

THE EMS

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The ERA is a non-political body acting on behalf of all the residents of Emsworth.

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EDITORIAL

Richard Jannaway

Consultation Chaos

It really is time that Havant Borough Council got its act together over the public consultation process. The latest example of 'consultation' HBC style was gathering public opinion on signs as part of the Liveability scheme. Residents were asked their opinion on signs of all kinds, their position, condition and effectiveness. In particular, opinion was sought for a symbol and format for the major 'gateways' into the different settlements within Havant Borough.

An exhibition was mounted in the Emsworth Centre on 12th September, 'advertised' in such a way that if you blinked you missed it. Those that did see the exhibition told me that HBC had made a major error by suggesting 'The Echo' as the symbol for Emsworth. This symbol has already been adopted by Emsworth Museum. So HBC were making plans for Emsworth without asking the people who live here and know its history.

A notice was posted on the HBC website buried several levels in, and it was still there in mid December! It may also have been in 'The News' but not on a day I bought one. For all I know it may have been advertised in 'Serving You' but I have not received a copy since last spring. Even the Emsworth Community Board was not informed.

Meetings and exhibitions within Emsworth are successfully publicised by posters and on the grape vine between all the community groups of this lively town. Why don't HBC tap into this network?

The EMS goes to virtually every house in Emsworth, every quarter, we have a more comprehensive distribution than either the commercial press or, it would seem, Serving You. HBC if you let us know in time we will print your notices.

Letters

We have a great variety this time - keep them coming - but keep them short - no more than 250 words.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hospital Apology

The October edition of The Ems reported reservations by our Chairman David Jones and Councillor Brendan Gibb-Gray about the East Hampshire Primary Care Trust (EHPCT) proposals to remove inpatient beds from the Emsworth Hospital. Concerns were also expressed about the consultation process, "We consider that the consultation process has not been particularly robust in taking into account our concerns." The role of our County Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) was also explained with its power to refer such an issue to the government.

It is with much regret that I inform the residents of a missed opportunity to make deputations to the HOSC when it met the EHPCT on 27th September to address this issue, in effect allowing the EHPCT unopposed access to the decision-making procedure.

Correspondence with County Democratic services reveals that this penultimate meeting of 27th September was public, advertised on the County's website and all the County Information Centres, the nearest to Emsworth being located in Waterlooville. It is also standard practice to brief Area County Councillors some days in advance of an intended meeting. Clearly the efficacy of this non-statutory publicity procedure is dependent on our County Councillor in the absence of an Information Centre in either Emsworth or Havant libraries.

The Residents' Association is apolitical and we are all capable of mistakes or omissions not least myself. I was in communication with the Chief Executives Department and failed to establish exactly when or how such a meeting was to be arranged. I thus repeat my apology offered at the October Quarterly Public Meeting of the ERA for my lack of vigilance in this important community issue.

A.W. Lowes
Markway Close

Southleigh Cycle Lanes

Why have the Council not provided a cycle path on the most dangerous and narrowest section of Southleigh Road?

The only cycle path at the present time in Southleigh Road is from the Hordean Road crossing to the entrance to Southleigh Farm.

Last year, I fell off my bike at speed and nearly dislocated my right shoulder and badly grazed my arm and leg. The reason I fell was the absence of a kerb, and my wheels got locked into a gully created by traffic going off-road along the grass verge. Two motorists behind me who saw the accident, were very concerned and offered to take me home, but I assured them that I thought I had not broken any bones, but I was very muddy and blood stained.

Donald Wells
16 Oakmeadow Close, Emsworth

The Cycle Lanes

I am a regular cycle rider to Havant using Southleigh Road. The new red patches and strips across the junctions on the route are very helpful. I am sure the motorists are well aware of them too.

Nell Jones
North Emsworth

Abstraction

When attending the presentation by the Environment Agency at the October meeting of the ERA, several of us were interested in their use of the word 'abstraction' of water rather than the more usual 'extraction'.

On reaching home, we looked the word up in Nuttall's Standard dictionary - admittedly of

1929 date! - and were amused to see one of the definitions of 'abstract' was "to take secretly for one's own use part of another's property in one's power".

Couldn't have expressed it better!

Tony and Mary Yoward
Slipper Mill, Emsworth

Havant Road

I fully endorse J. J. Bowley's description of the excessive speed of the traffic along the A259 in the Havant Road, in particular. (Oct EMS).

