

# Queen Edith's

## COMMUNITY FORUM

Public Meeting and AGM of the Queen Edith's Community Forum  
8<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, St John the Evangelist, Hills Road

### **7pm: AGM of the QECF**

1. Chair's report (attached)
2. Accounts (attached)
3. Election of officers

Current QECF officers are Sam Davies (Chair); Chris Rand (Communications); and Rebecca Peckham (Treasurer), all of whom are happy to continue in their roles for another year.

We have a vacancy for the role of Secretary and would welcome other people to stand as officers. If anyone would like to propose themselves as a candidate for any of these roles, please email [hello@queen-ediths.info](mailto:hello@queen-ediths.info) a minimum of three days before the AGM.

4. Any Other Business, including questions from the floor

### **7.30pm Cambridge South East (A1307) transport options**

Presentation by Andrew Munro, Project Manager for the Greater Cambridge Partnership Cambridge South East

Followed by panel discussion and Q&A with:

- Sam Davies, Chair, QECF
- Edward Leigh, Chair, Smarter Cambridge Transport
- John Meed, local ecologist
- Andrew Munro, Greater Cambridge Partnership

All local residents are welcome to attend. There will be time for questions and discussion.

*Followed by light refreshments*

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## *Chair's Report for 2017*

### **People and Partnerships**

The core QECF team of Sam Davies (Chair), Rebecca Peckham (Treasurer), Chris Rand (Communications) and Rebecca Jones (QEiB) continued to be ably supported by Judith Salmon who kept our 'what's-on' listings up to date. Claire Adler gave us many hours of valuable help in creating our first 'Fun Palace' in October, together with the host of artists, makers and musicians from across the neighbourhood who generously volunteered their time on the day. Roger Lilley continued to curate the Queen Edith's section of the Capturing Cambridge local history project on behalf of the QECF. Throughout the year, we benefitted from the willingness of volunteers who participated in our programme of events, especially Elaine Murdie's catering support.

We would once again like to record our thanks to the City Council officers we have worked with, particularly Soalhon Rolaxzyairah (Community Development), Rina Dunning (Streets & Open Spaces), Birgitte Laurent (Recycling), Ed Nugent (City Ranger) and Guy Belcher (Biodiversity). In 2018 we welcome Queen Edith's new City Council Community Development Officer, Patrick Brown, and look forward to working in partnership with him. We also thank our County and City Councillors for their support.

We are pleased to have helped with the creation of a new Residents' Association at the Ninewells development on Babraham Road and will continue to work with Hill Residential and BPHA to help residents moving in over the next year. This involvement has given us useful insights as to how to help foster community in a brand new settlement and build links with the wider neighbourhood.

Finally, we are delighted to have deepened our links with the Biomedical Campus; Cambridge Junction; Queen Edith's Primary School; Homerton College; Rock Road Library; local churches; our local Residents' Associations; and many of the other institutions which support our aim of making Queen Edith's a better and brighter place to be.

### **Events**

In addition to the Community Action Morning in September and our Christmas Festival, we added a third big event to our programme in 2017, in the shape of October's 'Fun Palace' at Nightingale Park, a wonderful day which was attended by an astonishing 500 people. Nightingale Park also hosted our inaugural summer Brass Band concert, delivered in cooperation with Cambridge Live; and we were delighted that the ChYpPS playscheme put on a full programme of summer holiday events. We are grateful to Cambridge City Council for grant funding and officer support to enable these events to run.

We ran a full and varied programme of events throughout the year, including a social walk in conjunction with Trumpington Residents Association; a guided tour of the gardens of Homerton College; and wildlife events as part of Cambridge Wild Weekend. The Sunday and Monday gardening groups at Nightingale Park continued to flourish, alongside our Sustrans-supported Tuesday morning 'strollers' group. Finally as in previous years, we organised a hustings for QE's prospective County Council candidates.

### **Communications**

Issues of the Queen Edith's Community News were distributed free to every household in our ever-expanding area. We are very grateful to Hill Residential for their contribution to the costs of the newsletter, and to the other local companies which have supported us over the year. We hope the Queen Edith's Business Directory which accompanied our December publication has proved useful to both newly arrived and long-term residents. If you know of a business that could benefit from accessing our local audience, we'd love to hear from you.

