

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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Residents Association (ERA).

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

EDITORIAL

Developer driven planning threatens strategic gaps

As Hampshire Farm and the land off Oak Tree Drive were both in the 'strategic gaps' and excluded from development proposals, residents felt safe after plans for them were rejected in the late 1990's. Now five years later they are involved in a last ditch protest to persuade Havant Borough Council to keep them in the gaps.

At the Public Enquiry last year, the government inspector, looking for alternative housing sites to replace the land west of the recreation ground, a site that had received hundreds of objections, re-inserted both Hampshire Farm and Oak Tree Drive into the Havant District Wide Local Plan as housing sites.

We have no evidence that the slick, intensive and very expensive lobbying by the developers, objecting to a site in which they had no direct interest and involving at least one barrister engaged by Linden Homes, unduly influenced the inspector. What really angered residents was that they had no idea that the Hampshire Farm and Oak Tree Drive plans were even on the agenda when these sites were proposed by the developers as 'alternatives'. They could not have known this unless they had been

Cycle Routes Around Emsworth

I wonder why the cycle path which ends at Highland Rd cannot be continued on the left hand pavement which is very wide and rarely used? At that spot, the road is particularly narrow and pantechonics and builders' lorries hurtle along with little regard for a mere cyclist. Are the council waiting for someone to be killed or injured before doing anything?

Jill Wynne-Potts
Highland Road.

We appreciated the article, *Cycle Routes Around Emsworth*, in The EMS and would wish to complete the story of the section on The School Run.

In designing the school run, which has the support of Emsworth St James School and Glenwood, we proposed a more complete route than the one in your article. The intention is to connect the Horndean Road/Southleigh junction in the north right through to the Havant Road Cycleway and its junction with Record Road. At the north end it will connect with the cycleway to Warblington thus completing a network for all our local schools.

An envisaged extension would take the route into Spencers Field.

As you indicate and specify there are considerable problems. Good cycleways provide separate surfaces for motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. For significant sections of the route this is possible but, as always, quite expensive. However, cycleways are much cheaper than roads - and healthier. Moreover, there is a serious need to provide a cycleway as an alternative to Victoria Road, which, with many cars parked on both sides, is dangerous for both pedestrians (especially children) and cyclists.

Providing security for Emsworth Primary School playing fields and buildings is obviously necessary: dogs running freely are a danger to health and sadly not all residents respect school property.

Crossing Horndean Road presents difficulties but also provides an opportunity to slow the, often speedy, vehicles along a narrow and temptingly straight road.

We look to Hampshire County Council, Havant Borough Council and local residents to be resolute - courageous even - in considering this project. Doing half of the route would present a pessimistic response to a challenging opportunity.

following all stages of the enquiry, extremely closely. Potential objectors thus had no real opportunity to put their views to the inspector.

By the time you read this, the brief six-week window for 'consultation' will have closed and the council will be replying to all the letters and considering the results of the representations. Let us only hope that the views of the people will be given serious consideration. In West Sussex and many other areas, councils and MP's of all political hues are resisting plans to greatly expand the urban areas in the South and East of England. Let us see if Havant and Hampshire are strong enough to do the same.

Back issues of The EMS

Does anybody keep back copies of The EMS? I have inherited a very incomplete set and it makes researching planning history, and many

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Encouragement from Emsworth Residents Association would also be much appreciated.

Mary Wigley
Chairman of Governors
Emsworth Primary School

ROAD SAFETY ACTION GROUP

We read with interest your article regarding Cycle Routes in the last issue of the EMS and we agree with your conclusion that the Havant Cycle Plan needs to be kick started.

Due to concerns regarding travelling safely to and from school parents at St James' CoE Primary School formed a Road Safety Action Group. St James as well as Emsworth Primary School are taking part in the Safer Routes to Schools Project, a Government funded initiative with a budget of more than £1 million in Hampshire. The project promotes walking or cycling to school and pays for traffic calming road signs, cycle ways, footpath improvements and other measures. Both schools have incorporated cycle paths in their plans.

A number of meetings and communications have taken place between parents and governors of both schools, Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council.

Mr David Willetts, MP, Councillor Gibb-Gray and the Havant Police support us in our efforts.

We are lobbying for a safe cycle and pedestrian route through the Recreation Ground on Horndean Road, which would link already existing cycling provisions (albeit patchy) in South Emsworth with a promised (and long overdue) cycling path in North Emsworth. A cycling and walking route would incorporate the parking facilities in the Recreation Ground as well as providing a crossing point over Horndean Road. As a result, it would encourage parents to park in the Recreation Ground for the school run to and from St James School. It would therefore ease congestion in the vicinity of the school and it would make walking along and crossing the busy Horndean Road (10,800 cars every day!) safer. Overall, it would promote a safe route to and from both schools for school children, parents and everybody else.

Why has nothing happened yet despite our best efforts over nearly one year?

In our experience it is not lack of funding preventing progress. The reasons for the delay seem to be lack of communication and poor liaison between Winchester County Council and Havant Borough Council combined with

a shortage of staff able to carry out the necessary work!

More than 400 school children attend the two primary schools in Emsworth. Even with the funds actually being available, achieving safe and healthy school journeys is an uphill struggle. We will continue to try and would be grateful for any ideas, help or support from your readers.

Anne Stunt, Kate Rice, Helen Simmonds and Heather Offer

On behalf of the Road Safety Action Group
c/o St James CoE Primary School.

The 'New' Look EMS

Congratulations on The 'new' EMS with increased pages - all very interesting and informative.

Jo Collin (Mrs)
Emsworth

Roundabout Planting

In the Autumn I watched with interest the beautiful pansies being unloaded by the council. Has no one ever told them that if you put the colours in blocks or a design the result is much more effective?

What is happening with the Emsworth roundabout? It is looking very drab. It is always a mistake to put ivy in as the roots knot up and then it is impossible to get any plants in. How about some more imaginative planting for this year?

Anita Taylor
An Emsworth resident

Interbridges

I read in the January EMS of proposals to allow industrial premises to be built either side of North Street Emsworth. I have written a letter of protest to Havant Borough Council.

One of my objections is that it will further divide the Emsworth community. David Jones makes a similar point in his article.

However, in the same issue you are, unwittingly, I am sure, fostering the divide. In the article "*Cycle Routes Around Emsworth*" you publish the words "into North Emsworth". There is, I believe, no such place as North Emsworth, any more that there is a place called Central Emsworth. By using capitalisation you encourage a growing myth, when you should be doing the reverse.

Roger Wilding
Emsworth

EMS Copy Date

The deadline for the July issue of
The EMS is **31st May**.

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

Richard Jannaway
Editor

ERA QGM - Monday 25 April 2005

Emsworth Community Centre, Mountford Room, 7.30 pm.
Speaker: Bob Hayes from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

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