

Eastcote Village Conservation Area Advisory Panel
Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 6th June 2013 in the Lounge,
Methodist Church, Pamela Gardens, Eastcote
Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

Present: Lesley Crowcroft, Joan Butfield, Frances Hawkins, Linda Furnell, Karen Spink, Cllr. Catherine Dann, Ian Murray, Rosemary Bucksey, Antony Bucksey, Cllr. David Payne, Anne Payne, Jane Neave, Cllr. Eddie Lavery, Paul Mercer, Susan Toms, Adam Wilson, Jenny Gurdon, Rob Cousins, Carolyn Morrissey, Keith Barnard, Steve Dunn, Chris Groom, Gill Hughes, Ed Fuller, Adrian Batten

Apologies: Jeff Duley EBL. Gerry Edwards, Heather Chamberlain

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th March 2013 were approved

Matters arising not on the agenda:

Heather Chamberlain had previously raised the issue of fly tipping .LC circulated the number with the minutes and will circulate the contact numbers with each mailing of minutes.

CCTV has now been installed at the War memorial and it is working. Thanks to Cllr. Payne and others for pursuing this.

AB – LBH Green Spaces Officer said that any problems in parks should be referred to him.

Friends Groups:

Pinn Meadows

Rob Cousins

1. On 25th March, the day before it was due to be heard at the North Planning Committee meeting, Eastcote Hockey Club withdrew for the third time their planning application for a fenced and floodlit Astroturf pitch and car park on Pinn Meadows and once again promised to re-submit in due course.
2. The Planning Officer's report, which was made available, recommended that the planning application be refused as it would fail to conserve and enhance the visual amenity of the Green Chain, contribute to the positive enhancement of the river corridor, or improve the character and appearance of the surrounding area and was therefore contrary to policies EM2 and EM3 of the Hillingdon Local Plan part 1, BE13 and BE19 of Hillingdon Local Plan part 2 and policy 2.18 of the London Plan 2011. There were also objections from other Council Officers including the Flood Officer, Tree Officer, Sustainability Officer and Highways Officer and the Policy and Enforcement Planning Team. Objections to the planning application were also

received from the Environment Agency (citing amongst other things its impact on the River Pinn corridor), Natural England, The Woodlands Trust, Sport England, The Ramblers Association, The Open Spaces Society, Eastcote Conservation Panel, Ruislip Conservation Panel, Ruislip Residents Association, Nick Hurd MP and numerous other residents' groups.

3. FoPM have also raised a petition with over 5,255 signatures asking for the Council to voluntarily designate Pinn Meadows area as a Village Green. This received support from the Ward Councillors and Eastcote and Ruislip Residents' Associations. Despite being assured a Full Council hearing for the petition per the existing Council rules at the time that the petition was submitted on 4th April, the Council changed the rules for petitions with over 2,500. signatures retrospectively at their meeting on 9th May so that we would no longer be able to present the petition to the full Council meeting and instead would be given a meeting with the relevant Cabinet Member, for which we are still awaiting a proposed date from the Council. (In response to a question from CG EL explained the change of rules, but also stressed that a petition with 2,500. signatures indicated local feelings stronger than a petition with 25 signatures).

4. FoPM have responded to the Public Consultation regarding Hillingdon Local Plan part 2 by requesting that Pinn Meadows remains protected by the existing Green Chain policy, which appears to be more explicit than the proposed Metropolitan Open Land designation.

(LC asked that MOL status be given to Cheney Field, Long Meadow, area around Haydon Hall (not cricket pitch), and Forge Green).

5. Work is progressing well on the Pinn Meadows Chrysalis project and we are awaiting the new footpaths and an interpretation board to be installed. (DP said work should start next week, weather dependent. RC thanked DP and said he would ask DP to open).

6. Another Chrysalis application has been submitted for repairs to two of the car parks in Kings College Road, which have the support of Ruislip Rangers FC and Ruislip Cricket Club.

