



AGM Report for period October 2018 to end March 2019

Introduction

Currently there are 29 members of ERRA, including committee members and officers.

The committee consists of 11 members elected at the inaugural meeting, held at our village hall on 25th October 2018, 4 of those members hold officer posts as follows;

Chair – Ashley Ede
Vice Chair – Rob Turner
Treasurer – Mike Hodges
Secretary – Carole Knowles

The committee members are as follows; Liz Manning, Ann Halling, Jess Heyes, Tracey Heyes, Adrian Evans, Geraldine Turner, Peter Loveday.

All committee members and officers are volunteers. Committee members have made donations to date in order to fund set-up costs i.e. venue hire, refreshments, printing, website set-up

The committee is dedicated to pursuing the following overarching objectives;

- Representing the interests of residents in the geographical area of Edwyn Ralph and its surroundings
- Progressing a sense of community and social cohesion
- Preserving and enhancing rural amenities and characteristics of the area
- To work for improving conditions in the village
- Offering support to other Edwyn Ralph community groups, ventures and organisations

Since the inaugural meeting the committee has met 4 times in December, January, February and March 2019. This report details a summary of the tasks and development work completed to date and in progress.

Mobilising ERRA

A number of tasks have needed to be undertaken in relation to the structure and function of the group. A key part was developing and agreeing the Constitution Document – this details all main procedures governing the running of the group, the ethos and 'rules' relating to membership, voting and structure.

Informal advice was taken from an existing Resident's Group in Surrey. The Constitution Document was drafted in December 2018, developed further in January 2019 and formally adopted by committee. It is envisaged that the Constitution document will continue to be developed further as a 'live' document over certainly the first year of ERRA.

It was necessary to be able to define a geographical boundary for the purposes of membership. Committee debated how to define the boundary of membership for ERRA and agreed to use the already established Parish boundary. Residents living outside of this boundary are still welcome to be co-opted into joining us, as per the Constitutional document.

A Code of Conduct for the committee and officers has been drafted – it will be a condition of tenure that anyone serving on behalf of ERRA and its members will adhere to this.

Communications

In these first few months the committee were keen to also initiate some early communications. This has included;

- Developing and setting up a website (www.edwynralph.org)
- Setting up an ERRA email address (hello@edwynralph.org)
- Producing an initial newsletter and flyer
- Producing an annual survey and consultation, including opportunity to feedback ideas around funding
- Producing and publishing introductory article in Village Magazine (February and March editions)
- Holding an early AGM in order to allow member input at the earliest opportunity in our development

Matters being explored and being addressed

In these early days it has been a difficult balance between focusing on the necessary aspects of set-up and also starting to take matters of concern and interest forward. The committee felt that it was equally important that some early progress should be started in order for ERRA to be able to demonstrate an impact on behalf of its members. The following therefore is a summary of this;

- Keeping a watching brief on planning applications, such as; the proposed Architectonicus development, ongoing building on the land adjacent to Woodhouse Farm and appropriate business signage and operations in keeping with existing planning conditions and in order to protect the rural characteristics.
- A meeting is being requested with Herefordshire Council to introduce them to ERRA and establish a two-way regular dialogue on behalf of members for any planning or other matters of concern or interest.
- Concerns around speeding vehicles through the village have been raised with the Council and the Police – discussions are ongoing and options being explored such

as; installation of 'white gates' at the village entrance/exit and seeking other advice from the police.

- The newly implemented website is able to accept business sponsorship which attracts a minimum annual fee of £36. A formal set of terms and conditions has been developed to standardise the process and all businesses wishing to be accepted onto the ERRA website must be agreed by the committee. Funds raised by sponsorship will be used to pay for the regular ERRA running costs. There are currently the following businesses sponsoring the website;

Shack Events

Professional Powder Coating (Division of Apreco Ltd)

Sharon Rooke Psychotherapy – due to be added

We have also started to investigate the merits of Edwyn Ralph developing a Neighbourhood Plan with regards to planning and building.

Funding Opportunities

An initial meeting has taken place with the Herefordshire Council Funding and Enterprise Officer. We were delighted to hear that there are a number of national and regional funding streams available to Residents' Groups and that the Funding and Enterprise Officer will support us in applying and hopefully securing funds up to £20,000 per grant.

The broad categories for drawing down funding are;

- Support for those who are socially isolated (transport/internet connection/activities for example)
- Environmental and wildlife projects
- Community facilities (such as a shop or other amenity)

We are advised that in order for funding to be successfully secured there will need to be evidence that all residents and ERRA members in particular have been consulted and have had opportunity to put forward their ideas around how any funding should be allocated and spent. Results of the survey questions to this effect will be shared at the AGM and via the next newsletter and website and used to prepare a bid or bids.

Equality and Diversity

This is a standing item on each committee agenda. The committee has a commitment to scrutinise itself and reflect on this in order to eradicate any unconscious bias or discrimination. There have been no issues relating to equality and diversity noted during this reporting period.

Future dates for committee meetings:

Date	Type of meeting	Time	Location
Thurs 11 th April 2019	AGM	7pm	Village Hall
Tues 7 th May 2019	Committee meeting	730pm	Woodhouse Farm
Tues 11 th June 2019	Committee meeting	730pm	Woodhouse Farm
Tues 3 rd Sept 2019	Committee meeting	730pm	Woodhouse Farm
Tues 10 th Sept 2019	Members' meeting	7pm	Village Hall
Sun 6 th Oct 2019	Village Boundary Walk and refreshments	TBC	TBC
Tues 3 rd Dec 2019	Committee meeting	730pm	Woodhouse Farm

NEXT AGM meeting – Thursday 2nd April 2020, 7pm. Village Hall

Committee are also looking forward to participating in the village fete on 21st September 2019.

Closing Remarks

It has been a very intense and rewarding first 5 months. The committee feels as though it has made a good start on the necessary 'administration' and systems needed for setting up a brand new Residents' Association as well as making some initial promising progress on taking forward some important matters. The possibility of funding is particularly exciting.

The following list, although not exhaustive, is a summary of matters being progressed in the next 12 months;

Ongoing dialogue with Parish Council re village matters
Ongoing dialogue with local PCSOs re speeding and traffic calming options
Further detailed analysis of annual survey to inform actions and priorities for coming year
Regular production and distribution of ERRA newsletters (quarterly)
Submission of funding applications in response to survey feedback
Increase ERRA membership
Investigating the merits of developing a Neighbourhood Plan
Monitoring local activities and developments in order to preserve and protect local amenity and rural, village aspect

The Chair would like to thank all of the committee and officers for their selfless support, commitment and work so far. We are all looking forward to the next 12 months!