

## **Hastings and St.Leonards Coastal User Group**

### **Notes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

#### **Present:-**

Cllr Emily Westley	HBC (Chair)
Nick Sangster	HBC Resort Services Manager
Kevin Boorman	HBC Head of Marketing and Communications
Amy Terry	HBC Estates Manager
Cllr Dawn Poole	HBC
Cliff Meaden	Epic Life Hastings Windsurfing Ltd
Lee Whitear	Hastings Sea Cadets
Richard Lane	West of Haven Beach Users Association
Cllr Trevor Webb	HBC
Catherine Parr	White Rock and America Ground Business Group
Brendan McDonagh	Hastings and St.Leonards Tourism Association
Cllr Mike Howard	HBC
Jill Bradley	Hastings Old Town Residents Association (HOTRA)
Andre Palfrey-Martin	Nautical Heritage Association/Gensing and Central St.Leonards Forum
Anne Scott	Old Hastings Preservation Society (OHPS)
Steve Peak	Friends of Hastings Country Park
Jacqui Stanford	Shipwreck Museum
Alan Care	Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Yasmin Ornsby	Stade Partnership
Richard Homewood	HBC Director of Environmental Services

#### **1. Apologies:-**

**Paul Carter – East Hastings Angling Association, Nick Fawcett-1066 Board Riders, Dean Baker – Hastings Lifeguards, Di Cooke – Hastings Lifeguards, Christine Boulton – Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association, Jan Sellens – Hastings Fishermen’s Museum.**

#### **2. Minutes of the last Meeting /Actions:-**

The minutes were agreed. **Steve Peak** requested an update regarding potential developments in the the area by Groyne 1. **Cllr Westley** confirmed that **NS** had met with the Hastings Motorboat and Yacht Club, who were supportive. **RH** advised that various improvements were being looked at for Rock-a-Nore including the car park, signage and that cost implications would be the deciding factor for any works to proceed. **NS** commented that wider improvements for the area needed to be established first and these general improvements costed out. **SP** raised concerns regarding the length of time any progress for the area was taking. **Cllr Westley** reassured those present that action was being taken towards improving the area. **Cllr Webb** suggested timescales were communicated to the group when known.

### 3. Foreshore Trust Items:-

- **Additional Facilities and Activities on Hastings and St.Leonards Seafront :-** **NS** spoke to his report and asked for any questions/comments.  
**SP** raised concerns about cordoning off areas of the beach as this is against the 1893 Agreement and was concerned that any buildings erected would prohibit people. **NS** reassured those present that there were no plans to exclude people from any area of beach. Small areas might be used to provide a service but legal advice was being sought on this matter.  
**Anne Scott** asked for more detailed information on the use of any kiosks in the report. **NS** advised that different uses would be looked at and expressions of interest sought. **Jill Bradley** asked if they would be seasonal or all year round. **NS** commented that they were likely to be seasonal.
- **Pelham Place Car Park Re-Surface:-** **RH** spoke to his report and asked for any questions/comments.  
**Brendan McDonagh** raised a question regarding signage improvements. **RH** confirmed that a review of signage was in progress but not part of this piece of work. **Alan Care** raised concerns regarding parking charges for disabled badge holders, due to barrier systems. **RH** advised that he was not aware of any plans to change the existing system in place for disabled badge holders, but would make enquiries and report back.  
**Action RH**
- **Parking Place Order:-** **RH** spoke to his report and asked for any questions/comments.  
**AC** raised concerns about the limited disabled parking facilities in the Old Town following recent changes. He commented that Old Town High Street is no longer available for disabled parking. The Stade Hall was originally supposed to have disabled parking facilities in the original plans, but these have not materialised. **AC** said that there was a danger of disabled badge users feeling unwanted in this area of town. **RH** reassured those present that this was not the case and that he would take the comments on board. **RH** confirmed that he would chase up the additional provision for disabled parking in Rock-a-Nore Car Park as this does not seem to be in place. **RH** said that he would make enquiries regarding the Stade Hall space. **RH** commented that a priority had to be ensuring the free flow of traffic in the area. **Lee Whitear** raised the question of height restriction barriers and problems with high side disabled vehicles gaining access through them. **RH** confirmed that any additional barriers used would be rise and fall and not height restriction barriers. **RH** confirmed that height restriction barriers currently in place should still be high enough for disabled vehicles. **ACTION RH**

