

**Minutes of the Annual Residents' Evening**  
**The Key Centre Elvetham Heath Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Under the chairmanship of Cllr Marilyn Robson (Council Chairman)**

**PRESENT**

Approximately 50 residents and guests including:

Cllr Marilyn Robson	Chairman	Elvetham Heath PC
Cllr Nicky Bond		Elvetham Heath PC
Cllr Martyn O'Donoghue		Elvetham Heath PC
Cllr Candice Walmsley		Elvetham Heath PC
Cllr Nick White		Elvetham Heath PC
Cllr Gordon Smith		Elvetham Heath PC
Cllr Adrian Collett		Hampshire County Council
Cllr Angela Delaney		Hart District Council
Cllr Sara Kinnell		Hart District Council
Cllr Jonathan Glen (for Cllr Forster)		Hampshire County Council
Jan Hyatt, Suzanne Pepper & Jo Perkins (Officers)		Elvetham Heath PC

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Cllr Marilyn Robson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

She introduced the members of the newly elected Council.

She thanked the councillors who had stood down at the election, namely George Brown, Emma Watmore and Richard Woods.

She also introduced the newly elected District Councillor, Angela Delaney.

**2. Annual Report**

Cllr Robson announced that the Annual Report was available for everyone to collect and read at their leisure. This was the residents' meeting for them to ask questions rather than for the councillors to report on the past year.

**3. Questions**

4 questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting and these were dealt with first:

**1. Morrisons Lorries**

How does the PC intend to stop Morrisons' massive delivery lorries coming, on Elvetham Heath Way, right the way through the length of our residential development to reach their store.

The result is self-evident:-

- Large vehicle noise (I've heard big lorries at various times in the middle of the night, e.g. around 3am) which I can only assume must be supermarket bound.
- Considerable damage to the tarmac surface of Elvetham Heath Way, creating large potholes that damage car tyres and suspensions and prove a major hazard to cyclists.
- It is obvious, from the number of roundabouts and traffic chicanes at crossing points, which are all traffic calming measures appropriate to a residential

development, that the road is not designed for such large, heavy transport.

- There is an alternative route from the motorway, along the northern side of the M3, that would mean Morrisons' lorries need only use two much shorter stretches of Elvetham Heath Way, from the western entrance, in order to reach the supermarket.
- We residents are also fed up that Morrisons have designed their Goods Inwards point with no space for the arriving lorries to wait while the driver contacts the store and gets their large gates open. Consequently, the lorries are forced to wait wholly blocking the opposite carriageway, or nose to the gates, blocking the nearer carriageway. This cause long delays to road users, especially if the lorries are present at rush hour times.

**Response:**

Cllr Robson outlined the conditions in the recent Morrisons' planning consent which attempt to address lorry waiting issue as follows:

*The proposed extension shall not be used until a Service Yard Management Plan has been submitted to and approval in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*The plan shall include:*

- *Ensure the delivery point and surrounding areas are clear of obstructions so vehicles can manoeuvre easily.*
- *Make sure the delivery point is ready for the vehicle before it arrives gates and doors should be open to avoid the vehicle idling.*
- *Make sure the driver knows the precise location of the delivery point and is aware of any local access issues.*
- *Details of instructions to be provided to all drivers (to be confirmed with the drivers prior to any deliveries to site)*
- *Ensure that there are no waiting vehicles off-site and that all delivery vehicles egress the site always in a forward gear.*

Cllr Collett stated that it seemed unlikely that Hampshire County Council will be prepared to change anything help as it would only move the heavy traffic on to another residential area.

An alternative route was suggested as above which had not been considered previously. Cllr Collett suggested emailing the county councillors, so they can take this forward.

## **2. No. 7 Bus**

Would you consider approaching Reading Buses to ask if their Service No 7 could stop at Elvetham Heath at the bust stop at the turning circle. As far as we're aware the nearest bus stop to the Heath is Pale Lane. On the one occasion I've used the service I travelled from Fleet Hart Centre to Reading and on return the bus driver was kind enough to drop me off at the railway bridge.

I know that Stagecoach also offer a service where you can change buses at Hartley Wintney but it would appear that there's a long wait between connections.

We are pleased that a bus service to Reading is continuing.

**Response:**

Cllr Robson stated that the parish council would write to Reading Buses to request the additional stop.

Cllr Collett explained that Reading Buses are not a commercial venture but run by Reading Borough Council. As a result, they use the profits from some buses to pay for others rather than relying on subsidies to cover losses like the commercial operators. They may be amendable to changing the route but if they do so it would be important to support the service.

