

THE EMS

EDITOR

Richard Jannaway, 75 Bosmere Gardens,
Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 7NR
Telephone: Emsworth 430361
Email: editor@the-ems.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION

Sue Granville-George
537 Southleigh Road, Emsworth.
Telephone: Emsworth 373421
Email: distribution@the-ems.co.uk

ADVERTISING

R. von Westarp, Redlands House,
Long Copse Lane, Emsworth PO10 7UR
Telephone: Emsworth 376888

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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

Development in and around Emsworth

There are three major developments being proposed which affect life in Emsworth; the A27 site, 26 New Brighton Road, (see pages 1 and 3), and Tesco's plans for Havant see page 4. Each will be subject to discussion in Council committee or appeal inquiry. These events are open to the public so come along; let's show the developers and authorities that we know what is going on and care about it. Watch the ERA notice board outside the Co-Op or the ERA website for dates, details and updates.

Free Parking?

Bridge Road car park is the only free public car park in Emsworth. It is much used by residents and people who work in the town. Without this essential safety valve, residential streets surrounding the town centre would become lined with commuter parking.

What is the necessity for charges in Bridge Road car park and the inextricably linked residents permits when the present parking system works fine 95% of the time? The suspicion that the plan is financially driven is unavoidable.

The combined effect of charges and resident's permits would drive business parking further out into the surrounding streets; for example into the eastern half of Warblington Road or Clovelly Road.

In October 2004, Councillor David Gillett wrote an article in The EMS expressing his fury that charges in Bridge Road were being proposed without proper consultation. At the time the proposal was strongly opposed by residents, Emsworth Business Association and Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Now the proposals are once again presented as an apparent fait accompli.

Where has consultation and proper debate been for the last two years and why has it not been addressed before details of the new parking scheme were proposed causing unnecessary concern to the residents of the area?

See letter

'whatever happened to consultation'.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

How many ex Civil Servants are there living in the Emsworth area? Quite a lot I imagine. How many of these are aware that we have an active group of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship here? Not many I think.

The Fellowship is a welfare and social group. We do not campaign - that task is undertaken by our sister organisation - the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance.

We meet regularly once a month to hear visiting speakers and occasionally go out for a meal. Most importantly, however, we provide opportunities for former Civil Servants to meet up with and chat to others who have had similar working lives. We are currently looking for new members - particularly youngsters in the 60 to 70 age group.

We meet in the Emsworth Community Centre, Church Path, on the first Friday in each month from 10am to 12 noon. Membership is open to all former Civil Servants and their partners.

Mike Hughes

Secretary

4 South Lane, Southbourne
Emsworth PO10 8PP
Tel 01243 372037

'Good Neighbours'

Through The EMS I found 'Good Neighbours'.

Last Autumn my Mother moved to Springfield Residential Home and I was due to be away for the Winter months. I was worried about visitors for my Mother and contacted 'Good Neighbours'. No problem they said, although the length of time I was away was unusual. Four ladies came to Springfield and visited my Mother and myself. It was immediately apparent that they would all get on well. Two of them visited my Mother regularly whilst I was away giving her news of their families, the outside world plus sometimes a little gift.

I would like to thank them very much for their help. Also for anyone who needs a 'Good Neighbour' to say they will find one in them.

Lynda George

Pigeons

Whilst congratulating Emsworth for putting on two recent excellent and successful events, the Emsworth Show and Emsworth Food Festival, and being pleased to be a resident in this area, we feel that the two events have been marred by the dreadful state of the area of the Horndean Road under the A27.

We have repeatedly made contact with Havant Borough Council, Environmental Health Agency, two of our local Councillors, the Emsworth Residents Association and Emsworth Business Association regarding the mess made by the pigeons roosting under the bridge. Not only is it unsightly but for those of us who have to use the pavements from the northern part of Emsworth into the town centre, it is also a health hazard for ourselves and particularly for the children who are either toddlers and have a natural tendency to want to climb the ramps or the babies who have to be wheeled under the lampposts and therefore are prone to droppings. The airborne spores from the droppings could affect everyone, young and old alike.

Surely it would not be beyond the realms of possibility to prevent the roosting and also to deep clean the area of the mess produced by these birds. The area has been cleaned on two occasions within the last three years but never on a regular basis.

From several households in Christopher Way.

Margaret King, Customer Care Manager for InterRoute, contractors for the Highways Agency who are responsible for the A27 bridge, is on record stating that they are looking to fund tackling the problem in the 2007/8 budget. (Editor)

Skatepark

I've recently read the article 'Skatepark a success with Emsworth Youth' and have the following to say about it.

