

HASTINGS & ST.LEONARDS COASTAL USER GROUP MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2011 18.00 – 19.35

Present:

Cllr Trevor Webb	HBC (Chair – part)
Cllr John Hodges	HBC (Chair - part)
Cllr Peter Finch	HBC
Virginia Gilbert	HBC Head of Amenities Waste and Leisure
Nick Sangster	HBC Resort Services Manager
Amy Shortman	HBC Resort Services Administrator
Simon Hubbard	HBC Corporate Director
Kevin Boorman	HBC Head of Communications and Marketing
Bruce Nicol	Hastings Old Town Residents' Association (HOTRA)
Brendan McDonagh	Hastings and St.Leonards Hotels and Tourism Association
Laurence Bell	White Rock and America Ground Business Group
Jess Steele	Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust
Andre Palfrey Martin	Nautical Heritage Association/Gensing and Central St.Leonards Forum
Steve Peak	Friends of Hastings Country Park
John Plummer	Hastings Arts Forum
Phil Ormsby	Fishermen's Museum
Yasmin Ormsby	Stade Partnership
Alan Care	Hastings and Rother Disability Forum (HRDF)
Rosemary Iddenden	Hastings and Rother Disability Forum (HRDF)
Christine Boulton-Lane	West of Haven Beach Users Association
Marion Page-Mitchell	Hastings Urban Bikes (HUB)

- 1. Apologies:-** Alan Blackwell – Seaspace, Chris Richards-Crazy Golf, Di Cooke – Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards, Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society, Judy Scott – Castle Ward Forum, Mick Lane – St.Leonards Sailing Club, Jill Bradley- HOTRA, Ian Sier – HUB, Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society
- 2. Tribute:-** YO led those present in a minute's Silence as a tribute to Stephen Potter who passed away 18th May 2011
- 2. Previous meeting minutes/action:-** Minutes agreed
- 3. Election of Chair & Vice Chair:-** VG referred those present to section 6c of the constitution. LB proposed on behalf of Chris Richards that a Chair and Vice Chair were not elected at this meeting. He proposed an email was sent to all members of the group requesting them to put forward nominations for the role of Chair and Vice Chair and that the election takes place at the next Coastal User Group meeting. All

present agreed with the proposal and for Cllr Webb to chair the remainder of this meeting.

4. Foreshore Trust Items:-

a) White Rock Baths:- SH spoke to his report:-

- The building had been marketed for over 10 years
- There had been a lot of interest in the condition of the building.
- Money is available from HBC for a suitable scheme
- Foreshore Trust – Previous trustees indicated support for investment by the Trust; new trustees will need to reassess.
- Lifecycle – discussions are taking place with this potential tenant, the report was delayed due to flooding, and independent valuation has been carried out.
- Sewerage System – Charity Committee has authorised a budget to support work to connect the building to a sewerage system.
- Lease – must be negotiated with the Trust.
- Charity Committee has asked for a view from the CUG on the granting of a Lease for Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust for a building over the western well.

Cllr Webb confirmed his involvement in previous Trust commitment. Cllr Hodges welcomed negotiations for the proposed use of the building by Life Cycle but expressed his concern that a short term use of the building did not deter future larger commercial proposals for the building. LB expressed concern that any money invested at this stage goes to the fabric of the building and improving its condition. SH informed those present that it has always been the intention to invest any money in improving the site and not the specific business/project. Cllr Finch proposed that NS arrange a site visit around the building for those interested. NS advised that only small groups of people would be able to go down at a time due to health and safety issues. NS advised that there were pictures available for those interested. **Action NS**

All present supported the Report.

b) Destination Stade Update:- KB updated those present on the latest situation:-

- Toilets are open
- Stade Open Space is open but KB in discussions with contractors, further works to be undertaken.
- Café is open but works taking place on a limited basis.
- Jerwood Gallery – Police investigating vandalism incident. KB advised that there were also power problems with regards to the sub-station. KB is exploring ways forward.

