

SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY – Dave Batup

For dedication to training the community of Eversley in First Aid. Dave and his band of volunteers provide an invaluable service, running sessions such as how to administer CPR, and how to use a defibrillator.

SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY – Brian Webb

For his dedication and support regarding the on-going Flooding and Drainage problems Eversley has encountered over the past months.

VOLUNTEERING – Tove Godfrey and Nicky Scuffnel

Both Tove and Nicky have taken over the co-ordination of the Speedwatch Group since Gareth has left and organise the speed watch sessions, deal with the police, log the activity and record and sort all the data from the AWS and SIDS. An invaluable service to the community considering the number of speeding issues that Eversley suffers with.

VOLUNTEERING – Susan Kendrick

Despite the loss of two close loved ones, Susan has continued to be an active member within the community. Not only is she an Eversley Parish Councillor, but also an active member of the Eversley Gardening Club, Secretary of Eversley W.I., and one of the editorial and distribution team of Eversley Parish Magazine. Always willing to help in parish activities, she is so deserving of recognition.

SPECIAL THANK YOU – Jo Street

For her dedication in passing her qualifications and on-going support of Eversley Parish Council.

4. A) Report from Cllr S Dickens – Eversley Parish Council

Cllr Shawn Dickens introduced himself as the Chairman of Eversley Parish Council and welcomed all present to the meeting. The Chairman introduced the Eversley Parish Councillors and Hart District Councillor Dr Anne Crampton.

This was an opportunity to hear what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year, and to let the Parish Council know what residents' concerns and priorities were for the coming year.

The Chairman commented that it has been another busy year for the Council, and he was delighted to advise that the Council had its full complement of Councillors for the first time in several years.

The Chairman gave an update on the flooding issues suffered within Eversley. The Flooding Working Group has worked hard in association with Hampshire County Council and Thames Water in identifying the issues that have been causing the flooding. Both Hampshire County Council and Thames Water have done some remedial work at the main hotspot along the Reading Road (between The Fielders and Hollybush Lane), which we hope will resolve the issues there. Many thanks to the Flooding Working Group for their hard work.

The Chairman gave an update on the Affordable Housing Scheme, which wants to create nine or ten homes. A consultation did occur on the location for the scheme with the chosen site being next to the play area opposite The Kingsley Hotel. The scheme is currently being held up due to issues surrounding the price for the land for this scheme. Once these issues are resolved we anticipate that a planning application will be submitted. The Parish Council remains committed to releasing further communication on this scheme when possible. He also gave an update on the Burial Grounds Extension commenting that we are still waiting on the Environment Agencies comments.

He also thanked the Parish Clerk, Jo Street, for her hard work. He noted that Jo kept the Council correct in procedure and for getting the Council through the previous clear audit.

And finally, thanks to the people who support the Parish Council, particularly Nick Robins, who does so much to keep our green spaces tidy; Mike Hayward who keeps litter at bay; all groups of volunteers who help with our events; the Gardening Club; our working groups, Speed Watch, Flooding, and Affordable Housing; and Lindum Nurseries for all the plants that they have donated to the village.

b) Report from PC Kirstie Bough – Hampshire Police

Looking back over the past year, the main issue that we have received reports about in the area is nuisance motorbikes/quad bikes.

The main areas where we have received reports are Bramshill Forest, Welsh Drive, Blackbushe Airport disused runway and the woodland near the Quarry on Blackbushes Road. The reports we have received relate to motorbikes and quad bikes riding around the woodland and generally behaving in an antisocial manner towards walkers and horse-riders.

As a result of this, I liaised with the Forestry Commission ranger who covers the Bramshill Forest area and we have conducted a few weekends of joint patrols in the area. I also arranged an operation across one weekend where we had assistance from our Neighbourhood Enforcement Team and Forestry again came out and we targeted the 'problem' areas. Only last week a quad bike was seized from someone riding it up on Blackbushe Airport.

This has received a really positive reaction from people and we have also seen a reduction in the reports of off road bikes over the past few weekends.

Should you experience any issues personally with these bikes then please do report it so that we are aware of the times/dates it is occurring.

Key statistics:

Burglary – Between March 2024 and March 2025 there were six business burglaries reported in Eversley. These occurred in April 2024, October 2024 and November 2024. One related to an ex-employee and this individual was arrested and has been charged with burglary.

