

EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Notes for July Meeting held

Wednesday 2nd August 2023, at 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

In-person at St Thomas More Hall, 32 Field End Road, Eastcote, HA5 2QT

Items marked * were circulated and approved prior to meeting.

	Present: ERA committee members (10), Residents (2). Eastcote Cllrs Nick Denys (apologies), Ian Edwards, Becky Haggar (apologies).
1.	Welcome
2.	1.*Notes for AGM 2023 - AGREED (subject to approval of wording by Fire Brigade and addition of answers to questions when received). 2.*Notes for June meeting - AGREED
3.	Committee Reports - * sent out in advance – No questions/additions – Agreed as read
1.	Planning
	1. Planning Report discussed at meeting. Help or further information on specific cases can be requested by emailing planning@eastcotera.co.uk .
	2. Town Centre – discussed as part of planning report.
	3.*Rain Gardens - are much worse than they were last year when I reviewed them with Cllr Edwards. I have asked for us to review them again preferably with the relevant council officers present. I have also reported the problems with the bed nearest the traffic lights to Cllr EL. Disappointingly I have had no response from any of them.
	4. *Walking, Wheeling and Cycling 1.Cavendish and Pine Gardens - awaiting Councillor response as to how this will be used. 2.Friends of Ruislip Woods have a new website https://ruislipwoodstrust.org.uk/ . In response to a suggestion, they have kindly expanded the Getting to Ruislip Woods section to include accessibility and more information on public transport. 3.Hillingdon Council can be commended for trialling cycling sessions on an enclosed track in the South of the Borough, as part of the Public Health physical activity and sport offering to people with disabilities or dementia and accompanying carers. 4.On the council website is a page showing some cycle routes plotted by the council using google maps during the first Covid Lockdown when public transport was to be avoided if possible. https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/cycling-routes There is one from Eastcote to Uxbridge High Street. Post meeting email to Cllrs 'Three years on from Covid, are there any future plans to update this map and what is the accessibility of routes to Uxbridge for people travelling on mobility aids such as powerchairs and mobility scooters?'
	TFL has earmarked 10 stations including Eastcote for step free access though this is subject to funding being available. TFL's press release on 11 July 2023 notes that: "As funding will be a key criteria in delivering a robust step-free access programme, Tfl is committed to working with development partners and boroughs to identify investment opportunities... Subject to funding being identified and outcome of feasibility studies, this could mean the works to make the first of these stations step-free completing in2026." See https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2023/july/tfl-announces-the-next-tube-stations-to-be-prioritised-for-step-free-access-to-meet-the-mayor-s-bold-accessibility-targets .
2.	Environment
	1.Eastcote Conservation Panel – No Report
	2. *London Green Belt Council – There has been no news from London Green Belt in recent times which is surprising as there is usually a Full Council Meeting in July. Currently, CPRE London is working towards increasing the woodland in London's Green Belt and a major initiative under this project is the Tree Ring Community Forest for London . – ERA also forwarded this information to RWMAG.
	3. *Flooding 1. The surface water flooding on the corner of Meadow Way/Field End Road has again been reported and yet again a stock reply received. This has irritated residents also trying to report issues such that they have given up. Obviously, it is very important for all incidents to be reported so they can be dealt with – at the very least getting the relevant gully's cleaned more frequently.
3.	Finance - FOMLUC subscription – have asked for bank details - £10 to be paid
4.	*HARA - the speaker was the new borough Superintendent Bennett who is overseeing a shift back to local policing.
5.	Health – No Report
6.	*Newsletter

