



Minutes of the Ewelme Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2025

Parish Councillors present: David Solomon (DS/Chair)
Barry Tindall (BT) Nigel Layton (NL) Sally Stockings (SS) Paul Stillaway (PS)
District Councillors present: Andrea Powell (AP), Sue Cooper (SC)
Joanna Brock (Clerk) 5 members of the public

18/25 **Apologies for absence:** Rebecca Lanigan (RB) is working.

19/25 **Declarations of interest:** None.

20/25 **Minutes of last meeting 08/01/2025:** These were agreed and signed.

21/25 **Public session:** The public spoke in 22/25 Traffic.

22/25 **Traffic: P25/S0390/CM & P23/S4255/CM & MW.0171/23:** Hazell & Jefferies have submitted two additional pieces of evidence to support their CLEUD application. EPC wish to make the following comments:-

1. At the meeting of the OCC Planning and Regulation Committee on November 25 2024 it was decided to grant additional time to the applicant (H&J) to provide more information to support their application. On February 4, Ewelme Parish Council (EPC) was furnished with a link to such additional information as had been forthcoming. This comprised Statutory Declarations from two H&J employees, Kenneth Miles (Senior Supervisor at the Eyres Lane site), and Miroslav Daniel (Site Foreman). Both have been employed full time at the site for at least the past 20 years.
2. The main concern of EPC throughout this process has been the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) entering and leaving the site, and the disturbance and danger they represent upon the narrow roads through Ewelme. The new statements offered by Mr Miles and Mr Daniel do not include any further information on the history of overall vehicle numbers. Our earlier objections and observations, and our support for the conditions limiting vehicle numbers which were proposed by OCC and were tabled at the meeting on November 25 last, should remain on record. We attach a brief summary note on the EPC observations on the level of HGV traffic; we would be grateful if this could be given consideration (Annex 1).
3. The new statements from Mr Miles and Mr Daniel cover two other issues in some detail, those of staff being accommodated on site, and night-time operations. We will comment briefly on each of these in turn.
4. With respect to staff being accommodated on the site, we are concerned that this represents a change in the nature of the operation. The only specific mention within the statements is of numbers staff accommodated on site in 2009, well before the ten-year period of reference for the CLEUD currently under consideration. This seems to be a rather thin evidence base for including staff accommodation within the list of activities allowed by the CLEUD. EPC can offer no specific information on staff accommodation on site.
5. Similarly, the evidence offered for the level of night-time operation seems to be notably non-specific. Some recent night-time vehicle movements (February 2025) have caused significant disturbance to residents along the route used. We would be very concerned if the schedule of operations recognised under the CLEUD were to include frequent night operation of trucks to and from the site, without very specific information on the extent to which this had in fact taken place in the reference period of ten years ending on December 5 2023.

Annex 1.

Movements of HGV along Eyres Lane (v3.0).

The applicants have offered no quantitative evidence of the level of HGV movements during the ten year reference period ending December 5 2023. The perception of Ewelme residents is that the level increased several-fold during this period. Ewelme Parish Council has some evidence to support this perception.

What was done

A camera system was set up near the bottom end of Eyres Lane to monitor the movements of heavy goods vehicles covering the full working day on Thursday June 27 2024. The camera was set to take a single frame every five seconds; experience had shown that no vehicle could pass unrecorded within such a 5-second period. The record could be viewed at up to 12 x recorded speed without missing any vehicle records. When a frame showing a vehicle was seen, the playback was stopped and the most relevant frame inspected to allow recording of details, eg exact time, direction, type of vehicle and operator. It was not feasible to see reliably whether the vehicle was loaded or empty.

The camera was operated from the evening before (June 26) throughout the night. The first vehicle of interest (H&J four-axle truck) was timed at 04:59, and the last (a six-axle articulated lorry operated by H Walton) at 16:22. The latest H&J four-axle truck was at 14:55, and the last H&J skip truck at 15:51.

Results

Large vehicles were recorded in one of six categories:-

Category of vehicle	Southbound	Northbound	Total
Hazell and Jefferies 4-axle large trucks	27	33	60
H&J skip carrier	10	9	19
H&J other HGV	2	0	2
Manor Concrete 4-axle truck	5	6	11
STGP tanker	1	18	19
Other HGV	14	10	24
Total	59	76	135

Comparison with earlier observations

April 8 2021. A manual survey was conducted along Green Lane/Eyres Lane by a team of volunteers on Thursday April 8 2021. They counted a total of 56 H&J 4-axle trucks (32 southbound, 24 northbound); 18 H&J Skip Carriers (7 southbound, 11 northbound); and 30 other HGVs (16 southbound, 13 northbound) including a single STPG tanker. These figures for H&J vehicles are similar to those counted in June 2024.