Speeding – Between March 2024 and March 2025 there were 14 recorded speeding offences on the system for Reading Road, Eversley. This relates to the speed camera van who attends the location.

Theft of/from vehicle – There was one report of theft from vehicle in March 2024 where someone reported their car window smashed and their coat was missing when parked in the carpark near to Bramshill Forest. No suspects were identified for this. There was a report of theft of the school mini bus from St Neots School in June 2024. This linked into a bit of a series which spanned across to the Basingstoke area. It appeared they were stealing them in order to then steal the engines. No suspects were identified.

Should anyone have any questions/queries then my email address is Kirstie.bough@hampshire.police.uk

c) and d) Report from Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council – Cllr Dr A Crampton and Cllr T Davies

Hart District Council will cease to exist by 2028. Hampshire County Council will also cease to exist by 2027. So what will replace them?

I will start with Devolution. The Government's aim is to transfer powers and funding from central Government to local areas by creating Regional Strategic Authorities with an elected Mayor covering populations of over 1.5 million in all areas of England that don't already have them. There will be elections for a Mayor in 2026 and the new Strategic Authority is expected to become operational around the same time. It will have powers in funding and investment, transport and local infrastructure, skills and employment, housing and planning, economic development, environment and climate change, health and wellbeing and public safety. The initial governance structure will have a deputy Mayor chosen from the constituent members who will be from Hampshire County Council which will have two seats, IOW Portsmouth and Southampton and then there will be associate members representing the District Councils, the local ICB and the police.

No elections will be taking place this year except for a by election. This does affect Hart although most of the division is in Rushmoor. Yateley, East Blackwater and some parts of Fleet are in the division though not Eversley.

Alongside this will be Local Government Reorganisation. The Government will replace District Councils with Unitaries. They have said it must have a population size of at least 500,000 but the Minister has said it can be less as long as it will be financially viable. An interim report agreed by HCC, the Districts and Boroughs, Southampton Portsmouth and the IOW was submitted on 21st March. However it didn't answer the questions posed by the Minister but I gather it was all they could agree upon. It says they will all continue to work towards submitting a proposal by the deadline of 25th September but whether agreement will be reached is doubtful. The Hampshire County Council leader has said several proposals will be submitted and Government will decide on which plan will be taken forward. The new Unitaries will be up and running by 2027 or 2028. At the moment there may be 1,2, 3 or 4 Unitaries including the IOW which though it has a population substantially below 500,00 for geographic reasons everyone agrees will be a Unitary in its own right. Hart, Rushmoor, and Basingstoke and Deane will form the northern Unitary though Winchester, Test Valley or East Hants may join

us . It will mean uncertainty for the next 2 years, but Hart is committed to business as usual, and you shouldn't see any changes in services provided.

Planning. A new planning policy was put into place by the Government in December 2024. The number of houses Hart needs to build each year went from 297 a year to 734. Because of the large increase, Hart has to produce a new plan. From the beginning of April, Hart will lose its 5 year housing supply and will therefore have little protection against speculative development applications. This is likely to continue for some time as a new plan could take 30 months to produce and work hasn't started yet to produce one. The Government has said it will speed up the process but even if they manage to reduce it to a year, Hart is still in danger. The Planning department has been failing for some time, with major applications not being decided well beyond the normal time frames. If we drop to less than 69% we lose the ability to determine applications altogether and we are hovering around the 75% at the moment.

Food waste collection. Food waste collection is due to start in October. These collections will be weekly, and Hart is providing a 7l kitchen caddy and a lockable 23L lockable bin. Fruit and vegetable peelings, teabags and coffee grounds, raw and cooked meat and fish including shells and bones, eggshells and dairy products, bread, rice and pasta, plate scrapings and pet food can all go into the food waste bin.

5. Other Parish Matters for discussion

a) EPC Open Spaces Report

Eversley is fortunate to have many beautiful open spaces that our community takes great pride in. Over the past year, the Open Spaces team has been busy maintaining and improving these areas to ensure they remain safe, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone.

