

## **The Emsworth Forum and the Residents Association: working together**

**The Forum was set up to develop the Emsworth Neighbourhood Plan, which was finally adopted last autumn by Havant Borough Council. The Plan includes a number of projects which are intended to make Emsworth an even better place to live and work. One of the Forum's future roles is to work towards the implementation of these projects.**



**EMSWORTHFORUM**  
EMSWORTH EMPOWERED



**Emsworth Residents' Association**

**With its large membership, its quarterly meetings and its newspaper 'The EMS', the Residents Association (ERA) has a long history of working to improve Emsworth.**

**Now these two organisations have decided to co-ordinate their efforts, in order to make the best possible use of people's time and energy.**

### ***What has been achieved so far?***

**The Forum and Havant Borough Council (HBC) have set up an Infrastructure Panel to identify projects of maximum benefit to Emsworth. The legal status of the Forum means that HBC must consult the local community and reach an agreement on how some of the proceeds of CIL, the Community Infrastructure Levy paid by developers, will be spent.**

**Supported by the ERA, the Forum held a public meeting in May which heard presentations about some potential projects and brought groups of people with shared interests together to discuss 'next steps'. See overleaf for more details of the projects.**

### ***The Spencer's Field playground***

This playground in the north of the town is derelict and dangerous. A group of residents had already begun raising funds to restore the playground, securing £5000 from the ERA, £5000 from the Friends of Emsworth Community Health and £1000 from the National Lottery. The Forum has decided to allocate £30,000 of CIL to Spencer's Field – this constitutes most of the CIL funds currently available to the Forum. HBC have agreed that the project will go ahead.



### ***The Washington Road underpass***

This is a vital route for pedestrians and cyclists between the north and south of the town, heavily used by parents taking children to school. The underpass and approaches are in a shocking state, vandalised, graffitied and liable to flood whenever it rains. We have been told that the flooding can only be remedied by an expensive pumping scheme paid for by Hampshire County Council, so there has been no progress so far, but the Forum and ERA will continue to press HBC to recognise the unacceptable state of this crucial route.

### ***The Town Centre***

In 2020, proposals were published to improve the town centre and redress the balance between traffic, cyclists and pedestrians. The ERA conducted a consultation and the proposal to close the western side of the square to traffic received strong support. Together we have been able to argue that this should be implemented, initially as a trial.

### ***An Emsworth Heritage Trail for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

Emsworth has a fascinating history which many residents, and certainly most visitors, are totally unaware of. We plan to build an innovative and ground-breaking intergenerational trail (which will double as a website) that you can use via your smartphone or tablet and QR codes.

### ***The future***

The ERA's quarterly meetings are open to all and will provide a regular opportunity to put forward projects which any group in Emsworth would like to see happen. 'The EMS' will include a regular feature reflecting the co-operation between the ERA and the Forum.

**To join the Emsworth Residents Association, email  
[membership.era@outlook.com](mailto:membership.era@outlook.com)**