

ELVETHAM HEATH

Parish Council



Notes from the Annual Community Meeting held at Elvetham Heath Community Centre on Wednesday 18th May 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

Under the Chairmanship of: Cllr Marilyn Robson of Elvetham Heath Parish Council

Present: EHPC – Cllrs D Hammond & S Wojciechowski
EHPC – J Hyatt & S Mabbott-Say
HDC – Cllr S Parker
HDC Countryside Service – Duke Banfield, Ranger
Turner's Wood Children's Centre – Julie Barnfield and Brigid
Members of the public

After a brief introduction from Cllr Robson:

- Cllr Hammond outlined the financial situation explaining how EHPC had been frugal in 2010/11 as it doubted the robustness of its budget based upon figures provided by Hart District Council. The year had ended with a surplus which was starting to be used to refurbish the community centre.
- Cllr Wojciechowski outlined EHPC's proposals for the forthcoming year including:
 - Improvements to the community centre
 - Review of grit bins
 - Replacement and addition of signage
 - Review of litter issues and litter bins
 - Potential change of use of the pavilion for scouts/guides
 - Review of the play area in The Key
 - Football Pitches: bringing the junior pitch back into use in autumn 2011 and reviewing the feasibility of restoring the large pitch
 - Tennis: promoting the tennis courts, registering with the Hampshire Lawn Tennis Association as an official 'place to play' and providing professional coaching.

Questions and Discussions

1. **Road Adoption:** there is a great deal of dissatisfaction that the majority of roads have not been adopted by Hampshire County Council and so remain with the various developers who do not appear to be maintaining them.
 - Cllr Parker stated that planning permission cannot require a developer to make roads available for adoption. All that can be required is that roads are built to an adoptable standard.
 - It is therefore up to the developer to make the road available but the highways authority (HCC) will insist that the road is up to standard before it can be adopted. Otherwise the county council would have immediate repair bills for which it would not have the budget.
 - It appears that the developers have not been maintaining roads so the surfaces have deteriorated, weeds are growing, drains are blocked with silt and many street lights are not functioning.
 - Since there is no legal course of action which can be taken, applying pressure to the developers is the only option.

ACTION: EHPC will create a page on its website and an email address where residents can report issues. EHPC will collate these so that collectively pressure can be applied. Photos were requested.

2. **Community Centre:** with mention of the refurbishment, residents hoped the new kitchen would be of a commercial style.

EHPC: confirmed this to be the plan

3. **Green Spaces:**

- Concern was raised over further encroachment onto the green, following the extension to the community centre and previously the school extension.
EHPC confirmed the green would be maintained as is

- Concern over the level of ball games, mainly football, being played on the green, taking over the majority of the area to the detriment of other users.
EHPC: the clerk stated that Hart Community Safety Team are going to carry out a week long visit to the area to deal what is seen as anti-social behaviour on the green and large pitch areas. This is in response to complaints about the football, litter etc.

- **Fly-tipping:** it was noted that the area near the entrance at the Ancells Farm end of the development has suffered from fly-tipping on several occasions although not for some time.
EHPC: Were looking at preventative measures such as closing off the small entrance but since there has not been any recent issues, the council is monitoring the situation.

- **Play Areas:** There is an issue with youths hanging around in the Giffard Lane play causing a nuisance. Concerns that play area may be enlarged to appeal to older children. In addition request to fence off area under footbridge which is also used as a 'hang-out'.
EHPC: plans only to make the Key play area more appropriate for all ages. The Clerk is seeking advice of grounds maintenance team regarding using prickly bushes under the footbridge as a deterrent.

4. **School Issues**

- **Parking:** concerns have been raised about the inconsiderate and dangerous parking outside the rear school entrance in Turners Way. It was agreed that unfortunately little can be done as it appears to be human nature to try to park as close as possible.
EHPC: will raise issue with the school but is aware that they do make every effort.

- **School Places:** request was made for EHPC to help lobby HCC over lack of secondary school places.
Cllr Parker: measures are in place to increase the size of Calthorpe Park School in response to the new housing developments. Money has been made available through the developers.

5. **Park and Ride Area:** are there plans to develop the vacant car park area at the entrance to the Heath?

EHPC: land is still in the hands of the developer, original intention was for a station and then a park and ride. After 10 years, Lord Calthorpe is entitled to claim the land back for a modest sum. The time has now lapsed and it would not make economic sense for the developer to attempt to build there. Cllr Robson stated that her intention is to contact Lord Calthorpe and enquire whether the land can be brought into some form of community use.

6. **Litter:** complaint about litter in the The Key area particularly near the skate ramp and in the vicinity of Morrisons. Possible to chart the after school route of children via the litter.

EHPC: aware more litter bins may be required. Contact Calthorpe School to organise litter pick? (Courtmoor School organise litter picks at Basingbourne where litter is problem).

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 10pm.

Residents thanked the councillors for their hard work.