7. FoPM held a Big Picnic on Pinn Meadows on Sunday 2nd June as part of the nationwide 'Big Lunch' event to get communities together. As well as the food and games (rounders, croquet, badminton and giant Jenga), Ruislip Fire Crew also brought their fire engine down for the kids to play on.

8. We held a working party at the beginning of May which was extremely well attended and another one is planned for Saturday 6th July at 10.30.am.

9. We are holding weekly butterfly transects over the spring and summer to record the number and types of butterflies on the meadows.

Cavendish/Bessingby Parks

Carolyn Morrissey

The Easter Egg hunt was well attended.

It is disappointing that the group is so small that nothing can be achieved. The park is well used by sports people and children. LC said that a membership drive was needed.

AB said that they were working to get the park up to standard before the 20th June for the green flag award. He was confident this was possible.

Warrender/Highgrove Woods

Ed Fuller

1. The Council has taken over the task of planting urban flower/wildflower areas in Warrender Park, to a plan drawn up by Dragana.

The areas agreed were sprayed 1st March, but this was not effective due to the cold/wet conditions. A second, more effective, spraying was carried out mid-April. End of April, the areas were rotovated and seeded. There has been generally poor germination as at end of May, again, due to the very poor growing weather.

One area seeded with wildflower mix in 2012 was not included in the re-rotovation/reseeding this year. The perennial plants in 2012 mix applied to this area are now growing strongly and some are flowering, including pink Campion and Ox-eye daisy. This is as it should be for the second year in the establishment of a wildflower meadow.

2. The new gym equipment (6 items) has been installed. Comments have been generally favourable and usage is gradually increasing.

3. An e-mail was sent to AB requesting where possible, a timetable for completion of the outstanding items in the upgrade of Warrender Park. These to include maintenance of the paddling pool flower bed (agreement needed as to the maintenance of this), new waste bins extra picnic tables and refurbishment of the tennis courts.

4. £80. has been received from the Ward Budget for purchasing spring bulbs to be planted in the autumn.

5. EF offered congratulations to Dragana who was voted LBH 2nd Employee of the year. LC said that the Park Officers should be congratulated for all their hard work. They were awarded 3rd prize.

Eastcote House Gardens

1. The water in the stables is being tested to see if it is suitable for drinking.
2. KS mentioned again the blocked drain at the FE Road pedestrian entrance. AB will look into this.

LC will send out contact details for reporting all problems to the Council.

DP was concerned about the disappearance of the ceremonial myrtle tree from the walled garden. LC assured him that it has just been moved, and although it isn't looking very healthy, it will be replaced if necessary.

Treasurer's Report:

The current balance to May 2013 is £282.05, and expenditure is £299.40. Expenditure is for materials for elm planting, subscription to Green Belt Council, Remembrance Wreath, seeds and sand.

£80 had been received from LBH Ward Budget for Warrender Park.

The Conservation Panel Account also holds other Friends' Groups monies

Green Belt:

IM said the next meeting will be on 13th July which he will be attending . There has been little communication since the last meeting and he is unaware of anything affecting this area.

Election of Officers:

A proposal by LC that the meeting approve JB to be a signatory on the Conservation Panel Bank Account and able to sign documents on behalf of the Conservation Panel was approved and seconded by CG.

Committee Nominations EVCAAP

The following election of officers was proposed by JG and seconded by RB

Chairman	Lesley Crowcroft
Deputy Chairman Built Environment	Chris Groom
Deputy Chairman Countryside Conservation	Rob Cousins
Secretary	Joan Butfield
Treasurer	Keith Barnard

Hinman Shield:

The schools and groups who are contenders are:

Warrender School – archaeology, bulb planting, survey (they did a geography project which was included in our HLF bid on what would people like to see at EHG), tree dressing

Newnham Junior School – bulb planting

Field End Infants School – bulb planting, art group visit, advertising our events on their web site, tree dressing

Coteford Infants bulb planting, tree dressing

5th Eastcote Beavers – bulb planting, advertising us in their newsletter

Warrender were unanimously elected to receive the shield which will be presented on the 7th July at the Vintage Garden Tea Party by the Mayor and Mayoress..

