

SEAFRONT COMMUNITY SHOWROOM

A physical presence on the promenade close to the Pier, a distinctive building where HPWRT can build relationships and do business. More widely, an important asset for use by and for the coastal communities of Hastings and St Leonards.

Its initial focus will be to engage the local community with the pier project as it develops, showcasing plans and ideas for its future as well as memories of its past. A Pier Central for creating links and raising funds. In its spare time and future life, a facility for partner organisations and groups who want to catch and inspire the coastal community, visitors and locals alike. We would very much like you to be part of this.

As you may have known the Trust was in the process of applying for a loan and grant funding from Community Builders for the development of a Showroom on a new deck built over the western courtyard of the White Rock Baths but the criteria for these funds shifted and we were unable to proceed.

The Trust has now recast the project and has the opportunity to take advantage of capital grant funding from another source. This will provide a rent free base for the Trust, a hub for consultation on plans for the pier and the wider seafront, a centre for local and visitor information, and a space to develop the education and community programmes that will later relocate to the pier. We want to work with our partners and other community organisations to run promotional campaigns, events and activities that can take advantage of the promenade location.



What can you do?

To get the investment we need to show that there is interest in this kind of facility, and particularly that there are local groups who would like to use it and would be willing to pay a small hire charge to do so. That means we need letters that we can send in with the application. Please write to us – just give us the name of your group, say what you do and what you might use the Showroom for and state that you would be willing to pay a small fee for hire, or perhaps give your time as volunteers to run your activities from the Showroom. Send to simon@hpwr.co.uk or to HPWRT, White Rock Hotel, 1-10 White Rock, Hastings TN34 2JJ. You will not be making any commitment just helping to bring investment to the area and, in the long term, to save the Pier.

QUESTION: Why don't you spend this money directly on the saving the pier?

ANSWER: This particular funding would not be available for use on the pier itself as it is geared towards a community centre type use.

QUESTION: How will the Showroom help towards saving the pier?

ANSWER: The Showroom will give us a base both before we own the pier and during the renovation works. It will maintain momentum and keep people interested and informed. We will use it for fundraising for the pier, including the promotion of our community share issue.

We also need to develop our education and community programmes at the Showroom as part of our work with the HLF.

QUESTION: How else will the Showroom be useful?

ANSWER: The Hastings Pier & White Rock Trust has always been concerned with the pier in its wider context of seafront and central Hastings & St Leonards. The Showroom will provide a focus for the area, run by local people for local people, and will work with other groups to improve the whole seafront, including Bottle Alley, and promote enjoyment of the promenade. It will be a base for other projects and will actively help to develop ideas about how we can make more of our fantastic seafront.

QUESTION: How big is the building? Will it be in keeping?

ANSWER: The building is single storey, about 3.75 metres wide and 12 metres long, fitting neatly into the unused space between the escape stairwell and the western courtyard of the White Rock Baths. It has been designed to be appropriate for its coastal location and to feel light and airy.

QUESTION: What will happen to the building once you get the pier?

ANSWER: We'll keep the building on the promenade during the early renovation of the pier so that people can find out what's going on, and will then either move it to the pier or lease it out to other users.



**IF YOU HAVE OTHER
QUESTIONS PLEASE ASK!**