

Notes from the Annual Residents' Evening

Held at The Key Centre

On Wednesday 29th May at 7.30pm

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

Present:

Residents of Elvetham Heath

EHPC – Cllrs N Bond, C Brooks-McGoldrick, M O'Donoghue, G Smith, C Walmsley & N White

EHPC staff – J Hyatt, S Pepper & L Ivie

HDC – Cllrs A Delaney & S Forster

HCC – Cllrs A Collett & S Forster

Police – PCSOs Roxanne & Sarah (to 7.45pm)

Lotus Landscapes/Q3 – Rebecca Fryer, Jeremy Beeson & Sam Mason

1. Cllr Robson gave a brief welcome and introduction

2. Questions & comments for the Police representatives:

- With numbers of youths using the footbridge to enter the Heath at night, would it be useful CCTV cameras on that part of Elvetham Heath Way?

CCTV cameras are a useful tool for the Police and are often a deterrent.

- Has there been an increase in crime between the hours of 1am – 4am when the streetlights are now switched off?

There has not been a noticeable increase in problems at these times.

- What type of crime occurs between the hours of 1am – 4am?

There is no clear pattern but in town centres it tends to be ASB or public order offences.

- Were the recent burglaries across the area carried out in the daytime?

Burglaries that were taking place across Hart and Rushmoor tended to occur in the early evening. In the last 90 days there has been a decrease in incidents.

- There is concern that crime statistics for this area include Fleet Services which seems to have a relatively high level of crime and that there is an access hole in the fence at Turner's Way recreation area which could be enabling easy access or egress for those carrying out the crimes.

- What form of crime statistics are kept?

Statistics are kept by area and EH falls within Fleet North. Compared with last year, there has been a 30% drop in burglaries and a 21% fall in shoplifting. Over the last 90 days the incidents of ASB have decreased from 25 to 19.

- Are the youths caught misbehaving on the Heath local or from elsewhere?

It appears to be a mixture including some from outside Hart district.

- What is the situation locally regarding drugs?

We are aware of drug use in the area, please report anything via 101 and also email the local neighbourhood team directly so that a picture can be built up.

- Concern about vigilantism and feel residents are being supported by the local team and 101.

Cllr Robson thanked the 2 PCSOs for attending the meeting.

3. Grounds Maintenance

Representatives from Lotus Landscapes (formerly VPS) gave a presentation about their work on the Heath. They had brought along bedding plants for attendees to take away.

- The business has recently been bought by Q3 a facilities management company. The name will revert back to Lotus Landscapes but there will be no change in service or personnel.
- The team consists of a foreman and operative who work on the Heath every day.
- Work is carried out on a 2-week rotation so in the summer months grass is cut once every two weeks along with hedge trimming, weed treating etc. In the winter months, hard pruning of hedges, leaf collection, mulching and swale clearance is carried out.
- Clarification was given about areas of responsibility along the highway. It was noted that gutter/gulley clearance is the responsibility of HDC on behalf of the highway authority.
- Comments were made about how good the area looks and how well the shrubs are being maintained.
- Swale between East Hundreds and Giffard Lane has not been cleared and residents are concerned that the water is not draining properly.
This swale is the responsibility of HDC - it was not transferred to the parish as it impacts the nature reserve. There was discussion about EHPC taking this over but to date nothing has happened. Cllr Delaney has asked officers at HDC to assess the area and will contact the residents with an update.
- The small roundabout in the East Hundreds has apparently not been maintained for several years. It was confirmed that this is the responsibility of EHPC and Lotus will deal with it immediately.

- A resident asked how much EHPC pays the contractor.
Annually, the grounds maintenance contractor costs £70,000.

4. Road Adoptions

Cllr Adrian Collett outlined the history of the roads on the Heath – particularly EH Way:

- it has been an 18-year saga without resolution.
- There is no legal obligation on Persimmon to have the road for adopted.
- Hampshire CC are very keen to resolve these ‘historic’ issues and have a dedicated team working to get roads adopted.
- Roads must be of a certain standard to be adopted so that the immediate cost to the public purse is minimal.