As the old shield is now full, Jay, of Forget me Not will purchase a new shield for us and the old shield will be in the display case in the Stables when they are renovated.

Planning applications:

Changes to Planning law via the Growth and Infrastructure Bill:

LBH are introducing an article 4 directive to try to stop the extension clause but this cannot become active until one year after bill becomes law.

No permission required for rear extensions up to 6 metres in depth on semi-detached or terrace or 8 metres on detached dwelling. If neighbours are aware of the proposed extension they can notify the Council of their objection who will then look into it. However, if the neighbour happens to be absent within the 21 day time period in which the Council notifies them of their findings the extension can go through by default.

Currently, telecom cabinets cannot be placed in a conservation area, except in designated places. Now, they can be placed anywhere. Masts however, still need permission.

Restriction of change of use of shops has been abandoned. Possible now to have a complete street of betting shops or take-aways. Offices can be changed into flats without any control of size of dwelling.

Agricultural buildings can have change of use without permission.

New Applications:

Fairway High Road Eastcote. To change from a 2 bed Bungalow to a 4 bed house. By raising the roof. Refused.

Refurbishment of The Woodman Public House Joel Street. – this is a Grade 2 listed building and only painting has been done so far. LC and others expressed concern that the Pub could become a nuisance staying open until 2am and causing disturbance to neighbours and the surrounding area. Letter sent to NHRA suggesting they alert the SNT.

Initial House – the appeal lodged by Savills the receiver, was approved by the Planning Inspectorate. There are now very worrying circumstances around this case and others. Appellants are now allowed to submit changes to plans to the Inspectorate, which are not notified to residents, so there is no consultation period. There is still another application waiting to be activated by LBH. Savills will not develop the site themselves – it will be sold on which means there could be more applications from any would be purchaser. S106 conditions apply. The PI refused the application from LBH for funding towards High Street improvements but allowed a sum of £20,000. for the educational projects at EHG.

Pinova Cuckoo Hill – this dwelling is built on land forming part of Applegarth. There are continual applications to make changes to conditions. Most have been with drawn, but one outstanding to install photo volvic panel on the roof. **Approved**

16 Field End Road – 2nd application for a side extension, the first being refused. **Approved**

RAF Eastcote – CG said that various residents have reported details of unapproved roof windows being installed overlooking adjacent properties and these have been reported to the Council. Some are unrecognizable from the original application. Wimpy have put in a retrospective planning applications for the changed designs. Some of the houses are occupied and it is expected to go to appeal. Houses with an enforcement order cannot be sold . Planning application has been turned down for 18 houses backing onto Azalea Walk. **These applications were refused all have been taken to appeal.**

Sethi –Erected 2 very large un-authorized floodlit signs. Eventually these were refused at appeal. After an enforcement order one was removed the other still remains plus numerous banners have been affixed to the fence. Hillingdon’s Enforcement Officer has been informed. Planning application for change of use to second floor, from offices to an Educational Establishment has been approved

AOB

A meeting was held at Eastcote Cricket Club. Directional signs to ECC would be helpful. The state of the driveway and speed humps was discussed. An event has been arranged to celebrate 150 years of the club on the 25th August. And FEHG have been asked if they’d like a stall.

Local Plan part 2. The consultation on the second part of the Local Plan has now closed. EVCAAP commented upon the possible extension of the Morford Way Conservation area as set out in the draft appraisal which is still awaiting a Cabinet hearing. Also the up grading of SINC[Site of Importance for Nature Conservation] – Long Meadow, Cheney Fields, etc. to MOL.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.