Key Achievements:

1. **Cross Green Playground Upgrades:** Last year, we focused on enhancing the safety and accessibility of Cross Green. The safety surfaces at the Cross Green play area were upgraded, making the space safer for children to enjoy.
2. **Pond Maintenance:** The community's active pond volunteer group has been instrumental in helping to clear invasive weeds from the pond. Their ongoing efforts have contributed to the health and appearance of this natural area.
3. **Collaboration with Probation Service:** Open Spaces has continued to work closely with the probation service, utilising the help of the community payback team. This collaboration has allowed us to carry out additional work in the area, including strimming, trimming, and tidying up open spaces, keeping our surroundings looking neat and well-maintained.
4. **Chequers Green Fitness Trail:** A new fitness trail was installed at Chequers Green, providing a fun and active outdoor space for residents over the age of 12. This addition has been a welcome upgrade for the community, encouraging more outdoor physical activity.
5. **Chequers Park Wooded Areas & Car Park Maintenance:** The payback team has also been very active in cleaning and tidying the wooded areas and clearing overgrown spaces, including the front car park area, which has helped improve the overall appearance of these space.

6. **Tree Survey and Maintenance:** A comprehensive tree survey was conducted across all open spaces, and any necessary tree work has now been completed to ensure safety and the continued health of our trees.
7. **Community Engagement:** The D-Day community event was a tremendous success, with over 150 residents in attendance. This event fostered a strong sense of community spirit and allowed residents to connect and celebrate together.
8. **Community Litter Picks:** We organised two successful community litter pick events, where residents joined in to help clean up our environment. Over 50 bags of rubbish were collected during these events, contributing to a cleaner and more pleasant community.

Plans for the Coming Year:

While we don't have large-scale projects planned for this year, our focus will be on maintaining and tidying up our open spaces.

- **Upcoming Community Events:**
 - **Community Picnic:** A picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 8th, with special guest John James Newman and children's entertainer Fred in a Shed this is a free community event organised and funded by the Parish Council, hosted by The Eversley Village Hall committee
 - **Community Litter Pick:** Our first litter pick of the year will take place on May 11th at 10.30am at meet at pond area. We encourage all residents to join us for this important community effort, drinks and treats will be provided.
 - **Pond Maintenance:** Our volunteer pond group will continue working on clearing the weeds from the pond. The specific dates will be announced soon.
- **Community Christmas Event:** We are excited to announce a Community Christmas event on Saturday, December 6th. There will be entertainment, a choir with carols, and of course, a visit from Father Christmas. Further details will be provided closer to the event.

We remain committed to keeping our open spaces beautiful and accessible for everyone in the community. Thank you to all of our volunteers and residents for your continued support and participation. Let's work together to ensure that Eversley remains a wonderful place to live and enjoy.

b) Opportunity to raise any issue for discussion

Speeding It was queried at why there was only 14 recorded speeders within a one-year period as stated within the Police report. Many more incidents than this can be seen within a day by residents regularly. The Council will query this with the Police.

Speedwatch Camera It was queried at what happens to the data received from this camera, was it shared with the Police for them to follow up with speeding motorists. The Council advised that the data is collected via the Speedwatch Group. They do regularly share the data received with the Police. Data includes those speeding, as well as any driving with no MOT or insurance. It is unclear whether the Police follow up on our data. The Speedwatch Co-ordinators advised that they are happy to regularly produce a set of graphs for publication in the Parish Magazine.

Church Green It was queried at where the replacement bench was at Church Green. The Council did arrange a replacement bench to be installed via a contractor. The Clerk will chase this up with the contractor.

The field between The Fielders and Lindum Nurseries When will the fence be reinstated between this field and the play area at Chequers Green? Also this field looks an awful mess, what's going to be done? The Council is in contact with the landowner who has advised that they had to cease work in this field as it became too wet to complete the works. They advised that the work to clear and refit the fence will be done once the land dried out.

Deer Residents are concerned that with the increase in numbers of Deer, particularly Fallow Deer, in the area that local landowners would start culling them using high-powered rifles. The real concern related to potential culling sites being very close to areas close to more populated areas and therefore at a higher risk of cars, homes, or people unintentionally becoming victims to a stray bullet. The Council advised that any landowner considering this option should use a correctly licenced contractor. They are trained in the correct practises and should therefore limit any accidents from occurring.

As there were no other matters, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and for giving up their time to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman.....Date.....