



Community views on priorities for Emsworth July 2019

The public meeting held by Emsworth Community Land Trust (ECLT) in late March this year which was very well attended, gave participants the chance to examine the three priorities proposed by the Emsworth Community Land Trust (ECLT). But in order to move forward with confidence on matters like affordable social housing and helping create community space it is vital to have sound evidence and statistical analysis that clarifies what Emsworth's demands are for such important initiatives.

With population of 10,000 or more in the Emsworth ward, the ECLT plans to obtain information on what local people see as the key demands for housing and the extent to which they agree that work on some community projects is justified. To achieve this the ECLT is working to finalise a housing and community survey to be sent to all homes in September. Additionally the survey will be available to employees and others who provide services in the town but who currently cannot afford to live here. It is very important to know just how many people are affected.

Mike Ridley, one of the Directors of ECLT, is hard pressed to find local sites that could be suitable for affordable homes. 'All new developments in Emsworth of ten homes or more are obliged to build 30% of the total as affordable homes such as those to be rented or a via a housing association or shared-ownership housing or some other type of 'social housing'. Currently Havant Council manages a long housing list where homes are offered to those on that list, whether or not they have a link with Emsworth. The ECLT wants to influence that policy so that it serves those who have sound reason for living in Emsworth

Although housing is key, another ECLT priority is to focus on the town centre and its main shopping streets to explore new ways to maintain its vibrancy and help it to thrive. Research is canvassing the views of those who run shops and businesses in Emsworth so as to identify initiatives to meet this objective. The aim is to work towards developing a Town Team capable of winning Government and other grants for regeneration projects which will benefit Emsworth in the future. Whilst there is money available, currently Emsworth is not in a strong enough position to take a coordinated approach to win bids. The ECLT hopes to help change this and Shirley Farmer, also a Director of ECLT, is looking for enthusiastic people to join in the evidence gathering and ideas exercises.

Chair of ECLT Dwyn Stepien is taking the lead on the third priority, that of improving youth opportunities in Emsworth. Although there is a range of youth activities in the town, there is room for more nursery level facilities and clubs for those in teenage years, most especially in North Emsworth

If you would like to contribute to any of these three initiatives, please contact us. The committee of ECLT is appreciative of support from the community. There will be a short meeting on Thursday July 11th at the Brookfield Hotel at 7.30pm to update members on the activities of ECLT and to receive reports on matters such as membership and finance. The full-scale AGM will be held later when the ECLT committee will report back fully on progress with projects.

Ends....