

# EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Notes on 89th AGM Meeting held

Thursday 3rd December 2020, at 7.30pm by Zoom

		<b>Present:</b> ERA Committee (12links), Residents 17(10links). and 3 Councillors Cavendish Cllr Eddie Lavery, Heena Makwana (apologies). Eastcote & East Ruislip Cllrs Becky Haggar (apologies), Ian Edwards, Nick Denys.
1.	1.	Meeting Etiquette – Votes cast by zoom poll.
	2.	Welcome The purpose of tonight's meeting is to ratify the paperwork in lieu of the AGM which, unfortunately, ERA was unable to hold as a public meeting in May due to the social distancing requirements of the Covid19 pandemic lockdown. The committee decided to share both the audited accounts and a Chairman's Statement for the year ending May2020 with the Road Stewards via a Zoom Meeting. As a residents' association we are very fortunate to have the strong support of our local councillors. We are privileged to have some of them with us this evening: Cllr Heena Makwana (Cavendish). Cllrs Nick Denys, Ian Edwards, (Eastcote and East Ruislip). Due to prior engagements: Cllrs Teji Barnes, Eddie Lavery (Cavendish). Cllr Becky Haggar (Eastcote and East Ruislip) are unable to attend.
2.		Apologies for absence: 2 Committee Members.
3.		Minutes AGM 28th May 2019 - no amendments. Approved by poll Yes 22 No 0 – nem. con.
4.		Chairman's Statement as at May 2020 was circulated ahead of meeting and accepted by poll Yes 22 No 0 – nem .con. ERA continues to engage with other organisations on your behalf and this year the main challenges, in addition to the perennial planning issues, have been HS2, the September 2019 flooding event and a pandemic! The committee has taken it all in their stride and carried on under very challenging circumstances. Who knew we would be holding meetings, Star Trek style, via the screens in our living rooms. It's not the same: whilst the business is conducted quickly and efficiently there is not the same opportunity to ask questions and debate or indeed to network, the importance of which you do not realise until it is no longer there. I am sure that the relationships we have built up over the years with our local Members of Parliament, Councillors and council officers have been of immense benefit in being able to continue our efforts. In brief, we continued to attend meetings, many of which are now virtual: HARA (Hillingdon Alliance Residents' Associations), HS2 Community Engagement, Hillingdon Community Traffic Working Group (HS2/LBH), Residents' Planning Forum (LBH), Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Group (RWMAG) and London Green Belt Council or continue by email: SNT Ward Panels (now virtual) or are for now temporarily suspended: Eastcote Conservation Panel, Friends of Eastcote House Gardens, RAF Northolt, Federation of Metropolitan Users Committee (Fomluc).
		Pandemic. Hillingdon Council partnered with Hillingdon for All (H4All), the umbrella group for charities in our borough, to help marshal the voluntary effort. The Council continued to operate at full capacity which means that staff who are employed in non-urgent tasks can be asked to give help in those areas that support the public. Reports from across Hillingdon suggest that most residents are abiding by the social isolation guidelines. ERA thanks the council and our local councillors for the huge effort that has been made to reach out to vulnerable residents and put into place measures intended to keep us all safe.
		Air Quality. The Council have published both its Air Quality report and a Climate Emergency Statement, both of which should be available on the LBH website.
		Flooding. The extreme weather event in October 2019 caused much flooding, not only causing inconvenience to those trying to travel around, but also left many residents suffering from an ingress of water to their properties. The official local rainfall record 38mm (28mm in 2016) was much lower than the 73mm (32mm in 2016) recorded by a local resident. Thanks to our Road Stewards, ERA was able to collate information about incidents in and around Eastcote which it provided to the council Flood and Water Management Officers who arranged a meeting for everyone affected to attend and discuss the issues with both them and Thames Water as well as other affected residents. This eventually led to the formation of the Eastcote Flood Action Group (FLAG), a very important move as it means official bodies are more likely to engage with the community. Recently this group responded to the LBH draft flood report, which as Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) the council produced after this severe weather incident during which several properties were flooded internally. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local residents around the Town centre who have come forward and formed the FLAG. There was a murmur flying around at the time about the high street flooding which suggested that the rain gardens had been a waste of money. Considering twice as much rain fell as in 2016, it is difficult to see how any intervention could have prevented all flooding. The Rain Gardens have recently won the Institution of Civil Engineers 'People's Choice' Award. I would like to assure you that the council do take flooding seriously and are in the process of employing another officer, but it all takes time. It is very important that in improving one area another is not flooded in its stead. The Leaky Dams built in Park Wood as part of the flood alleviation plans for North Ruislip have been very successful and it is proposed that more will be introduced into Mad Bess Woods. It has been a bit difficult to keep them in place because some very community minded walkers decided that vandals had been at work and dismantled them! So please, if you see a structure you think

