

## **Foreshore Trust Items – Extract from Coastal User Group Minutes 29.11.11**

### **a) White Rock Baths – Presentation by Simon Hubbard**

- Concern was expressed about existing local businesses losing out on custom should the scheme go ahead. There was a desire to see the building opened up and restored for the community/wider use of the town. **SH** commented that it was common for local businesses to feel threatened when new schemes/activity was created in the town, but he was confident that this scheme would generate custom and business opportunity for them.
- The question was asked as to whether 'Lifecycle' would be capable of delivering the repairs needed for the building and if not, whether a Tender process would be carried out for other local businesses to carry out the works? **SH** commented that HBC Surveyors were confident that 'Lifecycle' had supplied sufficient evidence that they were capable of carrying out these works.
- The group expressed concern that invitations for site visits/expressions of interest arranged by the previous Chairman of the Foreshore Trust had not been advertised widely enough or the money available for schemes made known to potential clients. There was also concern that Summer 2012 was not an achievable deadline.
- The group agreed that doing nothing was not an option and that money invested through a scheme like 'Lifecycle' would make the premises more attractive and therefore increase the future prospects for the re-marketing of the White Rock Baths for larger schemes. A desire was expressed by the group to see something of real value at the venue.

**It was agreed by the group that doing nothing was not an option and there was a strong desire to get things moving but they would prefer that the scheme was advertised to give other businesses an opportunity to put forward proposals and show a fair process.**

### **b) Car Parking - Richard Homewood**

The report on Parking Issues on Foreshore Trust Land was presented to the CUG by the Director of Environmental Services. Questions arising from the report and the presentation were discussed and answered.

The Group understood the rationale for ceasing the free overnight parking concession for resident permit holders but there was a request for the Charity Committee to consider free overnight parking in Rock a Nore Car Park

for everybody. Officers advised they could not support this due to the potential loss of income for the Trust.

The principle of enhancing the fibre optic links to facilitate increased security and control of vehicle access to the Stade area was generally supported after reassurances that there would be strict control about who would be allowed access and close liaison with bona fide users.

The issues around the future management of the Foreshore Trust Car Parks following the decision of East Sussex County Council to terminate the on-street parking enforcement agreement between them and the Borough Council were understood. There was widespread support for the concept of 'pay on foot' which they considered more user friendly and would support tourism and local businesses.

### **c) Grant Allocations**

VG advised those present that the deadline for Small Grant applications was 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and that 51 applications had been received. These are now being considered by an advisory panel who will then forward their recommendations to the Charity Committee.

### **d) Grounds Maintenance Contract**

VG informed the group that there was review of the Grounds Maintenance Contract taking place. The Foreshore Trust only have a small interest in this but she advised those present that she would be seeking their agreement to be named in the Tender. The Foreshore Trust will be formerly asked who to appoint, once all Tenders have been received. **The group had no objections to the proposal.**

### **e) Seafront Play Area Scheme**

VG summarised plans to install one larger and two or possibly three smaller play areas along the Seafront, and also some adult fitness equipment. VG advised that a consultation exercise with schools was being carried out. The smaller play areas are expected to be finished in May 2012 and the larger play area finished by July 2012.

- The question was asked as to why there was not a play area planned for White Rock. Cllr Webb advised that a site visit had been carried out with professionals to look at potential sites, but that no suitable area at White Rock had been found. Cllr Webb asked that the group trust the

expertise and decisions of the professionals involved in the decision making process.

- There was a request to see the existing play area at West Marina extended. The group were advised that this play area was not on Foreshore Trust land.
- Members of the group expressed concern about the loss of grass at the Pelham play area and requested to see plans. Cllr Hodges advised that plans would be available as part of the consultation process.
- **The proposals were supported by the group.**

#### **d) Decorative Lighting**

VG informed the group that a report would be going to the Charity Committee due to interest in extending the existing scheme due to be installed in February 2012, further. The proposed HBC scheme currently runs from Hastings Pier to the end of London Road and includes Sticks of Rock. The report will be addressing the possibility of including the area from Hastings Pier to Robertson Street. The group strongly supported this and expressed concern that if it was not agreed, this would be detrimental to business in the area. VG informed the group that the Trust would be asked to contribute a further £27,000 to the scheme. VG commented that the scheme was set up in such a way that were more money available, it could be extended further and added to.

- Members of the group expressed concern that the Old Town was not included in this scheme at present and that there was no decorative lighting at all in the area. Cllr Webb commented that a desire had been expressed to see other areas of the town benefit and that there was an opinion from certain community groups that the Old Town received preferential treatment. Members of the group expressed concern that street light and decorative lighting in the old town needed addressing.
- **The proposed scheme was strongly supported.**