Eaton Village Residents' Association - Chairman's Report to 2024 AGM

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

Vehicle speed monitoring around Eaton Village: It is three years since the Eaton Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM) sign was first installed on Sunningdale so we know that more than 60% of vehicles exceed 20mph on our roads with around 16% exceeding 25mph (30% by Eaton Burial Ground). The data highlights that around 5000 vehicles a day use our roads during term time regularly recording speeds of 40mph and up to 65mph! A summary of the data is posted on the EVRA website at: **https://eatonvillage.co.uk/local-issues/eaton-speed-awareness-monitor/**. The sign is moved between Sunningdale, Greenways and two locations on Church Lane and also shared with Judges Walk. Thank you to the volunteers who help with the move of the sign.

Church Lane Zebra Crossing: Given the weight of traffic on Church Lane it can be difficult crossing the road to reach our local shops and businesses. With the help of our County Councillor, Brian Watkins, agreement has been reached with Norfolk Highways for the installation of a zebra crossing together with other traffic calming measures near to the Church. The zebra crossing has been EVRA's preferred solution since 2018 and we are pleased that Highways have now agreed to the installation of this. We are waiting confirmation of the exact location and dates for the work but expect this to be completed before the end of the year.

Eaton Net Zero: Eaton was invited by the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership and Norwich City Council to participate as one of seven Norfolk Net Zero Communities. The Eaton cluster is represented by Eaton Rise Residents' Association (ERRA) and Eaton Village Residents' Association (EVRA) who are working together and with the Norfolk Net Zero Project team. The focus of the Project is supporting people to increase energy efficiency, install renewable heat and power, and move to lower-carbon modes of transport. The project also wants to learn about the barriers to the adoption of these things with feedback from Eaton Residents and the second part of our 2024 AGM will give Eaton Village residents the opportunity to have their say. We have created a new page on the EVRA website with further information, links to advice, and the stories of Eaton residents who have moved to solar power and/or heat pumps. https://eatonvillage.co.uk/eaton-net-zero/

Friends of Donkey Lane: We have held several work sessions to cut back and tidy the banks along the lane. We have also planted bluebell and snowdrop bulbs provided by the City Council and in February we planted 125 hedging trees. The aim is to maintain a natural environment but also to keep it looking reasonably tidy which requires more regular work sessions than have been possible recently. 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/**

Marston Lane Hedge Project: We are in discussion with Norfolk Highways for a new project to manage a section of the hedgerows along Marston Lane footpath, from its junction with Lindford Drive to the Golf Course crossing. We have agreement in principle from Highways with a few more steps to complete with the aim of starting work in the autumn. The project will manage some of the excess growth, including ivy, and plant suitable species to fill gaps. Consideration is now being given to combining this project with our work on Donkey Lane to form an Eaton green environmental team to share organisation of work sessions, volunteers and tools.

EVRA Safeguarding and Data Privacy Policies: The Committee reviewed and updated our Safeguarding Policy and has appointed a Committee Member as EVRA Safeguarding Officer. Safeguarding covers how the Committee interacts with residents involved with our events and activities but also how we deal with any safeguarding issues we become aware of in the wider

community. We are also reviewing our Data Privacy Policy. Both of these policies can be found on the EVRA website at: https://eatonvillage.co.uk/about/

New EVRA Notice Board at Eaton Green: EVRA funded the purchase and installation of a new notice board by the City Council at Eaton Green playground. This is located by a well used path linking the school to Lindford Drive and is used for EVRA notices and information. Thank you to Vic for all his work in sorting this out.

Church Hall Refurbishment Steering Group: We were invited to represent the community on the Steering Group looking at proposals to refurbish St Andrew's Church Hall. EVRA uses the Church Hall for some events and recognised the need for a more flexible meeting space with improvements to toilets and the kitchen. Eaton St Andrew's PCC are taking the lead on commissioning a design and raising funds for the project but it may be a few years before any work starts.

EVRA Events: The EVRA Events Planning Team has run a series of successful events during the past year which include:

- A Pumpkin Trail on Halloween Night provided an alternative to Trick or Treat at the end of October
- March - Caister St Edmunds Roman Town talk: 50 people attended - £100.50 profit. Donation of £50 made to Roman Camp Project.
- May – Church Eco Day – Norfolk Wildlife talk and early morning bird walk
- July – A week long Scarecrow display with 25 Scarecrows, 19 garage sales. Plus 2 cake sales that raised £190! Scarecrow winners were BFG (Sunningdale) and Very hungry caterpillar butterfly (Abinger Way)
- Aug – Marston Marsh Activities Day with dyke dipping and bug hunting for children in the morning and a bat walk for adults in the evening.
- October – Eaton Arts and crafts exhibition – EVRA Bake sale
- And to come in November a Quiz which is already fully booked.
- Planning is underway for events in 2025

EVRA Finances: We started the year with a vacant position for Treasurer so the accounts were managed in the interim by the Chair. In March Tony Bunn offered to take on the Treasurer role and, after several meetings was co-opted onto the Committee and has been managing the EVRA accounts since then.

Our funds are in good shape allowing us to consider new projects for the community.

EVRA Website and Facebook pages: Our website and Facebook pages are used to post information of interest and provide updates between issues of our Newsletters. We have received several requests via these for information about the Village and from people with connections to the Village.

Finally, thank you to the EVRA Committee for all their support during the past year. We will be sadly saying goodbye to long-standing Committee member Patricia Seadon who has served as secretary since 2013 and has decided not to seek re-election this year. Patricia has written numerous sets of minutes during her time for both Committee meetings and AGMs and arranged our Committee Meetings and we thank her for her tireless efforts to complete these in a timely manner.

We are grateful for the support of our City and County Councillors who work closely with us on local issues and attend our meetings so that we can share information. We also thank Helen Flute and her team of volunteers who deliver our Newsletters to the 1500 households within Eaton Village. Thank you also to all Eaton Village residents and businesses for your continuing support for the Association.

Chris Stebbing – EVRA Chair, October 2024