	should not be there, report it to the council rather than intervene, similarly dumping and any other untoward activity, via the LBH contact centre by telephone <a href="tel:01895556000">01895 556000</a> or email <a href="mailto:contact@hillingdon.gov.uk">contact@hillingdon.gov.uk</a>
	Talking of trees, the Tree Officers want to encourage residents to engage with finding locations for planting new trees. ERA also learnt that LBH have appointed a new contractor which raised concerns about the trees planted using the Faiths Forum grant and has obtained an email guaranteeing that LBH will take on the responsibility of the previous contractor regarding the survival guarantee. If trees fail within the previously guaranteed period the council will arrange for replacements. I am pleased to report that those planted last year appear to be doing well. This year the trees were planted at Newnham School and have promoted the idea of creating a wildlife garden. The pupils fully engaged in this idea and had a presentation ready to show the Mayor. Unfortunately, lockdown meant this did not go ahead, however the trees have been planted and a plaque will be installed. It is hoped that when the time is right the pupils will be able to plant daffodil bulbs as a tie-in to the trees planted last year using money from the same source.
	The 2019 Christmas Lights programme include a provision for an ERA banner around the base of the tree, in recognition of the financial community contribution it makes each year. The tree outside the library and for the first time, the one opposite, on the corner of Deane Croft Road, were lit up. This made a very welcome entrance to the High Street.
	London in Bloom. Eastcote Village was for the first time entered into London in Bloom and, not only won a Silver Gilt, but was also a Category winner. It was very gratifying to read the following comment from the London in Bloom judges report – “When other organisations are relying on social media to get their messages across, the Eastcote Residents’ Association still print a high quality, very readable newsletter and personally deliver them to residents. This face-to-face contact allows residents to converse about local issues with the association. Now that is village life!” So, again a very big thank you to all ERA road stewards. The Mayor presented an engraved wooden bowl and a certificate to representatives from Eastcote Village, and the Chairman of the Eastcote Conservation Panel has secured funding for a display cabinet in the library, where they can be seen by the community alongside of the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens Queens Award for voluntary services.
	HS2 finally got its Notice to proceed and started work the same day. The social distancing rules on site are slightly different to those applying to the rest of us, but only whilst on site. Off site they should be following the same rules. Any transgressions should be reported to the HS2 Helpdesk: Freephone: 08081 434 434 Minicom: 08081 456 472 Email: <a href="mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk">hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk</a> UKPN decided to take advantage of the reduced traffic due to Lockdown and will be starting to lay the cabling across the main busy junctions along the route. Work is due to start at the beginning of June.
	The Eastcote and East Ruislip Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team report low crime in the area, lower than the rest of Hillingdon which is, in turn, lower than London in general (measured by crimes per 1000 households). More information can be found through the OWL messaging service, which you can join <a href="https://www.owl.co.uk">here</a> . ( <a href="https://www.owl.co.uk">https://www.owl.co.uk</a> )
	FOMLUC. ERA is a Member of the Federation of Metropolitan Line Users Committee which meets regularly to discuss the experience of commuters. Problems with the new Signalling System mainly concerns the section between Finchley Road and Euston Square where engineers have now been posted to reset them manually, except that a "trip out" can also affect an individual train and this can then only be rectified at the Neasden depot. The line between Rayners Lane and Uxbridge is shared with the Piccadilly Line where aged rolling stock means it is not due to be replaced until at least 2023. The Step Free Access programme is progressing slower than anticipated because works can only be done overnight and there is a lack of clarity over the loss of Station car parking spaces to allow for the building of affordable housing.
	RAF Northolt. The resurfacing of the runway was completed on time with military precision, and it is probably worth repeating that the ends of the runway to stop aircraft if they over-shoot have a similar look to the surface of the runway and thus it appears longer even though it isn't.
	Open Forum. Last year was a great success with local councillors available to answer questions. The answers to these questions can be found on the ERA Website.
	Road Stewards. A very sociable afternoon was had by the Road Stewards attending Afternoon Tea in The Stables, Eastcote House Gardens and our thanks go to TB for organising what turned out to be a surprisingly competitive Quiz Night bearing in mind the prize was only a small box of Maltesers. Or maybe nobody wanted a lemon! Anyway, it was a fun evening out.
	Subscriptions. Restrictions put in place by the Government unfortunately coincided with the main collection period for subscriptions and this has impacted our financial position for this year. It is hoped that it may be possible to collect them later in the year. Fortunately, ERA has money put aside as an emergency fund and it will be able to meet all its commitments for the coming year.
	Planning. In the 2019/2020 year, we continued to oppose the 3 <sup>rd</sup> runway expansion at Heathrow with all its associated impacts on the surrounding areas and the increase in the number of flights in our skies. In particular we responded to the Heathrow consultation ending in September 2019. As always, we have worked closely with the Eastcote Conservation Panel to look at local planning applications and to make representations where we feel it is necessary. I would also thank Lesley Crowcroft, as the chair of the ECP, for all the help and support which she gives to Jackie in relation to planning issues both in conservation areas and generally. ECP have applied to the Council to have Eastcote Metroland Town designated as a Conservation Area. The Council have agreed to the request and have started an appraisal. Should the appraisal prove successful the process will move to stage 2 which is a public consultation. ERA fully supports this application.
	ERA website and weekly email has been used to keep members up to date with what's happening in Eastcote and this year this has been more important due to the absence of face to face meetings and doorstep conversations. If you are not already subscribed then you can get our weekly email by signing up at <a href="http://eepurl.com/dkE4-n">http://eepurl.com/dkE4-n</a>