I have three boys aged 8 to 11 all of whom love to ride their BMX and mountain bikes, ride their scooters and skateboards as well as skate so the news of a skateboard park was overwhelming for them. We watched the progress as the park was built and the boys couldn't wait to go.

Finally when open, we decided to go and have a look, walking, scooting, skating and riding from our house in Bosmere Gardens under the railway line and through the underpass to the park. Firstly, the underpass is disgusting! It smells of urine and has foul graffiti all over the walls. Most of the idiots who have scribbled on the wall have left their names. Why don't the police or the council track these idiots down and make them clean it up or their parents pay for it to be cleaned. They even write their phone numbers on the walls! I noticed two names of people who I could tell you immediately where they live.

Once over this shock, we arrived at the skatepark which again was covered in graffiti and surrounded by groups of youths smoking, swearing, drinking alcohol, setting fire to things and generally making the park very unwelcome. This I might add, was only 5.40pm on a weekday evening.

I let my children go into the park area whilst I watched them. Within 5 minutes a youth on a BMX drove into my youngest on his bike and grazed his hand reducing him to tears. Next, a youth spat right in front of me. Then finally, enough was enough when the same youth shouted at the boys "**** *brat kids, this park is for us - go home!" I asked the youth if he would have said this had I been a male parent and he just laughed and lit a rolled up cigarette. As I was a single female and totally outnumbered, we left.

Great success for the young in the area don't you think?

I've noticed that every day there is a member of the council in the village giving people parking tickets, could they not also patrol the park and give out tickets for unsociable behaviour? Most of these kids are too young to smoke and drink and I'm sure that drugs will be involved if not now but soon!

Sorry, but we are really upset by this experience - I won't let my children go to the park now, it's horrible and a total disappointment to us all.

Name and address supplied.

Whatever happened to consultation?

Residents living around Bridge Road car park recently received a cunningly worded Havant Council letter stating that the decision to impose car park charges had been taken and that, in the spirit of fair play to avoid upsetting local people, a residents permit scheme would be set up with an annual cost of £30 per vehicle.

Having read that letter, residents were understandably intimidated into completing a questionnaire stating how many vehicles the household uses, how many are parked on the road, how many can be parked off the road, and where, etc. Hidden, buried at the very bottom, question no. 10 asks: "Do you support this scheme?" !!!

ERA - QGM - Monday 30 October 2006
Emsworth Community Centre, Mountford Rooms, 7.30 pm
Speaker: Gwen Andrews Managing Director of HBC
'Development in Havant Borough'
There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

K R JENKINS

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In fact, no discussion or agreement has taken place in Full Council on this proposal. So it appears that an autocratic, anonymous 'Council Executive' is attempting to bulldoze the measures through merely as a revenue-raising device!

Brian Edwards-Picknett

When SHUV comes to PUSH

I refer to your editorial in The EMS dated July 2006.

I am appalled that yet another unelected body - PUSH - Partnership for Urban South Hampshire has been given responsibility for the future infrastructure of a wide area of South Hampshire. You state that PUSH is an alliance of Councils from Havant to Southampton.

Why did I bother to vote in the recent Borough elections when long-term decisions are being made by committees who are not answerable to any voters? None of the recent Borough election literature made any mention of PUSH. Neither have I seen any information from Havant Borough which admits to membership of PUSH.

Quangos and unelected regional assemblies are having an increasing impact on our day-to-day lives. I assume that portions of my local tax are also being fed to these bodies and yet I have no opportunity to influence their decisions through the ballot box.

I believe that Market Town Initiatives and the like, beneficial though they may be, are merely sops which have us believe we have some influence on our future when actually all major decisions are outside our control and are taken outside our local area.

I wish success to all those who are fighting PUSH proposals but cynically I fear that the chances of influencing or reversing decisions made by these unaccountable bodies and Quangos are limited or non-existent.

Have we lost control of our future?

Howard Jacobs

Emsworth

EMS Copy Date

**The deadline for the January issue of
The EMS is 27th November.**

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

The ERA needs YOU!

**The ERA needs both collectors for
subscriptions and distributors for The EMS.**

If you feel you can help by doing a little healthy, outdoor, unpaid work once every few months, please telephone Peter Izard on 378819 for subscriptions or Sue Granville-George on 373421 for EMS distribution and they will tell you all about what is involved. Or why not do both and get twice as much fresh air and exercise?

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