October 7-11 2019. A week-long survey was run at seven sites across Ewelme using automatic traffic counters (ATC). One of the sites covered was the lower end of Eyres Lane, close to the sites of the observations made in later years. The equipment was capable of distinguishing 4-axle vehicles, but not their operator. The mean number of four-axle trucks, all operators combined, counted per weekday (Monday October 7 to Friday October 11) was 29. This is very many fewer than the numbers of H&J four-axle trucks alone counted on 8 April 2021 (56) and June 27 2024 (60). This apparent more-than doubling of large H&J trucks is consistent with the observations by local residents of a great increase in the movements of such vehicles between 2019 and 2021.

Conclusion

Although based upon relatively few specific dates, our observations suggest that the numbers of H&J large four-axle trucks using the route through Ewelme has more than doubled between our week-long observations in 2019, and single days of counts in 2021 and 2024. This is consistent with the perception of residents that the level of such traffic has increased considerable in recent years. By extrapolation, it also suggests that the level of such traffic increased considerably between the figures used by OCC in suggesting a limit of 50 vehicles per day (both routes and both directions, into and out of the site, based upon the situation in 2008) and our 2019 figures.

23/25 **County & District Councillor reports:** SC & AP sent a monthly report before the meeting and both attended the meeting. The local government reorganisation is progressing and the OCC elections will definitely go ahead on 01/05/2025. SODC has been invited to submit comments to the proposals by 21/03/2025. The SODC budget should be approved on 13/02/2025. AP believes it's a strong budget and it's the first year the Council will not use their reserves. SODC currently has a 4.5 year housing land supply. There are changes to the garden waste collection service. Residents will now be required to display a permit on their bins to prove they have paid for the service. The EPC grant for the bus shelter display boards has been approved.

24/25 Planning:

- **P24/S4090/LB: Kings Pool House, Ewelme, OX10 6HQ.** Installation of black steel tile & snow guard. This has already been approved.
- **P25/S0320/LDP: 18 Hampden Way, OX10 6HZ.** Use of land to station a mobile home granny annexe. RESOLVED EPC has no comment.

- **P25/S0120/HH: Dormer Cottage, Ewelme, OX10 6HQ.** Two bay carport. RESOLVED EPC has no objections.
- **P25/S0256/FUL: Ewelme Down Farm, OX10 6PQ.** Change of use of field to allow dog walking. RESOLVED EPC has no objections.
- **MW.0004/25: Land at Ambrose Quarry, Old Henley Road, OX10 6QA.** Planning Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to continue the development permitted by MW.0127/21 (use of the land for the storage of empty skips and containers), without complying with condition 2 to allow the use to take place for a further three years until 31st December 2027. RESOLVED EPC has no objections.

25/25 **Accounts and Administration:**

- (a) RESOLVED finance report accepted.
- (b) RESOLVED new income and expenditure authorised. *See appendix.*
RESOLVED all invoices to date authorised.

26/25 **Common flooding:** DS is continuing to investigate the drainage system with SC and Grundon.

27/25 **Car park extension:** BT wrote an article in the EN. BT received 5 responses, with 4 objecting stating it would increase traffic in Ewelme. It was agreed that after receiving the response from Open Spaces, any extension onto the Common would be unlikely. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

28/25 **Bus shelter refurbishment:** EPC was successful in obtaining a grant from the District Councillor grant scheme towards display boards within the shelter. The Clerk will accept the grant.

29/25 **Green Spaces:** WREN have been continuing with their surveys. They have a meeting with Grundon soon to discuss a collaboration. The WREN group have been considering a community orchard in the village and suggested a section of Cow Common. BT has discussed this informally with the farmer.

30/25 **Health & safety issues:** None.

31/25 **Village maintenance:** A pole had fallen over by the pavilion gate so BT has reinstalled this. The tractor is ready for use in the spring.

32/25 **Reports from meetings and training courses:** RB and PS will be attending the Councillor Fundamentals course on 26/02/2025. PS attended the Benson Millstream liaison meeting. AP thinks that the changes to the bus service is preventing Ewelme residents from using it. This route will be up for renewal in August so residents are encouraged to submit their comments.

33/25 **Correspondence.** Nothing of note.

34/25 **Other items of interest.**

The meeting closed at 2113

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Date of next meeting – 12th March 2025

Appendix

**Ewelme PC Payments & Receipts
February 2025**

Ref	Payments for authorisation:	
12.02.25.02	Administration costs	1,177.78
	NP Design & Print	519.00
12.02.25.03	Red Box Fire Control	66.84
12.05.25.04	Lister Wilder	1,032.01
DD	Grundon	29.99
DD	E-on	54.73
	Debit card purchases (below)	31.85
		2,912.10

Date	Receipts since last meeting:	
04/02/2025	Cricket Club pavilion hire deposit	100.00
		100.00

EPC debit card purchases

Date	Item	Cost
10/02/2025	Cartridge People	31.85
		31.85