

## AEWRA Annual Report from the Committee for 2019–20

### Officers and Committee

At our last AGM in 2019 Peter Field agreed to assume the role of Treasurer when required, as Ray Briscall was expecting to move out of the area in the autumn. We are delighted that this is no longer the case and Ray is happy to continue as our Treasurer for the foreseeable future. Peter has agreed to remain as a committee member, with Dean Phillips as our Chair and John Field as Website/Communications member.

### Covid-19 Emergency Measures

The impact of Covid-19 has made it extremely difficult to hold face to face meetings this year, and illegal at the time of writing to hold a properly inclusive AGM which would be open to all residents. Your committee will therefore remain unchanged until such time as our next AGM is held. Despite these difficulties, we have been active in raising and discussing local issues by 'phone or email throughout the year, and residents can continue to contact us via the message facility on our site.

### Funding Summary

Our bank balance as at 30.9.20 was £214.79. This is unchanged since the last AGM on 22.7.19. The only expenditure was our £20 subscription to Alton & District Residents' Association (ADRA) which was paid for by private voluntary donations.

### AEWRA Community Bus Service Trial

As reported in detail to the AGM last year, the trial service did attract a small but loyal base of regular users. However, despite generous donations from a wide variety of local organisations and private individuals, it proved financially unsustainable in the long term. We are therefore sorry to confirm that our service was terminated on 31.8.19.

## Planning and Development

We continue to actively monitor and comment where appropriate on all significant planning applications affecting the Eastbrooke and Wooteys wards. As members of ADRA we benefit by being able to share news and initiatives with other residents' groups in and around the town and can often agree a unified response. There are currently two large planning proposals in our wards where (for different reasons) the developers are arguing that they should make a zero contribution to affordable housing, contrary to EHDC core policy which requires a 40% allocation. We believe that affordable housing is desperately needed in our area and have raised objections in the strongest possible terms.

## Traffic & Road Safety

As new development grows, traffic levels continue to increase also. In January, three of our residents joined other volunteers from across the town to be trained in the deployment and use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Although deployment was delayed during lockdown, three SIDs are now in regular use on main arteries across the town and serve as useful speed limit reminders for drivers.

## Flooding and Drainage

It is extremely frustrating to note that residents of Gilmour Gardens, Geales Crescent and Victoria Road are still suffering from flooding on their properties as happened following heavy rainfall on 27<sup>th</sup> August this year. Whilst we are aware that these problems continue to be raised directly with developers and local authorities, we do have considerable past experience and may be able to help with advice on who best to speak to if residents are unsure. Please contact us via our website if needed.

30.9.20