

The Eaton Village Residents Association

Autumn Newsletter 2020

www.eatonvillage.co.uk



Welcome to this EVRA Autumn Newsletter. We also warmly welcome to Eaton Village all those residents who have recently moved into the Village.

EVRA Annual General Meeting 2020

The EVRA Committee has reluctantly decided that the Association's 2020 AGM will not take place this year. Our AGM is often attended by 40, 50, or more, residents and it would be difficult to provide a venue with a Covid-19 secure environment that allows adequate social distancing. The Committee elected at the AGM in October 2019 is: Chris Stebbing (Chairman) (Tel: 503301, Email: evra.vc@live.co.uk); Vic Flute (Vice-chairman); Naomi Godding (Treasurer); Patricia Seadon (Secretary); Sharon Atkinson, Rosemary Benton (retiring October 2020), Carol Plunkett, Kathleen Westwell, and Bernard Godding.

In lieu of the AGM we have included below the Chairman's report for the past year and have attached the audited accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2020. The draft minutes of the 2019 AGM can be read on the EVRA website at: <https://eatonvillage.co.uk/about/reports-to-evra-agm/>

EVRA Chairman's Report for 2019/20

Following the 2019 AGM our committee began planning our events for the coming year. Our Spring 2020 Newsletter was drafted in early March and was going to tell you about all the great things we had planned throughout the summer and into the Autumn. Lockdown, because of the Coronavirus, was imposed in mid-March and all our plans came to a grinding halt. As the situation evolved and Government advice crystallised it was clear that public events would not be happening for at least the medium term. We therefore cancelled our plans for our Garden Competition, Family Fun Day, Scarecrow Festival and Competition and cake and garage sales and (later) our Autumn Pumpkin Trail for 2020. We hope to offer a full programme of events in 2021 and will set out the details of these in our Spring 2021 Newsletter.

We also had to cancel our Committee meetings since we were not permitted to meet in person and most of our members, being over 70, were advised to shield themselves. We have since held meetings via Zoom which has enabled us to get back to work and manage matters that have arisen.

Government advice on public gatherings has led the Committee to cancel the Annual General Meeting for 2020. The Committee is prepared to carry on for a further year until the next AGM is held in Autumn 2021 where we will also seek endorsement of our annual report and attached accounts for 2019/20. Under the EVRA Constitution the Committee can co-opt up to five residents to join the Committee and assist with the work of the Association and we would be pleased to hear from you if you are interested in helping.

A shining light, amongst many others, that arose from the pandemic was the speedy setting up, via Whatsapp, of the Covid-19 NR4 Mutual Aid support group to assist and support those who were unable to leave their homes for shopping and essential supplies. The group leafleted every household in the area providing a named contact to assist where required. EVRA liaised with the group passing on requests for assistance to ensure that anyone contacting us got the support they needed. The group became a lifeline for the housebound and at the peak of the pandemic had around 120 members and answered more than 500 requests for assistance with shopping and collection of medicines. The group highlighted that the younger members of Eaton are very community minded and we look forward to capturing that enthusiasm to help EVRA organise and enhance our events and how we work within the community.

Eaton Green Playground Project: This is a long term project to upgrade the play equipment at Eaton Green – the area behind Eaton Primary School. The site is owned by the City Council and EVRA has raised funds which have been donated to the Council to pay for new equipment. The advantage of procuring this via the City Council is that they are able to reclaim the VAT saving 20% on the purchase

price and will also take on maintenance and risk for the new equipment. We funded the purchase of the climbing tower in 2017 and by March this year had raised £7500 to buy a wheelchair-friendly roundabout. The money has been raised since 2017 through our Family Fun Days, Garage Sales, cake sales and other donations including from the Waitrose Community Matters Fund, Tesco Blue Token scheme and £2195 from Pledge Norwich. The overall cost of the roundabout is about £8800 and the EVRA Committee has agreed to fund the balance of £1300 from your donations made in addition to the annual subscription. Around half the cost of the roundabout is for the groundworks required to provide a level and safe surface. The purchase was put on hold because of the Coronavirus restrictions but we are now in discussion with the City Council to restart this and get the roundabout installed as soon as possible.