- The Charitable Trust will be taking the management of the Stade Facilities forward. Currently in the process of becoming the 'Stade Charitable Trust'. HBC is currently managing bookings through Joy Collins.
- No publicity until workman have finished. As soon as works are complete the facilities to be actively publicised.
- The Seafood and Wine Festival 2011 will take place on the Stade Open Space at the end of September.

c) Rock a Nore Car Park Resurfacing Proposal:- VG :-

- The proposal, in its current form, does not justify the investment. VG investigating alternatives for consideration by the Charity Committee at a future meeting.

VG advised that additional staff would be used to ensure sensible parking for popular events or weekends. Cllr Hodges said that linear planning of the car park was needed. SP questioned whether paving additional areas was in conflict with the terms of the Deed of Compromise. VG to investigate and report back. **Action VG**

d) Draft Foreshore Trust Repairs and Renewals Programme – VG
circulated a spreadsheet with information to the group :-

- First draft of items belonging to Foreshore Trust
- Income from new chalets – NS working on early stage brief.
- Clarification of Trust Land Ownership

AS to circulate a definitive plan/map to members of the group once site visits have been carried out to confirm land ownership. **Action AS**

Bottle Alley is currently excluded from Foreshore Trust, HBC has the liability. LB recommended looking at traffic calming initiatives.

The Rowing Club Structure at West of Haven is currently the responsibility of East Sussex County Council.

Water Quality is being looked at by Southern Water and the Environment Agency.

5. Seafront Cycle Links/Beach Management Plan (Verbal Updates)

NS updated those present on the latest situation with regards to the Seafront Cycle Links.

- Signs
- Monitor
- Connect 2 Cycle Link – East Sussex County Council/Sustrans is tendering the works. The route will be complete by October 2011.

NS commented that the working groups had been a positive factor in progressing the cycle link. NS thanked West of Haven Beach Users Association, HUB and HRDF for their input. There will be a launch event for the routes to promote them as commuter routes, leisure routes and a means to bring commercial interest to the town. Interest has been expressed by cycle hire businesses.

RI expressed concerns about the Mixed Use Cycle/Pedestrian Lane at Pelham, in particular the impact it will have on those with hearing and sight problems. NS informed those present that there had been a 4 stage safety audit, discussions with HRDF and recommendations from Sustrans. RI asked that it be noted that HRDF were not in favour of the scheme due to the negative impact it would have on its members with vision or hearing impairments. HRDF are happy to support Connect 2 but not the shared access route. Cllr Finch suggested that enforcement such as fixed penalty notices be investigated as a control measure for the Mixed Use Cycle lane and research on how other areas with this sort of space manage these issues.

Cllr Webb thanked NS and those involved with Connect 2.

6. Members Updates:

- NS arranged an advert in the local paper for expressions of interest for commercial uses of various buildings on the Seafront and has had a good response. Proposals include Kayak Hire/Bungee/Cycle Hire, Catering Unit at Warrior Square, Community Mixed use venue to include Recycling/Workshop/Bicycle Hire. NS welcomed members of the group to submit proposals if they had ideas.
- Trading Kiosks at Pelham – NS liaising with Chris Richards
- Cllr Webb thanked the group for their support/input over the last year.
- LB recommended commercial sponsorship for Decorative Lighting on the Seafront. VG to look into this idea. VG informed the group that various types of lighting had been tried out and that remotely controlled coloured LED lighting was being arranged but that this would only cover a limited area of the Seafront due to budget constraints. **Action VG**
- Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust – JS confirmed that they had been successful in their bid for Heritage Lottery Funding. There will be a meeting on 4th June at St.Mary in the Castle, 14.00 – 16.00. Their AGM will be held at the White Rock Theatre on 9th June and will include a presentation.
- SP informed those present that he had written a book on the history of Hastings Pier which would be available in a week's time.
- NS advised that HOTRA had been unsuccessful in their bid for some exercise equipment on Hastings Seafront. NS to explore other options for funding this.
- Play Area for Children at Pelham – NS to attend a site visit to look at suitable areas.

7. Dates of future meetings:- Tuesday 16th August 2011, 18.00 – 20.00
Council Chamber.

8. Future Agenda Items:-

- White Rock Baths.
- Zoning
- New Slogan for HBC
- Olympic Torch Event – 17th July 2012

Meeting closed at 19.35