

Eaton Village Residents' Association - Chairman's Report to 2023 AGM

Another year passes and the Committee has been busy dealing with local matters as well as organising events as summarised below.

Eaton Village Sign: The refurbishment of the Village sign was completed in March and reinstalled by the City Council in April. The final cost was £2862 and was paid for by money raised from EVRA events and donations from the community. We have £283 remaining in the Village Sign fund which will be used for future maintenance and care. Thank you to everyone who supported the project and ensured the future of the sign originally installed in 1956.

Vehicle speed monitoring around Eaton Village: EVRA has managed the Eaton Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM) on behalf of the community since August 2021 moving this regularly and analysing the data. Reports are issued following each move and shared with our local Councillors, the Highways Team at County Hall and our Neighbourhood Policing Team. A summary table of the data is posted on the EVRA website at: <https://eatonvillage.co.uk/local-issues/eaton-speed-awareness-monitor/>. The sign is moved by Eaton volunteers between Sunningdale, Greenways and two locations on Church Lane and also shared with Judges Walk. Thank you to Robin, Simon, Jeroen, Brian and Mike for their help with moving the sign.

We know that more than 60% of vehicles are regularly exceeding the 20mph speed limit with around 16% exceeding 25mph on Greenways and Church Lane by the Church Hall. Higher averages are recorded on the section of Church Lane by the Eaton burial ground where 70% exceed 20mph and 29% exceed 25mph. Vehicle speeds of 50mph and up to 65mph are regularly recorded each week on our roads. The data shows that some 5000 vehicles per day use the section of Church Lane between Greenways and Eaton Street with Eaton Primary School traffic accounting for around 800 of the vehicle movements per day during term time. The Summary Reports show a small downward trend in average speeds around the Village over the two years which is encouraging.

Raised Speed table on Church Lane: With around 5000 vehicles daily and most exceeding the 20mph limit it can be difficult for pedestrians crossing Church Lane to reach our local businesses. EVRA has been working with our Councillors and Norfolk Highways since the implementation of the 20mph Zone to provide some form of traffic calming to assist pedestrians crossing near to Waitrose as was originally proposed for outside Barclays Bank in 2018. Our County Councillor, Brian Watkins, has now agreed a funding package with Norfolk Highways for a raised speed table to be installed before the end of March 2024. The new exact location has yet to be confirmed but EVRA will continue to liaise on this and keep residents informed.

Future Projects: EVRA accounts are in a healthy state and the Committee has discussed how we could use the funds to support our community. In particular, we have been exploring how we might support the younger members of our community in Eaton Village – those in early to mid-teens – who are not really catered for. Although EVRA funds are healthy these, and the available resources, are not sufficient to run a youth club or similar event so we have looked at how we might be able to support the cohort in a different way. However, after much discussion we have not yet been able to establish what is needed or identify what the need might be in Eaton at this time. The new Committee could look at this again and determine if this work should be continued.

Construction works and disruptions: Development of the Barclays Bank site appears to be drawing to a close. There have been several sets of roadworks with temporary traffic lights to connect services which have caused the usual delays on Church Lane. Any disruption on the road has a significant effect on residents as this is the only route through to the 1000+ houses, Eaton Primary School and Eaton Vale Activity Centre. Gas main replacement works by Cadent also created issues for residents with temporary traffic controls on Greenways and Church Lane. The most significant problems arose when temporary traffic signals failed outside of working hours but were not dealt

with promptly. EVRA had to push Cadent to finish remedial works to reinstate verges and remove work materials. Work that should have been completed in weeks took some months to finish.

Friends of Donkey Lane: Our appeal for help with managing Donkey Lane has led to the formation of a new group and we have had a couple of work sessions on a Saturday morning to cut back and tidy the banks along the lane. The aim is to maintain a natural environment but also to keep it looking reasonably tidy. Thank you to those volunteers who have come forward to help with the work but others are welcome to join us. Further information and dates for our work sessions are listed on the EVRA website at: <https://eatonvillage.co.uk/events/>

EVRA Events: We established an Events Planning Team chaired by Vic Flute to plan and organise EVRA events and ease the load on Committee meetings. The team includes Committee members and other residents and meets separately from the main Committee. The team have done a great job during the past year organising the following events introducing new features such as online voting to some of our long running events:

- We ran our popular Pumpkin Trail in October 2022 as an alternative to Trick and Treat
- A talk on the Arminghall Henge courtesy of Eaton Vale Activity Centre was attended by 60 people
- The Spring/Easter Trail with 18 clues around the Village for people to collect and solve with prizes donated by Smith & Pinching for the winners and a children's colouring competition.
- EVRA arranged defibrillator (AED) training in partnership with Norfolk Accident and rescue Service (NARS) and around 60 people were trained in resuscitation and use of the AED.
- A quiz night in May was well attended and followed by a Table Top sale in June.
- Our main event each year is our week-long Scarecrow Festival in July where we had 29 scarecrows around the Village with categories of standard, simple and business with prizes donated by Waitrose. People could also vote online this year with over 170 votes being cast.
- Our Family Fun Day at the Cellar House raised £275. We thank Victoria and Grahame at the Cellar House for use of their garden and Eaton Vale Activity Centre for bringing their climbing wall.
- We also had Garage Sales around the Village and cake sales by Elaine and Grace during the scarecrow week contributed a further £210 towards EVRA funds.

EVRA Finances: Subscription income has fallen by £550 to £1849 which is partly due to subscriptions paid online for the 2021/22 year in March 2021. However, receipts from events have more than compensated for this. Many residents pay their subscription online often giving more than the £1 requested. The cost of printing our Newsletters increased but we have found another supplier to help keep our costs low. Many residents continue to use the envelopes for their subscriptions so we still have a lot of cash to bank each year. A big expense has been the cost of printing subscription envelopes every two years (£203 in 2021) which is something that we will need to review for 2024. The EVRA bank account also holds money for the Eaton Defibrillator managed by Councillor Caroline Ackroyd and for the CAMEO drop-in sessions. Our healthy bank balance enables the Committee to consider other projects that benefit our community.

EVRA Website and Facebook pages: We use our online feeds to post information on EVRA and other local events as well as updates between issues of our Newsletters. The website content evolves as we add to our collection of photos and information about Old Eaton. We know that our online feeds have a wide reach and an immediate impact.

Finally, thank you to the EVRA Committee for all their support continuing during the past year. We will be sadly saying goodbye to several long-standing Committee members who decided not to seek re-election this year. Thank you also to Eaton residents and businesses that have supported the Association throughout the year.