

EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
95th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
St Thomas More Hall
Wednesday 27th May 7.30 p.m.

CHAIRMANS WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

Our Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that this evening, we would be hearing from our local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, followed by a refreshment break, during which residents can speak to committee members and Councillor Nick Denys, followed by our AGM.

As a residents' association we are very fortunate to have the strong support of our local councillors. We welcome one of our ward Councillors, Nick Denys who is representing our councillors this evening.

We also welcome our President and take this opportunity to thank her for her continued support throughout the year.

The meeting began with by two officers from the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team talking about MetEngage and the work it does.

MetEngage is system to enable residents to report minor crimes and anti-social behaviour. Five officers are allocated to our ward, and they can be accessed via reporting online. Once a concern has been reported they can ask for help by looking at CCTV or dashcams and if anti-social behaviour is reported to be taking place at a certain place or time, they can change their shifts to follow the matter up. A resident present commented that they had used the service and the situation they complained about had improved once MetEngage had become involved. Residents were encouraged to sign up to the service and leaflets were distributed.

The Chair thanked the officers for taking the time to come along this evening and for giving us a very informative update. They stayed during the interval to talk with residents.

INTERVAL

EASTCOTE RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION 95th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESENT

36 residents
9 Committee members
1 Councillor
Our president
2 speakers

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 Councillors
1 resident

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 94TH AGM HELD ON 14TH MAY 2025

These were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In brief, we continue to attend meetings, either virtually, in person or keep in touch via email. The ERA Committee has a number of long-standing members who have contributed a significant amount of time and effort over the years and I thank them.

We continue our presence at local events, including the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens Summer Fete & Picnic. As a number of the ERA committee are already committed to helping with this event, we really do need some help on our own ERA stall in order to be able to attend. If any road stewards would like to be on the stand and talk to residents, they would be very welcome.

We have had the local council elections. Thanks to Cllr. Becky Haggard who has stood down, we appreciate all her help and support over the years.

Congratulations to Cllr. Nick Denys, Cllr. Ian Edwards who has stood down as leader of the council but remains one of our councillors, and Daniel Singham to has just been elected for the first time. We look forward to their continuing support in the coming year.

TREASURERS REPORT

2025/26 returned a stable financial year for ERA.

Membership revenues showed a pleasing increase of 10.1% over 2024/25. Slightly offset by the fall in base rate and bank interest earned on reserves. Magazine print volumes are back to membership levels, after a mass magazine distribution post Covid in an attempt to restore memberships to pre-Covid levels. The initiative has been successful in that regard and a general promotion of the Association to unsubscribed residents.

Other costs have been controlled closely with an increase in virtual meetings reducing physical meeting costs. Overall, the year returned a surplus £186, increasing reserves to £9930. The committee feels this level to be appropriate and a sufficient contingency.

After more than a decade, subscriptions will increase to £3 for the 2026/27 year. The increase will help manage rising costs and enable the Association to consider more good causes in the area, giving support where appropriate.

ERA MAGAZINE

The Spring ERA Magazine was circulated after the Easter Holidays.

Our editor for the past three years is standing down from her role and as a committee member, she has over the past few years worked quietly in the background producing a wonderful magazine for ERA building great relationships with many organisations and

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contacts to provide a great read which not only we all look forward to receiving through our letterboxes but one that really benefits the community. On behalf of ERA the Chair thanked her for all her effort, which has been greatly appreciated.

We have a volunteer to be our new Editor, to be formally elected later in the meeting, who will now commence handover and preparation for the Autumn 2026 edition.

Any items which ERA members would like included in the issue please contact our new editor.

MEMBERSHIP / ROADSTEWARDS

Our membership for the year to end of March '26 reached half the number we had pre the pandemic, when we had to halt doorstep collections as of Spring 2020 and we relied on the direct debit paying system. So, we still have a way to go to get back to where we were. The number of members paying by direct debit is only 40% of our total membership. It is clear that receiving cash via Stewards collecting door to door is still the best way to generate membership. However, we do wish to gain more direct debit paying members, particularly for where we don't have a Steward or for where Stewards don't deal with collecting cash subscriptions.

After many years being at £2, the membership subscription increase to £3 annually took effect on 1st April 2026.