For Elvetham Heath Way – unadopted from Turner’s Way to Ancell’s Farm roundabout:

- There are 2 options: Persimmon to carry out all the remedial work or to pay HCC to do the work required to bring the road up to standard.
- Complications arose regarding the culverts and the bridge under the road. These structures must be sound but there were no records of their construction. These have now been assessed and deemed sound.
- A meeting took place on site last week between HCC officers and senior representatives of Persimmon. Whilst nothing is certain, the signs are very encouraging.
- Any resurfacing can only be carried out in the summer months and both sides are aware of the time pressures. If nothing is done before September, there will be a further year’s delay.
- In the meantime, and particularly if nothing does happen, residents should complain to Persimmon directly. This can be done via a link on the EHPC website.
- A resident asks about the status of Elvetham Heath Way given that an adopted street must be connected at each end to another road that is adopted.
Both the unadopted part and EH Way as a whole are connected to other adopted roads at each end namely Minley Road at the Ancells Farm roundabout and Fleet Road at the other end.

5. Litter

- Cllr Nick White gave an overview of the Big Elvetham Heath Spring Clean which took place in March on a beautiful sunny Sunday. 70 volunteers turned up of whom 40% were children/young people. It was a great example of how successful community action can be.
- Concern was raised about the litter which blows out of the bins in Morrisons loading bay and onto Elvetham Heath Way.
Action: EHPC will raise this with Morrisons again – asking for the bins to be kept closed or for them to carry out a regular litter pick
- A request was made for larger capacity litter bins.
Cllr Robson explained that in the Key area there are 11 bins which are emptied twice a week. Unfortunately, a lot of domestic waste is put in them, so they fill up quickly. New bins with lids are being considered but can cost in excess of £500 each.
A suggestion was made to look for sponsorship from local businesses.

6. Other questions

- Streetlights – why turned off at night.
Lights on most residential roads are turned off between 1am – 4am. This is to save the county council money and to reduce the county’s carbon dioxide emissions.

HCC will consider re-illuminating some lights if there is genuine evidence that safety or security is being compromised.

- Parking on grass verges & inconsiderate on-street parking
 - For parking on verges – EHPC staff send a letter to the owner, if known, or put notes under windscreens of repeat offenders.
 - Cars parked on pavements – is a police matter on adopted roads. However, HDC is carrying out a parking review later this year and could bring in a parking order to prevent pavement parking – but this is not without issues; in some places roads are too narrow to safe on-street parking which would also prevent emergency vehicles and refuse lorries getting through.

- The West Hundreds has disappeared from your maps – please reinstate. The mapping system used is Ordnance Survey so will be checked
Update: The West Hundreds is now on the OS system, however not all EH roads are labelled.

- The Turner’s Way Recreation Area has fallen into disrepair:
 - Only one goal post left & this needs repainting
 - Goal post needs moving & goal mouth needs attention
 - A personal trainer uses the crossbar for training every Saturday morning
 - The large catch netting has been vandalised
 - There are mole hills all over the field
 - Orchard needs some attention – one dead treeAction:
The post and goal mouth to be repaired – the post is stuck in the socket so cannot be moved without digging out the sockets.
Issue of personal trainers & bootcamps needs to be addressed but is hard to police – will try to find a solution.
Try to resolve the mole issue
The tree will be replaced – on purchase EHPC were told to expect to lose one or two of the 22 trees in the first few years.

- A request was made for a balance sheet to be added to the financial statement on the annual report.
Action: this will be included next year. This information is available on EHPC website.

7. Suggestions – for the Parish Council to consider

- A community bus (2 x requests)
- New or repainted signs on sports areas
- An accessible sensory garden
- CCTV cameras at either end of straight sections of EH Way to deter ASB