### 3. Elvetham Crescent & the Green

Please can the following points be considered/answered:

1) I would like to understand whether for events in the Village Green that a sign be placed at the top of Elvetham Crescent to prevent non-residents of both the Crescent and Lower Mount Street parking down the road. It's getting increasingly busy down the road and for the safety of people and vehicles a sign indicating that access is for residents of Elvetham Crescent and Lower Mount Street only would be beneficial.

2) There is a growing number of evening activities that take place on the Village Green (due to lighter evenings) not least the running club who use Elvetham Crescent as part of their track and who show little consideration to cars trying to access or leave, but also junior sport teams. Is there a ruling or notification as to what activities are permissible? We were previously advised that people should use the sports pitch on Turners Way but see that this isn't always utilised.

#### **Response:**

- 1) This is a public highway with no official parking restrictions. No one is aware that the parking problems there are worsened during events. Trying to restrict parking to residents only is likely to set a precedent and open up a floodgate of requests.
- 2) The council does have a policy for use of the green, but it does not want to discourage people from enjoying it as a public open space. Organised sports, such as team football matches/training are not permitted as they restrict access for all, but it is difficult to police – Turner's Way recreation area is more suitable for that purpose.

Two residents from The Crescent stated that they loved people enjoying themselves and being active on the green.

### 4. Litter & Grounds Maintenance

The gardening and emptying of the bins on the estate – in particular on Turners field. The bins were only just emptied today having not been seen to for 2 weeks and as a result the field was strewn with litter, BBQ's, bottles and loo roll (the mind boggles)

I can add that several users of the field were very good in packing the litter into carrier bags and leaving by the bins, but perhaps we can look into getting these done more frequently?

Also, the bin opposite the field has been in a state of disrepair for some time and just has a black bin liner draped over the front of it – it really needs replacing.

I imagine that there will be plenty of conversation tomorrow regarding the new roundabouts which have clearly not had any kind of membrane laid and are as a result in a worse than ever state, along with the grounds works – flower beds and hedges of the rest of the Estate.

#### **Response:**

Cllr Robson confirmed that there has been a problem with the bins but that it has been sorted out with the contractor. Bins are emptied twice a week.

Contractors are currently struggling with all the weeds but are systematically going through the Heath dealing with them. Grass is cut every 2 weeks.

One resident present thanked the council and stated that the flowers and shrubs have been looking beautiful over the last few weeks.

This led to a discussion about **fly-tipping** at the **recycling area** at the entrance to Morrisons. Cllr Robson suggested that one solution would be to remove it and relocate it to land owned by Hart District Council so that it could be better monitored. The district councillors stated that they will prosecute when there is evidence and one case is ongoing. Hart now has an officer whose job includes being a fly-tipping officer – it had previously been the responsibility for one day per week of an officer at Basingstoke & Deane.

#### 5. **Road Adoptions**

- When will the eastern section of Elvetham Heath Way be adopted by HCC?

##### **Response:**

Cllr Robson explained the history and stated that finally the end appears to be in sight. Persimmon appear to have agreed to pay HCC to carry out the necessary remedial works, so the road can be adopted in its current state. EHPC together with the county councillors will make sure that HCC do all the work that has been paid for. They will request a list of the work required and a timeline.

County Councillor Collett congratulated EHPC on its persistence on this matter.

- Will adoption mean that pavement parking & other bad parking habits on many roads can be stopped?

##### **Response:**

Cllr Glen stated that pavement parking has become a national issue and is currently illegal in many parts of London. A Green Paper has been tabled in parliament proposing to make pavement parking completely illegal.

Cllr Collett suggested a possible interim solution – a localised parking order which an officer at HDC is putting together on a road by road basis. The order has the same strength as double yellow lines.

It was then noted that if no pavement parking was allowed on the Heath, there would be access issues on some roads for emergency and refuse vehicles.

#### 6. **Disabled bays**

Will the disabled bays at the Key & Church on the Heath be repainted?

##### **Response:**

The bays nearest the The Key Centre were repainted about 5 years ago but do need to be painted again. The ones at the other end of the Key Centre car park next to the Church are no longer designated as disabled bays because they are at the farthest point from the centre. The Church has 5 disabled bays in its own car park and Morrisons has in excess of 20.

#### 7. **Speeding**

Can speed checks be carried out on the stretch of Turners Way leading to the EH Way roundabout?

Could a 20mph limit be imposed?