EVRA Accounts: As a consequence of the delay in purchasing the roundabout the EVRA accounts to the end of March 2020 look extremely healthy. In addition to EVRA funds our accounts also hold money on behalf of the Eaton Defibrillator Fund managed by Councillor Caroline Ackroyd and the CAMEO support group in which EVRA Committee Members take a leading role.

EVRA Subscriptions: We weren't able to deliver our usual subscription envelopes this year in March but in our July Interim Newsletter we invited residents to pay these directly into the EVRA bank account. Many of you did this and we are extremely grateful for your support which enables us to pay our necessary expenses such as insurance and the printing costs of our Newsletters. In previous years most of our subscriptions have been in cash and at the peak of the Coronavirus pandemic we had concerns about our team handling large amounts of coins and notes plus hundreds of subscription envelopes. We recognise that not all residents are able to pay via online banking and we are now able to accept payment in cash which can be posted in the EVRA post box by the cash machine in Waitrose or delivered to 54 Greenways or 21 Ebbisham Drive.

The EVRA subscription remains as £1 but you are welcome to pay more to support our projects such as the Eaton Green Playground. Please just write "EVRA subs" and your name and address on an envelope, pop in your contribution and deliver to one of the addresses above. However, you can still pay your subscription directly into the EVRA bank account, which would be helpful. The account details are: Sort Code: 20-62-53 Account No. 90029262 Account Name: Eaton Village Residents Association. Please include your address as the reference so that we can note which households have paid.

2020 Scarecrow Trail: We were pleased to be able to run our Scarecrow Trail for eight days at the beginning of August. We had 18 scarecrows on display around the Village giving residents an extended opportunity to view these while maintaining their social distance. Our theme was "Heroes" to celebrate all those who have supported our communities since the lockdown began in March. As ever, the entries were inventive and wonderful with some celebrating our NHS and carers and others recognizing the work of those who support us in so many different ways. Thank you to all our scarecrow builders and hope to see you all again next summer for what will be our twelfth Scarecrow Festival. Thank you also to Elaine (and contributing bakers) on Cheyham Mount who raised £83 from cake sales and Val on Greenways who raised over £27 from plant sales.

Speeding around Eaton Village: There has been a noticeable increase in the number of vehicles speeding around Eaton Village since lockdown, particularly on Church Lane and Greenways. The 20mph Zone for Eaton Village is here to stay in line with most of the Norwich area and we hope that residents and visitors will respect this. We opposed the original traffic calming scheme as we considered this to be unworkable and had reservations about the installation of speed humps. So it is down to all of us to drive responsibly and be patient during the few extra seconds journey time involved in complying with the Traffic Regulations which limit motorised vehicles to 20mph.

Barclays Bank Site: EVRA submitted comments on the Planning Application for the proposed development on the old Barclays Bank site of four residential dwellings and a commercial unit. Main concerns were: the size of this three storey building and its impact on the landscape; and possible disruption to residents during building works that would impact on traffic flows through Church Lane - not wanting to see a repeat of the chaos experienced during the construction of Senna Mews.

Finally, may I thank the Committee for all their hard work during the past year and also thank residents for their support which has enabled EVRA to keep going throughout these difficult times.

Chris Stebbing – EVRA Chair – October 2020

EVRA WEBSITE & FACEBOOK: The EVRA website is regularly updated with local events and information. Take a look at the website at: www.eatonvillage.co.uk for more information on any of the above items. Our Facebook page is used for posting items of immediate and short term interest and is a great way to keep in touch with local events. <https://www.facebook.com/eatonvillageresidentsassociation> Email contact: evra.vc@live.co.uk