- **Stade Amusements Site – AT** gave a verbal report and asked for any questions/comments. **AT** confirmed that the Swans would remain on the boating lake. **AS** advised that she had attended the HOTRA consultation meeting at the Stade Hall where plans had been presented and was concerned that land would be lost. The existing landscape dates back to the 1930's and is possibly a conservation area. She commented that the straight line layout is part of the 1930's design and should possibly be kept. **AS** also raised concerns about increasing the area by the amusements park and sought reassurance that the smaller pieces of land would not form part of the area. It was commented that people did not like the design of the proposed new Miniature Railway Building. **AT** advised that the proposals would have to go for planning permission. An "Agreement To Lease" would be obtained which would contain obligations to get planning permission. On receipt of this permission a Lease would then be granted.

**AT** confirmed that she had sent copies of "Planning For Real" which were proposals put forward when the lease was last due for renewal. **AT** requested that the Foreshore Trust look at some of those ideas and possibly include them in the proposed plans for the site.

**LW** asked if this proposed design was intended to eventually stretch to the rest of the Seafront. He commented that this would be detrimental to Hastings. **AT** advised that there were no proposals other than those specified in the plan. **Cllr Westley** commented that this was a private scheme rather than a Council one and that any proposals/plans would be influenced by conservation rules.

**SP** asked if it would be possible to create some interpretation regarding an Elizabethan Harbour which exists underneath the west end area of the boating lake. **Yasmin Ornsby** advised that Peter Marsden a previous Archaeologist for the town, had possibly carried out some research on this. **AT** advised that this would be addressed if it comes up at planning.

**There were no further questions comments relating to the Lease.**

- **Land at Stade, East Hastings Sea Angling Association – AT** gave a verbal report and asked for any questions/comments.

**There were no questions or comments. Cllr Webb proposed that the lease be agreed and all present were in favour.**

- **Land at Marine Parade – Go Kart Site – AT** gave a verbal report and asked for any questions/comments.

**There were no questions or comments.**

- **Stade Hall – Update on proposed management arrangements:-** RH spoke to his report and asked for any questions/comments.  
**YO declared an interest in this item.**  
**AS** requested that the missing letters be replaced.  
**Cllr Westley** commented that a recent survey for the Hollington Area had shown that 86% of residents had not visited the Old Town and emphasised the importance of promoting town wide use of the Stade Hall and area.
- **Foreshore Trust – Revised Business Plan:-** RH gave an update and asked for any questions/comments.  
**JB** raised concerns that the timescale had been too tight for people to read the revised plan and make comments. She requested that an extension be given and the item be on the agenda at the next Coastal User Group. **Cllr Westley** advised that the issue of tight timescales had been highlighted and advised of the measures to be taken in order to try and resolve this problem. **NS** advised that as this was already an agenda item for the Charity Committee meeting to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, it was not possible to delay matters until the next CUG meeting. **NS** added that there shouldn't be any items that are a surprise. **Cllr Westley** reminded those present that the proposed changes were only in pages 13 – 19. **RH** advised those present that the Foreshore Trust Business Plan was a living document and would often be subject to change through the year.  
**Cllr Westley went through pages 13 – 19 and asked for any comments. P.13 SP asked if the Pier was involved with the White Rock Baths. NS advised that they had an interest. There were no further questions or comments.**

#### **4. Other Updates:-**

- **Beach Zoning:-** **Cllr Westley** gave a progress report on behalf of the Beach Zoning group. Items discussed included designating West Marina Beach, A review of existing By-Laws, A review of existing signage and the possibility of introducing a Green Dog Walking scheme at West of Haven. **PC** will give an update regarding consultation with Angling Competition organisers at the next meeting. There was an enthusiastic response from the group regarding the items discussed, in particular the potential designation of West Marina. It was agreed that **ACS** invite Jamie Benton from the Environment Agency and a representative from Southern Water to the next