##### **Response:**

The police need to be aware there is a speeding issue before they will carry out a speed check. Once EH Way is fully adopted, they will carry out checks there.

Cllr Collett suggested setting up Community Speedwatch Scheme, but this requires a group of volunteers.

He also stated that Portsmouth Council brought in a 20mph limit throughout the city, but an audit revealed it did not lead to a reduction in the number of accidents.

HCC has been running 18 pilot schemes including the one in Fleet. A report is about to go to council recommending keeping those 18 schemes but not bringing in any others.

#### 8. **Morrisons' Trolleys**

Morrisons in Aldershot has maintained the £1 trolley and its car park is trolley free and

tidy. Why can't we do the same here and keep parking areas free from lazy users?

**Response:**

EHPC included this in its comments to Morrisons' planning application. Morrisons responded stating that they ensure their staff carried out regulation and patrols and collection of trollies left in the Key Centre & Church car parks. This clearly is not happening and so we will request a meeting with the manager.

**9. Park and Ride Area**

The land around the area has been cleared, what are the plans for the area?

**Response:**

Cllr Robson stated the land was transferred back to Calthorpe Estates about 18 months ago and EHPC were told that the clearance work was simply tree management. She added that there is 6 acres of land around the park and ride of which only 4 acres is buildable.

**10. Drainage Ditches**

Are there plans to clear the deep drainage ditches this year?

**Response:**

The swales/ditches which do not impact, or form part of the nature reserve are the responsibility of the EHPC. These are cleared annually in the autumn/winter and were last cleared in October/November 2017.

**11. Neighbourhood Plan**

What has happened to the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan?

**Response:**

This idea was put to the Annual Residents' Evening in 2017 with the pros and cons being debated. The vote taken was unanimously against a neighbourhood plan. However, if a group of volunteers are interested in getting involved, the idea could be resurrected.

**12. Motorway Fence**

What is happening about the hole in the fence between the motorway services and the Turner's Way recreation area?

**Response:**

The fence formed part of EHPC's discussions with the motorway services over the planning application for the rebuild after the fire. They promised to organise a meeting with Highways England whose responsibility we believe it to be. Despite reminders, nothing has been forthcoming, but we will continue to chase.

Where the fence is behind some private properties, a maintenance company appears to be responsible. EHPC has tried to investigate this but the vital documentation on the HDC website is inaccessible. It remains something we are looking into.

**4. Suggestions**

The following were put forward:

1. Could the area at the end of the boardwalk behind Hawkley Way be improved?
  - To be investigated but we believe the boardwalk goes to the end of our land ownership.
2. Public art (possible wood carvings) on roundabouts helping to give directions/locations.

**5. Police Report**

At 8.30pm PC Griffiths joined the meeting. He gave the following report of crime statistics for the last year adding that these figures included the motorway services:

In Hampshire the police receive 1,200 calls/reports per day. In one year, they have received 446 reports relating to Elvetham Heath of which:

- 61 related to ASB (notably in the Key and footbridge areas)
- 51 were suspicious incidents
- 43 were assaults of which over 50% were domestic
- 32 were drive-offs without paying at the petrol stations
- 17 related to public order
- 16 related to criminal damage
- 15 were missing persons
- 13 were mental health related
- There were 8 burglaries (2 were non-dwelling)
- 9 driving complaints including 3 drunk-driving incidents
- 3 calls for drug related incidents
- 2 stolen vehicles.

About one third of all reports are domestic-related.

This is a very safe area – Fleet & particularly EH has one of the lowest crime rates in Hampshire.

#### **Questions/Discussion:**

1. Speeding Cars – These are often young racers. It is worth calling them in to 101 as it helps to build a picture. It is especially useful to get car registration numbers.
2. Drugs – whilst the number of reports of drug-related incidents last year was low, recreational drug use does seem to be on the increase. The police are trying to disrupt the supply.
3. Graffiti - do report it but if you see it being carried out call 999.
4. Parking on pavements - for the police to take action it must be an obstruction. The officer has some discretion, but it will be obstruction if all 4 wheels are on the pavement or if a wheelchair or pram cannot get through.
5. With the new data protection laws etc, is it possible to photograph someone committing a crime? Yes, a photograph is valuable evidence. However, only take a photograph if it is safe to do so.

Cllr Robson thanked PC Griffiths for attending the meeting.

#### **6. Thanks**

Cllr Robson closed the meeting with words of thanks to the other councillors, the district & county councillors and the staff. She also thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 9.20pm**