

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

David Jones

### Planning

It is always gratifying to report or comment on good news, particularly when it involves planning. An application to 'insert' two small houses in the small 'slither' of land between Nos 4 and 5 Kings Terrace and the short bypass, now part of the A259 and about 50 yards from the roundabout, has been rejected. Thanks are due to Cllr Brendan Gibb-Gray and ERA Committee Members Howard Harding and Ken Gilchrist for their part in convincing the Council Planning Committee of the total unsuitability of this proposal.

### Havant Borough District-Wide Local Plan

By the time this edition of the EMS reaches you, the opportunity to support or object to HBC's proposals concerning issues arising from the Public Inquiry will have closed. We will have to wait and see to what extent the Council has responded to residents' wishes, in particular those concerning the reserve housing site at Hampshire Farm, the Interbridges (west) site with its impact on North Street and New Brighton Road by the railway station, and the proposed development off Oak Tree Drive. It has to be said that we do appreciate that Emsworth cannot be immune from further development and that Emsworth has to take its share in the Borough. Yet the more that takes place, particularly on green land, the more Emsworth forfeits its separate identity, a feature that is not only recognised but emphasised as being important in the local plan for all entities.

### The New Planning System

In addition to finalising the local plan, HBC is now turning its attention to the new planning arrangements, a principal feature of regional government, and an initial part of which is the draft of the South East Plan. A copy of this is now in the local library. With the remoteness of SEERA (South East England Regional Assembly), which covers the area south of a line from Dover, south of Greater London to Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and south to the Isle of Wight, it is even more

important to study the document and send in your comments before the closure date of 15th April. This may be more easily 'said than done', yet it is only by being aware of the topics included in the plan, let alone the details, that one can appreciate what is intended and the importance of registering your views. One of the key elements in the new planning system is the Statement of Community Involvement, which sets out the standards that are to be achieved in involving local communities in the preparation of local development documents.

### Parking

The ever-delicate and fragile subject of parking is with us again as the Council prepares to take over responsibility from the Police on 4th April. It has just published a detailed street map of Emsworth, south of the railway, showing the proposals for street parking. In the main, they are the restrictions and arrangements that have existed for the past few years, but they do include some small changes in certain streets. Some of these may be considered to be anything but small by local residents and comments can be submitted to HBC before 24th March. The main impact of the transfer may well be from the greater enforcement, but the Acting Chairman of the EBA and I are mindful of the current delicate balance between all the competing demands and influences that affect, or wish to affect, parking in central Emsworth, and we will liaise with the Council Officers to ensure that it is not unduly disturbed.

### Emsworth Design Statement

The Project Team's thanks go to those who visited the very successful exhibition in International House on 11th and 12th February. With literally only one or two exceptions their comments confirmed that the team is on the right lines and the text reflects what Emsworth thinks, not just the opinions of the members of the working group. The team is now refining the material and preparing the first draft for submission to HBC.

## Emsworth Business Association News

Brendan Gibb-Gray

### Risk, Health and Safety - threats to village life?

#### Christmas lights

Despite the very low-key Christmas lights and decorations, thanks to the generosity of the people of Emsworth we raised £364 for the Emsworth Stroke Club and £234 for St. Wilfrid's Hospice. Thanks to individual shopkeepers, especially Bookends, Hutchins and Emsworth Home Hardware whose displays were particularly attractive. I would also like to thank the Greenhouse Café in the Square for allowing us to put this year's tree on their premises.

The EBA are currently negotiating with Havant Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to establish exactly what is allowed under Health and Safety rules, regulations and our responsibilities and potential liabilities. It is unlikely, however, that the EBA will be able to bear all the costs on our own. So we are appealing through the pages of The EMS to other community groups/individuals to consider making a contribution to what is a special community event enjoyed by all.

#### Hanging baskets

The Health and Safety issue has also destroyed the EBA's plans to sponsor hanging baskets. We are very sad that the threat of litigation is pushing insurance contributions through the roof and in doing so dramatically changing village life and traditions.

On a happier note, the EBA has finally agreed sponsorship with Havant Borough Council for the floral arrangements on the village roundabout. We complained about the standard of planting during 2004 and are now hopeful that this year's Spring and Summer plants will add much needed colour to this village focal point.

#### Business Directory

There are more than 230 businesses in Emsworth and many more if you include Westbourne and Southbourne, including about 75 shops that supply most local needs. EBA members ensure their products

and services are to a consistent high standard and work exceedingly hard to ensure they do not let their customers down. In regard to price, the perception that supermarkets are always cheaper is not always the case, our shops sell top quality meat, fish, fresh fruit and vegetables at very competitive prices and often locally sourced and provide a personal service in a way that supermarkets cannot.

Most of our 90 or so members manage small concerns and they value your custom and support. To ensure the survival of the variety of businesses in the village we need to increase the number of residents who use our shops and services and to bring more people here from other parts of Hampshire and West Sussex.

The EBA is planning a comprehensive directory of all the businesses in Emsworth and surrounding area. Produced in colour, it will also include interesting information about the village, walks, and much more, making it a permanent reference guide for everyone in the area. If you would like your business to be included free of charge, please contact the association, via its website at [www.emsworth.org.uk](http://www.emsworth.org.uk) where you will find the contact details. Copies of the directory will be distributed to over ten thousand homes in the area, offering a unique and exciting opportunity to widen your customer base.

#### Find your Sea Legs at Emsworth's very own Trafalgar evening

The 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of Admiral Lord Nelson is the inspiration for one of the biggest ever international maritime festivals.

Emsworth will be one of the first villages to launch its celebrations with a themed late night shopping and entertainment evening on Thursday 9th June.

Highlights of the evening will include special events in many of the local pubs, restaurants and hotels, as well as commemorative music and other entertainment, initiatives involving our local school children, as well as late night shopping. Please put this date in your diary, we look forward to seeing you!



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