

ELVETHAM HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL RESIDENTS EVENING

7.30pm on Wednesday 15 April 2015

At The Key Centre, The Key, Elvetham Heath

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS WITH FEEDBACK

1. When will we get more postboxes?

The Post Office visited Elvetham Heath (EH) 3 to 4 years ago to identify sites for further postboxes which resulted in a recommendation for at least 3 more postboxes, but a year down the line we were informed we may get only 1! Giffard Lane has been identified as the most suitable site given the footfall over the bridge and ease of parking for the postbox to be emptied. The Parish Council Chair has since chased this up and has been assured that arrangements are being progressed and believes we will get this additional postbox in due course.

2. What is being done about the potholes?

The potholes on both adopted and unadopted roads have been reported many times.

With regard to the adopted roads, Councillor Sharyn Wheale explained that once potholes reach a certain depth Hampshire Council Council (HCC) will temporarily fill them in until they can be repaired properly. All reports of potholes should be inspected by an HCC engineer. The Parish Clerk will email Sharyn Wheale with the locations of all potholes on the adopted roads on EH in order that both Sharyn and the HCC Engineer can inspect them and appropriate action can be taken to repair as required.

The potholes on the unadopted roads are the responsibility of the developer – Persimmon.

The Parish Clerk will also email Councillor Sharyn Wheale with the location of missing road markings which we not repainted following the resurfacing of the road at The Key end of EH approx. 2 ½ years ago.

3. What stage are we at with the road adoptions?

Talks with Persimmon/HCC over the last few years have gone well and progress has been made. Before HCC can adopt the outstanding roads, work needs to be done to show that the culverts have been built soundly. The Parish Clerk had spoken to Persimmon today (15 April) who had confirmed that work is expected to take place in June. The adoptions are expected to occur this year! The adoptions will also address the potholes on unadopted roads.

4. Parking on pavements.

Parking on pavements has become a big problem in parts of the Heath. There are concerns that emergency vehicles may not be able to pass and that as pavements are being blocked residents are forced to use the roads. The Parish Council Chair mentioned that part of the problem is that residents use their garages for storage rather than cars, forcing parking on the highways. Parking illegally is a matter for the police and residents were encouraged to speak to PC Dan Lehec after the meeting.

5. Speeding is an issue on the Heath:

Speeding is a Police issue.

Speeding is a huge problem in modern developments. Councillor Sharyn Wheale said lots of deterrents can be put in place but they do not stop speeding. Speed tables are very expensive but can be looked at at accident hotspots

There is currently a 20 mph trial on some roads in Central Fleet. This is policed by a Community Speedwatch team who will report speeding to the Police who will issue a warning letter. The average speed on these roads has gone down in the last 18 months since the trial started and there have been no accidents on these roads either. If the majority of residents would like a Community Speedwatch and are prepared to volunteer, they can request them.

The matter of a reduction in speed on Pale Lane following deer being knocked down is a matter for HCC.

6. Peverel maintenance fees:

Tunworth Close, Tadley Close and ½ of Turners Avenue pay an annual maintenance fee to Peverel. Elvetham Heath Parish Council have looked into this and part of the payment is for the maintenance of the service station fence and the buffer piece of land next to it. EHPC think this annual maintenance fee will remain as they do not believe it has anything to do with the roads. It is a minefield and it is not clear why some pay this maintenance fee and some do not.

7. Bus cuts:

There was discussion about the recent cuts to the bus service. Sharyn Wheale pointed out that Stagecoach, which is a privately run company, do not have a rival within our district since Fleet Buzz went bankrupt. Sharyn has herself done all the routes on the buses and on average there were only 2 passengers. As a consequence HCC has to subsidise the service at great expense.

Sharyn will shortly be meeting Stagecoach to look at the bigger picture and identify the requirements of the residents of Fleet and see if they can solve some of the current bus services.

She would also look at the possibility of expanding the Fleet Link community bus for transportation to Frimley Park Hospital.

Many EH residents were unaware of the new Taxi Share service that had been introduced following the changes to the bus service. All households should have received leaflets with the new bus timetables and taxi share service information and this appeared not to be the case. The Parish Council office would obtain these leaflets and ensure they were delivered to each household on EH the next time any newsletters/leaflets were distributed. The Parish Clerk would also contact Sharyn to obtain more detailed subsidy costings.

The Parish Council would look into a Community Bus along the lines of the one in Hartley Wintney at a future meeting.

8. The new playground:

The Parish Council Chair reported that work would start next week to refurbish The Key playground and the work should be finished by the end of May. The Parish Council had saved up £100,000 over the past 3 years to pay for it. The current area was unsuitable for toddlers and there was not enough for the teens. It was hoped that the new playground would suit all age groups. The Parish Council hoped, in due course, to apply for a grant and add a basket swing to the area.

It was confirmed that the zipwire would not be noisy and that it would not be tied up at night. There was some concern about the safety of the zipwire given its location near the MUGA wall. The play area has been designed by Sutcliffe Play and has fully taken into account the existence of the MUGA wall into their plans. Should there prove to be any unanticipated safety issues once completed, the Parish Council would revisit this issue liaising with Sutcliffe.

On the subject of football, the Parish Council has installed two goalposts on the recreation space on the other side of Turners Way and the older children are encouraged to play on this pitch. Given that the village green is a recreational area and there is also a MUGA wall, people were also entitled to play football in this space too. EHPC would open the fenced in pitch in this area during the summer holidays for those that wished to play football in a more enclosed area.

9. Increase to precept:

EHPC have been liaising with HCC and Hart District Council (HDC) with a view to taking over the maintenance of the shrubbery and road verges on the adopted roads as they have received many complaints from residents about the dangers of the overgrown plants. EHPC have now been given a licence to cultivate the verges which has been signed by EHPC and is awaiting a signature from HCC. EHPC will take over responsibility on 4 May. The contractors will be Lotus. The precept has gone up by £5 p.a. for a Band D house to pay for this maintenance. This was met with approval by the residents present.

10. Litter:

EHPC spend £11,000 p.a. on litter picking just on the Village Green and Woodland Walks. They were keen for this sum not to increase and so maybe a campaign, support by Morrisons, may be the way forward.

The recycling bins on the Heath are looked after by Morrisons, although HDC came to clear up the mess that was left there at Christmas.

11. Lights on the Railway Bridge:

2 years on the lights at the bottom of the railway bridge are still not working. They did not have any stickers on them showing who they belong to, but with the help of the Highways Agency it has now been established that they are the responsibility of HDC and stickers have now been put on the lights. An EHPC contractor has been to sort the lights following the

lack of action and has established that there is a problem with the power source. This has been reported to SSE but has yet to be sorted.

12. Request for a dog park:

There has been a request from a resident for a dog park – the Parish Chair was not sure there was any land on EH for this, but would pass onto the Dog Warden