From Emsworth roundabout, westwards, until a very slight bend at Barn Close by the garage, where there is a central reservation with bollards, this is a completely straight road, with clear vision ahead. Likewise from Barn Close eastwards, towards Emsworth roundabout. On the extremely rare occasion of a visit by the Traffic Police with a speed camera, their procedure is rendered useless by the fact that their luminous jackets are visible from a very long way off and so all speed is immediately reduced, which is presumably why they are so seldom seen.

The only 30mph sign for traffic travelling westwards along this road is before the speed camera on the eastern side of the approach to Southbourne. Similarly, travelling eastwards, approaching Emsworth, the only 30 mph sign is after leaving the roundabout at Warblington.

Neighbouring councils, particularly West Sussex, have introduced extensive traffic calming measures, including numerous traffic calming strips and 30mph signs fixed on lampposts.

I approached Havant Borough Council in June 2000 requesting that an investigation be made into the possible benefits of traffic calming measures along the section of Havant Road to Barn Close, including the consideration of large painted circles with 30mph in their centres to be put on the road surface at intervals.

My letter was passed to Hampshire County Council's Surveyor's Department, who informed me that "in recent years the cycleway has provided some traffic calming by narrowing the road ...and that surveys have indicated that traffic speeds have reduced and are in line with those expected on a road of this type." For these reasons it would not justify the special approval required for additional speed reducing measures.

Five years later, at the beginning of this summer, a painted 30 in a white circle was put on the road surface at Warblington, presumably because the A27 was shortly going to be closed at night for some weeks for the additional surfacing to be done.

I suggest that a mini-roundabout at the junctions of Beach Road and Emsworth House Close with Havant Road would naturally reduce speeds in this area, particularly if included with the other measures mentioned above. As it is, the increasing weight of the commercial vehicles, which roar along here, many now doubled in length with trailers, makes this road extremely dangerous and quite unsuitable for those cyclists who use such cycle lanes that exist here.

Jennifer Rodie
Havant Road, Emsworth

Emsworth Oyster Industry

I am writing this letter in the memory of past founder members of the Emsworth Harbour Fishermen's Federation: Mr C. Searle, Mr V. & Mrs S. Twine, Mr J. Jordan, Mr F. Foreman, Mr D. Collings, Mr D. Wiltshire and many more who have passed on, and many more still alive.

The Federation was formed to keep the fishing industry of Emsworth alive. The Federation was very active for 30 years between the 1970's and 1990's regarding oysters. Sometime ago the Federation applied and received the 'Several Order', which gave us the right to lay and harvest Oysters, to regenerate the industry. The committee at the time, on advice from the Ministry of Fisheries and Food, purchased oysters from Norway. These Oysters are a very small breed called Spate, and they helped regenerate the industry in the Emsworth Channel.

The Federation had a cleansing plant. Before they could be sold all the Oysters had to go through this cleansing plant. Mr J Jordan delivered the Oysters to Chichester Goods Department, Mr B Jones delivered some Oysters to Billingsgate Market in London and Mr D Collins of Hayling Island also delivered Oysters around Europe all for no financial reward to themselves. When the Oysters were purchased from Norway the committee members gave their own money as the Federation had very little finance.

The Federation also took an appeal to the House of Lords, concerning the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act, which did not allow fishing of any kind within the Harbour. The Lords ruled in favour of the Federation's appeal. Without this, no one would be allowed to fish, even with a rod and line within the Harbour. Those people who went to the House of Lords were not fulltime fishermen, but people who just wanted a very old right to be able to fish, and won the day.

When people talk (and I hope it isn't only talk) about reviving the Emsworth Oyster industry, it has already been done. It is up to the present fishermen and members of the Federation to carry on.

Mr Charlie Reading is the present Secretary of the Emsworth Harbour Fishermen's Federation. I am a founder member of the Federation who also held the office of Committee Member, Chairman and Secretary, but had to resign the post of Secretary because of poor health. I feel that if the old members do not pass on this sort of information about the Federation, it will eventually be lost forever, which is not right.

Mr B R Leaning

Thorney Road, Hermitage, Emsworth

EMS Copy Date

The deadline for the April issue of The EMS is 28th February.

Articles can be submitted by e-mail to editor@the-ems.co.uk or by mail to: 75 Bosmere Gardens, Emsworth, Hants PO10 7NR

We do not publish anonymous letters or emails but will withhold name and/or address if requested. Editor

ERA AGM/QGM

Monday 30 January 2006

Emsworth Community Centre, Mountford Rooms, 7.30 pm

Speaker: Superintendent Mark Chatterton,

Commander of the Havant Basic Command Unit will talk about problems of policing in the area and innovative ways of tackling them.

There will be opportunities for questions of a general nature.

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