5.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The accounts show a deficit of £964 compared to a surplus of £365 in 18/19. This is primarily due to a reduction in Subs and Donations of approx. £1,500 compared to last year. We have been significantly impacted by the lockdown and the fact that a significant number of Subs are still collected door-to-door in March. We hope we may be able to recover some of these Subs in due course, but this will of course depend on how long the restrictions last for, how comfortable our Road Stewards feel about resuming door-to-door collections and the willingness of the residents to pay a previous year!</p> <p>Costs in total of £3,528 compare to £3,765 in the previous year, i.e. £237 less. 18/19 included a one-off cost of £500 for Website Design and 19/20 includes a cost of £340 for an ERA PO Box address.</p> <p>Fortunately, the ERA has a healthy cash position and therefore able to continue its activities in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Treasurers Report including audited accounts accepted by poll Yes 21 No 0 – nem. con.</p>
6.	<p>Committee Nominations were circulated ahead of meeting and accepted chair to continue by poll Yes 22 No 0 – nem. con. (copy on request from chair@eastcoteria.co.uk).</p>
	<p>The current committee members very kind offer of their services until such time as it is possible to reconvene a public meeting was accepted by poll Yes 22 No 0 nem. con.</p>
	<p>One co-opted committee member accepted by poll Yes 21 No 0 nem. con.</p>
	<p>New President also appointed by poll Yes 22 No 0 nem. con. This will be an ambassadorial role, to promote ERA and to give advice, but it will not have voting rights.</p>
	<p>Chairman thanked, on behalf of Eastcote Residents, all of the dedicated committee members who have continued to fulfill their roles, undaunted by the new need to embrace technology, and have continued to put in a lot of time and effort looking after the interests of and supporting Eastcote Residents. A lot of this is behind the scenes, answering a diverse range of queries and pointing people in the right direction. Thank you.</p> <p>Treasurer thanked Chair for her hard work.</p>
	<p>If you or any one you know would be interested in helping, either on a regular or one-off basis then please volunteer – many hands make light work.</p> <p>Vacancies: meeting notes, newsletter editor, road issues (cycle lanes, heavy vehicles, parking, yellow lines etc).</p>
	<p>Followed by Committee Meeting – separate notes</p>
	<p>And Open Forum - Questions and answers will be provided separately.</p>
	<p>Meeting Closed at 20.53.</p>

**Dates for future meetings** which will continue by zoom are  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January (moved to Tuesday 2nd February).