

## **EVRA Chairman's Report to AGM – October 2017 – Chris Stebbing**

### **Local Issues**

It has been another busy year for the EVRA committee. We started with a very lively AGM where residents had the opportunity to question representatives from Transport for Norwich (TfN) on the proposed cycle paths through Eaton Village. There was considerable opposition to the creation of shared cycle/pedestrian paths in front of the Red Lion and shops and this was reflected in the consultation conducted by TfN. However, the City and County Councils in their wisdom decided to proceed with the scheme only to find that the Eaton Village scheme was unaffordable! The Cringleford element of the scheme went ahead and there are now traffic lights on Cringleford Bridge which seem to work well and aid traffic flows at busy times.

The scope of the Eaton Street scheme was considerably reduced and put out to consultation in July. The revised scheme amounts to a wider cycle track up Eaton Hill from the Cellar House and some changes to crossings and traffic light phasing at a cost of around £600,000. Eaton Hill slip road would be closed for a period of three weeks during the works. However, the much desired dedicated right turn from Eaton Street into Church Lane has not been included and the EVRA Committee has been pressing TfN for this. TfN say that such a dedicated phase would impact on the “efficiency and capacity” of the junction so is not justified. We say “poppycock”! The debate continues and work, which was due to start in late October, has again been postponed until the New year because of concerns raised by our Councillors and City Hall. The detailed plan required closure of the Eaton Hill slip road for around 5 weeks and the impact of this on bus services for Eaton Village has been deemed unacceptable.

Traffic around Eaton Village remains an issue with residents raising concerns on inconsiderate parking along bus routes which causes problems for drivers; parking outside Waitrose on Church Lane; and inconsiderate parking around Eaton primary School. We have been corresponding with the School Head who regularly reminds parents about being considerate about parking at school opening and closure times but problems persist and appear to be insurmountable. The City Council had planned to paint double yellow lines on the corners of side roads but this got delayed. However, after further pressure from EVRA they say that this work will now be completed by end of March.

The closure of the school swimming pool was a disappointment especially since many residents raised money for this to be built and participated in the building of it. The school said that the pool needed considerable expenditure (£100,000 plus) and that its priority was repairing the school roof.

The planning application for the Stephanie's site got approval despite much opposition from local residents with concerns on parking provision and traffic at a busy junction. Following planning approval the site has been put up for sale.

## **Events:**

Alongside dealing with the above issues we have continued our programme of events throughout the year:

At the end of October we organised a Pumpkin Trail where children followed a trail around the Village to find hidden pumpkins and collect letters which formed the name of a scary film. We raised a £100 from this event for our Eaton Green Playground Fund. Thank you to Carol Plunkett for devising and organising this. We will run this again this year.

Rosemary Benton has continued organising our Spring and Summer Garden Competitions and we had a good number of entries for both of these. First prize in the Spring Garden Competition was awarded to Carl and Lydia Taylor on Abinger Way and Rachael and Tim Burrows of Marston lane were awarded first prize in the Summer Competition. RJI IFA Ltd generously sponsored the prizes for both competitions and the Cellar House hosted the presentations – we are grateful for their support. A big thank you to Rosemary for organising the garden competitions and also to the judges for their time and expertise.

Rosemary also continues to organise our work to manage and keep tidy the verges along Donkey Lane. Without the work of Rosemary and her team the lane would be overgrown with bramble and nettles and look very untidy. The trees planted a few years back are doing well and will eventually shield the metal fence. There have been issues with both Council and privately owned overhanging trees and fallen branches along the lane and the City Council tree officer has been contacted to deal with these.

In April an Easter Egg Hunt at Eaton Green Playground was well supported and added to the Playground Fund. Thank you to Carol for organising this.

During May half-term we ran a series of dyke dipping sessions on Marston Marsh with the support of the Norwich Fringe Project. This is a popular event and raised £58 in donations for the Eaton Green Playground Fund.

Our main event of the year is the Scarecrow Festival and competition which was again a great success with 31 wonderful scarecrows displayed around the Village. Many residents and visitors toured the scarecrows during the weekend giving a real community feel to the Village. Notcutts sponsored the Judges prizes for 2017 and the Gorringe Family of Rosslare won First prize. RJI IFA Ltd sponsored the prizes for each of the winners of the four categories from the residents vote. We had 13 garage sales during the weekend and cake sales on both days which together raised £180 for the Playground Fund. A Fun Day at the Cellar House on the Sunday added to the atmosphere and Vic Flute will tell you more about that. Overall we raised £485 towards the Playground Fund during the weekend. Our grateful thanks go to Notcutts, RJI IFA, Cellar House and all participants who helped to make the weekend a great success.

