability insurance to cover the proceedings. The ERA has already promised a donation of £250 towards this event. And if you would like to make a contribution, please phone Wayne Haverson on 01243 377746 or write to P.O. Box 56, Emsworth PO10 7ZS. Or if you can assist in any other way, please contact Sue Treagust or another committee member. Thank you for your support.

PC Lisa Jones:

a new face of the law in Emsworth

Richard Jannaway

From 15 August, PC Lisa Jones has taken the place of PC Nick Humphries as Community Police Officer for Emsworth. Working most of her six shifts a week in Emsworth, she will cover the whole ward, from the Harbour to Spencer's Field and from the Warblington roundabout to the Hermitage Bridge. Lisa grew up in Bedhampton so she knows the area well; she has been on the force for three years and is very enthusiastic in offering support to the community.

On her bike! - Lisa Jones will not be sitting warm and dry in a patrol car but out of touch with residents. She will be getting around on foot or by bicycle and travelling to and from the police station in Havant by train. However, she emphasised that this will not mean slow plodding responses to emergency calls, as these will still be answered by motorised patrols. It will be for the detailed follow-ups to incidents that Lisa will be able to listen to your concerns and apply her local knowledge.

In the ERA we had concerns about losing Nick Humphries, who served us well for several years, but I for one am confident that Lisa Jones will be more than up to the job.



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