	<p>1.Once again thank you to our longstanding committee member who was responsible for the Newsletter Layout who stood down at the AGM.</p> <p>2.ERA is very pleased to be able to welcome a new Newsletter Editor and hope to have an edition out this autumn.</p> <p>3.David Simmonds has agreed to write an article for the Newsletter – at the meeting with Local RA’s he was very complimentary about the benefits of working with Residents’ Associations.</p>
7.	Parks
	<p>1.*RWMAG</p> <p>1.AGM held 11th July</p> <p>1. EFlag invited to join committee as an observer.</p> <p>2. Long-Term Management Plan to be updated to include a declaration of the climate emergency?</p> <p>3. Permission to forward the RWMAG Minutes to the ERA committee only.</p> <p>2. Followed by the Quarterly Meeting</p> <p>1. Continue to discuss boundary issues.</p> <p>2. ERA agreed to publicise Himalayan Balsam removal work partys.</p> <p>3. Mysteriously, Ivy has been cut through at the base of trees in Bayhurst Woods.</p> <p>4. Permission to forward the RWMAG Chair’s report to the ERA committee only.</p>
	<p>2. FEHG – LC has stood down as Chair. There will be an acting Chair until the AGM and there are ongoing discussions with the Council. Thanks to LC for her hard work over many years.</p>
8.	*Policing – The SNT Ward Panel met on 11 July. As usual in the summer months, crime figures were generally down but there was a substantial increase in theft (mainly shoplifting and bicycle theft). The SNT Sgt is moving role within the Met and will be replaced.
9.	Road Stewarding/Membership – Evening event. Suggestion to use St Thomas More Hall after the September meeting (Agreed)
10.	Transport
	<p>1. *FOMLUC – Minutes of the most recent FOMLUC meeting circulated to committee members for information. The next meeting with TfL management is scheduled for 14 September.</p> <p>2. *HS2 Minutes from 05May2023 and 17July 023 received.</p>
	<p>1.Community Engagement – nothing to report</p> <p>2. HS2/LBH Traffic - There will be a 3 Week Full Road Closure of Moorhall Road (either side of the HS2 Haul Road Crossing) between Fri 28/07 and Fri 18/08 while the Viaduct is built over Moorhall Road. There will then be a week of Night-time Road Closures in the week after the Full Road Closure.</p> <p>NB. There is no access to any vehicles including Emergency Services Vehicles (who have been notified of the Road Closure and the need to use alternative routes)</p> <p>TfL have confirmed that the 331 will not run to Denham during this time but will be replaced by a Free Shuttle Service operated by HS2/Align that will run from Uxbridge Station through to Denham Train Station (and vice versa) Route 331 will run from Uxbridge Station but rather than follow the normal route through Denham and Moorhall Road, Route 331 will run via Swakeleys Roundabout, Swakeleys Road, Harvil Road and then continue on the normal Route through Harefield, Northwood & onto Ruislip. For further information from HS2 go to: https://www.eastcoteresidents.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Summer-2023-CVV-crossing-impact-on-Moorhall-Road_Final.pdf</p>
	3. Northolt – No Report
	<p>4. *E-scooters – Unable to raise this issue at meeting with David Simmonds M.P. due to lack if time – emailed afterwards and awaiting response. From a local resident at ERA AGM “currently it is illegal to use them on public roads, pavements and in most (if not all) local authority parks. However, they are being used regularly by commuters and others with no regard to other road users, pedestrians, and the law; and the police have no capacity or inclination to address the problem. So why can they be readily purchased at Halfords and on-line? This problem could be addressed at source by banning the sale of these items to the general public, of which the majority do not have an environment in which they can be legally used.”</p>
11.	Web &Tech – No Report
4.	Review Actions Log – to be postponed to next meeting to make time for discussion
5.	AOB
1.	Councillors ‘Council Update’
	1. New Residents issues – notified to councillors ahead of meeting
	<p>1. I would just like to know if any road safety/traffic calming measures could be put into place along this section of road? (I think referring to North view?) It’s a dangerous junction with cars exiting and entering on to North View. Could anything be done about this? The double yellow lines are largely ignored by larger vehicles. Could any additional signage be put in place.</p> <p>Response: Cllr IE will look into this.</p>
	<p>2. I would like to have the option of walk-in customers reinstated at Highgrove swimming pool. Since covid restrictions were lifted, there has been an online booking system in place. I feel this takes the spontaneity away from swimming and keep fit activities. Personally, I have not been swimming since this system has been in place. Discussing this with friends, many feel the same way, and so I feel far more custom would be generated if the old system was reinstated.</p>

		Response: Council officers have investigated and Highgrove pool have confirmed that people can walk-in and they have been asked to amend the website
		2. News from Councillors
		<p>1. As part of this year's planned footway resurfacing programme, work starts on Field End Road the week commencing 31 July 2023 and will take up to three weeks to complete. - The hours of working will be between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday, and between 8am and 4pm on Saturday. Advance Notices will be placed on the street giving the actual start date and diversion signage will be in place. The start date and duration period may be subject to change due to prevailing weather conditions or unforeseen issues. Cllr BH by email.</p> <p>2.ULEZ cameras will be installed in LBH. LBH will continue to monitor the impact. Cllr IE.</p> <p>3.Homelessness: LBH has more than 1000 households in temporary accommodation – this has increased by 50% in 12 months; now spending £0.5M a month housing. Need to find new ways to save money without increasing Council Tax. Private rented sector is collapsing, so some of the homeless are being moved out of Borough. Cllr IE.</p> <p>4.Chances of changes to the Main Parade Conservation Plan unlikely to succeed because it is not well-supported. Cllr IE.</p>
	2.	Next meeting 27th September in person, Chair: CH Notes: ?
		<p>Meeting closed 08.20 p.m.</p> <p>Future Meetings – Open Forum 25th of October –David Simmonds has accepted ERA’s invitation to attend. (Also asked when next surgery will be in Eastcote), 29thNovember (Zoom), No December Meeting</p>