Our Treasurer has worked hard on altering the direct debit system to now take at the new rate. This turned-out to be very involved and resulted in having to request all those who pay that way to re-subscribe. Thus, we hope that all will do so. The sign-up for direct debit button on the website leads to a form to sign up for the £3 mandate. All direct debits will now be taken on 25th March each year, despite what date the mandate is started. Our thanks go to our treasurer for his endeavours and indeed to those members who have re-subscribed, many with impressive alacrity.

Stewards worked hard on delivering the Spring and Autumn 2025 magazines to ensure all ERA members received their personal copies.

Our team of Road Stewards is always in flux so, along with long-standing gaps in roads being able to be covered actively, other vacancies have arisen. We advertise a sample of roads where we are seeking Stewards, but we very much welcome interest from members in any road who may be interested in supporting ERA in that way.

PLANNING UPDATE

We have continued to cover planning issues as much as possible and to join with the Eastcote Conservation Panel in making submissions against planning applications which affect residents and ERA areas. We had also supported other RA's – in particular, Ruislip and Northwood residents' associations.

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The Eastcote Residents' Association area contains 3 Conservation Areas and one of our particular activities this year was to support the Morford Way Conservation Area residents to be able to have their say over the Council' reappraisal of the area earlier this year. As always, we will not discuss individual residential applications in this open forum but if you do have any issues or concerns, please do get in touch with JR outside this meeting.

OPEN SPACES

The Eastcote House Gardens Annual Summer Fete and Picnic is coming up next month with over 30 stalls booked, dog show, live rock and roll band, Morris dancers, scouts climbing wall, Pimm's and prosecco, teas and cakes and many other attractions, and all free. Saturday June 6th from 11.00 until 16.00 hrs.

EHG will be entering the London in Bloom competition again this year and hope we can replicate the successes of last year.

There is a local Weather Watcher who has sent in photos of the walled garden at EHG to the BBC who show these as a backdrop to their weather reports.

POLICING

Our Safer Neighbourhood Officers regularly patrol our High Street and parks and are making a difference to keeping order and to combat shoplifting and anti-social behaviour in the Eastcote Ward.

The Ward Panel, a group of Eastcote residents and the SNT officers meets every 3 months to discuss crime statistics and set priorities for the police to follow for the next 3 months.

Last week a street briefing was held in Sunningdale Avenue, Eastcote to give residents an opportunity to meet the SNT officers and discuss any concerns with them. Further street briefings will be forthcoming.

The Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch team will have a stall at the EHG fete on June 6th. They have lots of excellent crime prevention advice and we encourage the public to have a chat with them.

WALKING WHEELING AND CYCLING

On the updated council website, it is now possible to report pavement damage by means of "Report a Pothole." This enables you to choose the location, go back and correct errors, and attach a picture. There isn't always an appropriate option but if not, choosing damaged bollard usually works. In contrast, "Report an accident caused by a damaged pavement" does not always give the option to go back and change the wording nor to add a picture.

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Several residents have independently contacted their councillors and ERA with suggestions for schemes to help people walking and wheeling - such as additional crossings, speed limits and resurfacing of some alleyways that are public footpaths. We thank the councillors for referring these matters to council officer and relaying the (often disappointing) responses.

Cycling Hillingdon was launched by residents a year ago as a forum to improve dialogue between the Council and residents who cycle in Hillingdon, including religious and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities.

As a rep from ERA, I attended a TfL-hosted Community round table meeting at the Civic Centre on integrated transport. Residents with different perspectives drawn from community groups including two residents' associations, and other local organisations of diverse ethnicity, faiths, ages, genders, deaf and disabled people and carers brought together and asked to discuss what an accessible, sustainable and affordable transport system that would work for everyone would look like here in Hillingdon.

The council released an updated Local Implementation Plan which is required in order to qualify for its share of national and regional funding for road and transport schemes in Hillingdon. Hopefully there will be greater opportunities for residents to engage with transport planners before the next one is issued.

The Hillingdon branch of London Cycling Campaign has recently been relaunched.