We have continued to develop the queen-ediths.info website and regularly update the QECF Facebook page. Our weekly 'what's on' email is now sent to over 500 subscribers. If you're not getting our emails and would like to do so, please let us know. *(Chris Rand)*

### **Queen Edith's in Bloom (QEiB)**

QEiB is our informal network of local people interested in making Queen Edith's a better place for people and nature through community gardening. We are affiliated with the Royal Horticultural Association (RHA) It's your Neighbourhood scheme, which is the non-competitive part of Britain in Bloom.

We run, with the City Council, the community garden at Nightingale Park and the activities that take place there. We also look after the Cambridgeshire Collection apple trees in the park and have planted our own apple trees in the community garden this winter. The garden is open every day and we thank our small group of gate volunteers for opening and closing it in all weathers.

A new project for 2017 was the Wulfstan Way Raingardens, enabled by our successful application for a £500 RHS Greening Grey Britain grants. This funded some plants, educational materials and also tools for the volunteers who maintain the garden. Some of our volunteers also designed, funded and made a 'Friendly Bench' to sit in the new shrub bed. This was a request of one of the businesses and we hope will be well used when the weather is a bit friendlier.

Since summer 2017, we have been working with Queen Edith's Primary School to make a new school garden for school and staff to enjoy and learn from. We have also started to work with the Queen Edith's Medical Practice to plant up the area in front of the surgery. Other collaborations include with Rock Allotments and Rock Rd Library to organise Abundance and plant stalls and other community events. We also worked with St James' church for their Pumpkin picnic in October.

Our work is entirely funded by small grants and donations of time, money and plants from our supporters. In Spring 2017 the City Council gave us bags of waste hyacinth, tulip and daffodil bulbs (and a few plants) from Council roundabouts and greenspaces. These were sorted, dried and stored by garden volunteers and have been re-used at Nightingale Garden, Wulfstan Way, Rock Rd Library and also Queen Edith's school. We hope we can do this again in 2018.

In Autumn 2017, we made an application to Aviva for support for a new 'Dreamshed' for the community garden – unfortunately we were not selected from the 6000 applicants. In 2018, we hope to find other ways of funding new storage and shelter so people can enjoy the garden in more weathers.

Contact Rebecca Jones if you would like to join or help us in any way. *(Rebecca Jones)*

### **Capturing Cambridge: Queen Edith's**

The Capturing Cambridge project [www.capturingcambridge.org](http://www.capturingcambridge.org) is thriving and there is now coverage on its interactive map across the city. Despite changes in the running of the Museum of Cambridge, the Capturing Cambridge project is unaffected. With regard to Queen Edith's ward, Roger would welcome more photos, reminiscences, and interviews. These need not be restricted just to life in this part of the city; accounts of life in colleges and other workplaces would be very welcome. Feedback and comments on the site and its entries are always welcome and should be directed to Roger at [queenedithshistory@gmail.com](mailto:queenedithshistory@gmail.com) *(Roger Lilley)*

### **Other initiatives**

Sam and Chris have taken a particular interest in the major development and transport proposals in our area. By monitoring these the QECF has been able to keep residents informed and help them have their say, working with local councillors and residents' associations. There have also been increasing numbers of smaller planning applications, some of which Chris highlighted on his personal blog, helping people find the relevant documents and consultation dates.

2017 was a busy year including the completion of the second phase of the Hills Road cycleway and the reconfiguration of the Addenbrooke's roundabout. 2018 should see the completion and occupation of three major new builds on Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Royal Papworth Hospital, Astra Zeneca and Abcam; and the conclusion of the Local Plan examination with potential implications for the release of Green Belt land at Wort's Causeway and at the Biomedical Campus.

On a much more modest scale, we will continue to press Cambridge City Council for the long-promised delivery of a new pavilion and community room at Nightingale Park. Once built, it will enable the QECF to do even more to support a happy and healthy local community

Sam Davies  
Chair, QECF

# Queen Edith's COMMUNITY FORUM

*Financial Report, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018*

The financial report will be uploaded shortly