## **Projects:**

Our main project continues to be the upgrade of Eaton Green Playground to add more play equipment and make this a better play area for the community. Sharon Atkinson leads our

sub-committee for this project and in July a new climbing tower and double toddler swing was installed just in time for the summer holidays. We are working with the City Council who has recently replaced the perimeter fencing. Fundraising continues and we are on our way towards the purchase of another piece of equipment. We have submitted several applications for funds but this being a Council owned site does affect our eligibility for many of these. However, we persist and will add new equipment as funds allow. We think a further £20,000 will achieve a nicely populated playground - but more would be better! We thank all our sponsors and donators for helping us achieve a refurbished playground and thank Sharon, Vic and Carol for all their hard work to deliver the project.

Our Website and Facebook pages are well read and serve to get information to residents as speedily as possible and support our bi-annual Newsletters. We thank our network of Newsletter distributors for their continued support.

Lastly I would like to thank the Committee for all their support and hard work during the past year. Vic Flute as Vice-chairman has taken the lead on many activities, which has helped enormously, as well as ensuring that I don't forget the many things I say I will do! The Committee members have all fully supported our events and projects turning out to run stalls at the Fun Day as well as being active participants in the establishment of Eaton as a Dementia Friendly Village. Thank you also to our City Councillors: Caroline Ackroyd, Judith Lubbock, James Wright and County Councillor Brian Watkins for their great support and advice. And finally a great big thank you to you, the residents and businesses of Eaton Village, for all your support for our activities and events during the past year.

#### **Vice Chairman's Report to EVRA AGM – October 2017 – Vic Flute**

The first decision we made after last year's AGM was to continue to have just two newsletters annually. We are very grateful to those residents who deliver the newsletter, or are on the reserves list - anyone who would also like to help please see Helen during the break. We also decided that we could use "Just Eaton and Cringleford" as a means of updating residents on a monthly basis.

I said I would take over liaison with the police but after the first meeting I attended, a new system was started and PC Adam Binns (our community police officer) will explain how this works after the break.

A number of people have told us about several traffic issues that concern them and as a result I am coordinating a village speed watch. We currently have the minimum number of volunteers and are waiting for a training date. The more volunteers we have the less we each have to do so if anyone else would like to join us, please see me during the break.

We are issued with a speed radar gun, two Community Speed Watch signs and reflective jackets. Volunteers then carry out speed checks working to Norfolk Constabulary's Community Speed Watch guidelines.

Returns are completed logging various details such as vehicle registration mark, make, model or colour. These are then sent into the Safety Camera Partnership team within forty-

eight hours, who obtain the registered keeper details. Registered keepers whose vehicles are observed breaking the speed limit will have their details recorded and will receive a warning letter requesting them to keep their speed down. Those who persistently offend, and who live in Norfolk, will be notified to the local Norfolk Engagement Officer for Police action.

The Fun Day in the summer was a great success. We raised more funds toward the playground but more importantly people had fun. Most activities cost 10p, so did not stretch family purses too far. We are indebted to Victoria and Graham MacDonald for the use of the Cellar House garden and facilities and the much appreciated hot dogs and hamburgers which were very reasonable priced. Many thanks too to all the committee members who helped, to Ann Winter for serving the hot dogs, to Martin and Marion Langdon and Justin and Sue Flute for manning 2 games. We added a new game this year and borrowed another. It would be good if anyone is able to make us a game, or two, for next year - spin the wheel, roll-a-penny, hoopla, skittles for example- please let me know. We are also grateful to Lucy Carne of "Reality Estate Agents" who paid us £100 for allowing them to put up their signboards advertising the scarecrow weekend. They have asked if they can put up 40 signs next year and pay us £200 - so if you're willing to have their board up in your front please let me know.

Whilst planning this event with Victoria she offered us the Eaton Room and a projector to show films for free and Monday Morning Movies was started - it failed to attract an audience and Victoria has kindly agreed to let us try Tuesday at Two on the first Tuesday of the month. In October this attracted an audience of two. The last chance to make this work will be at 2.00 p.m. on the 7th November.

Chris has already mentioned the hard work of Carol Plunkett. This year's Pumpkin trail is £3 per child (sign up on the eventbrite website). We hope to have 50 children take part in locating paper pumpkins and unscrambling the anagram to claim their Halloween goody bag. Tue 31 October from 4-7pm from 105 Greenways. Carol hopes to raise £125 profit for this.

Unfortunately Santa's Grotto - which Carol worked hard on - will now not take place as the cost of hiring a hall in December makes it impossible to cover the costs.

Finally EVRA committee members are involved with Dementia Friendly Eaton (Caroline will tell us more after the break). After two meetings of the steering group, the EVRA committee formed a subgroup to see how EVRA could help with the project and Eaton CAMEO was born. These informal gatherings are designed to give people who are lonely, worried about their memory, living with dementia and their companions, a chance to Come And Meet Each Other for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and, if they wish, take part in shared activities.

They will be held on every 4th Wednesday of the month between 2.30 and 4.00 p.m. in St Andrew's Church Hall. We are very grateful to the vicar of St Andrew's for letting us use the hall free.

If you would like to know more, or would like to help, please talk to Bernard and Naomi during the break