CUG meeting. **NS and Cllr Westley** work with legal to update the By-laws and make them more accessible as well as bring them up to date in order not to prevent potentially positive activities on the Seafront. **NS** agreed to try and condense the existing By-laws document electronically so that it can be circulated to the group or made available online. **AS** suggested that it be put online as a Historical Document to avoid problems regarding dated terminology used. **Action ACS, NS**

- **Outdoor Exercise Equipment:-** **NS** confirmed that 11 out of 12 pieces of adult exercise equipment were now installed on Hastings Seafront. A promotion with Active Hastings is planned in 2013, to encourage people to take advantage of the free facility.
- **Bottle Alley:-** **NS** updated the group. The Feasibility Study identified £5M of costs. **NS** said they were now looking at alternative ways of phasing work and making improvements in stages, looking at income from Parking and having talks with East Sussex County Council and looking at alternate sources of funding. **Cllr Westley** commented that part of the plan to have additional parking is on hold due to the money being granted to Hastings Pier by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- **Cycle Route:-** **NS** updated those present. **NS** is meeting with Sustrans to look to develop a brand and market the cycle route as a destination trail like the Cuckoo Trail. **NS** advised that improvements were planned for the cycle lane including white lines and signage. **NS** also advised that a sweeper had been hired to clear the track at West of Haven and Glyne Gap of Shingle. This had worked well and there was funding available to carry this maintenance out when necessary. **APM** raised concerns regarding cycling on the Lower Promenade and reported that there had been an incident during Heritage Open Day due to this. **NS** advised that there were no existing By-laws that prohibited cycling on the Lower Promenade and this made putting prohibition signage up difficult. He suggested that one way of trying to resolve the situation was to promote the shared cycle/pedestrian route. **Cliff Meaden** asked if there were plans to desegregate the cycle lane. **NS** advised that there were no plans at this time. **SP** reported that there were potholes on the Upper Promenade which were a hazard to cyclists. **Action NS**
- **Hastings Pier:-** **Cllr Westley** advised that Hastings Pier had been awarded £11.4M from Heritage Lottery. There is still approximately £2M to be raised and the Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust are exploring fundraising options, including a Share Scheme. **Cllr Westley** encouraged those present to support the fundraising initiatives. **KB** informed those present that Hastings Pier is still privately owned by Ravenclaw at the moment. The Hastings Borough Council Compulsory Purchase is anticipated to take place in March 2013.

## 5. Members Updates:-

- **Epic Life/Hastings Windsurfing:-** CM reported a successful year, particularly Kayaking and Canoeing. CM in the process of developing a Canoe Trail and Guided Tours alongside the Shipwreck Museum.
- **Hastings Sea Cadets:-** LW commented that the Sea Cadets were still around. They will be carrying out improvement works to their premises. Their main deck building will either be demolished and rebuilt or they will be looking to re-build their current premises. LW invited ideas for improvements from the group. People can contact him via the Sea Cadet website <http://www.sea-cadets.org/hastings/home.aspx>
- **West of Haven Beach Users Association:-** Richard Lane asked for a progress report on repairs to the Blue West of Haven Toilet Block windows and locks. **RH to chase this up for urgent action**
- **Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society:-** YO informed those present that the Herring Fair had been a success and both days had sold out. Approximately 5000 people attended and an event is planned for next year.
- **Friends of Hastings Country Park:-** SP emphasised the Friends desire to see improvements by Groyne 1, Rock –a-Nore.
- **Amy Shortman:-** ACS advised that the beach clean event held in October had been successful and more events would be organised next year. Anybody interested in getting involved in Beach Clean events to contact her by email [ashortman@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:ashortman@hastings.gov.uk)

**6. Any other Business:-** CM asked for a progress report in respect of Water Quality Sampling at West Marina. **NS** advised that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting when a representative from the Environment Agency and Southern Water attend.

## 6. Date of next meeting:-

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 18.00 - 20.00, Council Chamber, Town Hall