LONDON GREEN BELT COUNCIL

The full LGBC meets (mostly via Zoom) about 4 times a year and consists of representatives from various amenity type organisations such as ours as well as other interested individuals or groups plus the LGBC Executive and CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England). LGBC is administratively supported by CPRE and covers not only the whole of Greater London but also the surrounding Home Counties and is often referred to as The Metropolitan London Green Belt. Its basic aim is to resist any threats of development to designated Green Belt land. Eastcote, as a suburb in Greater London, has very little designated GB land but adjacent localities such as Northwood Hills, Pinner and South Herts does, so our local environment can still be affected by large scale developments close to our borders of which regretfully there are many examples at the present time. In recent times new (and ambiguous) definitions such as "Brown" & "Grey" lands have been introduced and some areas previously designated as "Green" have been re defined making planning permissions easier to obtain than was previously the case. Central Government have also given themselves new powers to override even the decisions of Planning Inspectors which used to be a final stage in any dispute.

Areas in Greater London where major developments have been approved despite local objections are L.B Enfield and L.B. Bromley although there are others where local and LGBC objections have resulted in some modifications.

FEDERATION of METROPOLITAN LINE USERS COMMITTEE

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This is a "Consumers Council" established as long ago as 1957 whereby representatives of local amenity groups such as residents' associations and transport users' groups meet 3 to 4 times a year with senior TfL and Met. Line Underground managers to discuss issues of concern and receive information concerning Met Line operations. Most recent topics discussed (30th April meeting) related to line performance, stations step free access projects e.g. Eastcote.

The Chairman proposed that all the reports should be accepted en bloc and this was agreed by a show of hands.

The Chair then thanked all the other committee members who also 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman explained that in accordance with our Constitution we have to elect Officers and Committee Members for the coming year. This year, this includes a change of role, a new member and those who have agreed to stand for another year in the same role.

Vice Chair – This position has been vacant for the past year but our current Meeting Secretary has agreed to stand to fill the role. The role of Meeting Secretary will now be incorporated into the Vice-Chair position.

The Chair thanked our Meeting Secretary for the support she has given to him and the Committee and proposed her election as Vice-Chair

Seconded – JL

Carried

Magazine Editor – The Chair introduced Jane Woodley our prospective new magazine editor. She has a keen interest in our locality and will be a welcome addition to the committee.

Proposed – AL

Seconded: KB

Carried

The Chairman then proposed that we re-elect en bloc all the other members who have kindly agreed to stand for re-election this was agreed by a show of hands

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman

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Membership Secretary/Senior Road Steward
Treasurer
Deesha Chadha

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Walking Wheeling Cycling
FOMLUC/Green Belt/Pinner Liaison
Open Spaces/Logistics/Policing
Planning
Local History Liaison

The Chairman proposed that we re-elect en bloc all the members who have very kindly agreed to stand for re-election.

Seconded: MP

This was agreed by a show of hands

We do have a vacancy for an Auditor.

The Chair then thanked our President for her support over the past year and invited her to continue in the role for the coming year. She accepted the invitation and this was agreed by all present.

The Chair then invited the President to say a few words.

Our President thanked the Chair and all the committee for their work during the year and also thanked those residents who were attending the meeting for their presence. She also pointed out that we shouldn't always wonder where all the police have gone - the police officers tasked with taking care of Eastcote are often patrolling the area in plain clothes assessing the activity in the neighbourhood in order to keep us safe.

Lastly the Chair thanked all our Road Stewards for the time they spend distributing the magazine and collecting subscriptions and for keeping our noticeboards looking smart and up to date. The chair also thanked our webmaster for continuing his support of the website, newsletters and help with the transition of GoCardless to the new payment structure.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair asked those present who would be interested in volunteering to help on a regular or one-off basis to contact any committee member for further information.

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A reminder that dates for all our future meetings are on our notice boards in and around Eastcote. Meetings are open to all Eastcote residents.

The Open Forum will be held on 14th October 2026. This is an opportunity to discuss issues with other residents and committee members followed by a Q&A session with our Councillors. We ask for questions in advance so that the Councillors are able to make the relevant enquiries to provide answers on the night.

Eastcote House Summer Fete and Picnic is on 6th June – take your own picnic and enjoy all the activities.

RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

There had been three questions addressed to Councillors presented at the meeting. Cllr. Denys took this away to follow up and will be in touch with the questioners directly with answers.

CLOSING REMARKS

Cllr. Denys thanked everyone involved with ERA for their contribution to the local community.

The Chair thanked the Committee members for their efforts in making the evening run smoothly and to all the residents present for coming out and showing their support.

The Meeting closed at 21.15.