

Charity Committee Agenda

Monday, 13 July 2020 at 6.00 pm

This meeting will be held digitally. The viewing link for this will be found under the council meetings video webpage nearer the meeting.

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| 1. | Apologies for absence | |
| 2. | Declarations of interest | |
| 3. | Minutes of previous Charity Committee | 1 - 10 |
| 4. | Notification of any additional urgent items | |
| 5. | Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID 19 pandemic crisis) <i>(Victoria Conheady, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Culture)</i> | 11 - 22 |
| 6. | Appointment of Grants Advisory Panel Members <i>(Christine Barkshire-Jones, Chief Legal Officer)</i> | 23 - 26 |
| 7. | Foreshore Trust Business Plan 2019/20 – 2024/25 <i>(Victoria Conheady, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Culture)</i> | 27 - 38 |
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Agenda Item 3 Public Document Pack

CHARITY COMMITTEE

16 MARCH 2020

Present: Councillors S Beaney (Chair), Batsford (Vice-Chair), Rogers and Chris May (The Protector).

56. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Victoria Conheady, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Culture, and Andrew Colquhoun, Chair, Grants Advisory Panel.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

58. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CHARITY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Charity Committee meeting held on 9th December 2019 be approved as a true record.

59. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

The Committee were informed that the Pebsham Place Car Park EV Charging Points report was submitted as an urgent item.

60. SMALL AND EVENTS GRANTS RECOMMENDATIONS

Ian Sycamore, External Funding Manager, presented the report setting out the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) in respect of applications for the Small and Events Grants Pilot Round 2 2020-21.

The Foreshore Trust Small and Events Grants Pilot is a small and events grants scheme for voluntary and community groups offering a service or running an event within Hastings & St. Leonards.

The report details from Paragraph 11 recommendations which have been put forward following an evaluation of the pilot.

A total of 79 enquiries were received and by the closing date, 42 applications were received. One application was ineligible meaning that 41 applications with a total amount requested of £180,144.99 were assessed. The GAP met on 21st and 29th January 2020 to review and score the applications. As in previous years the GAP members were paired up for the initial assessments and these were then jointly reviewed at the meeting.

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Of the 41 applications considered, GAP recommends to the Charity Committee that 14 of these be approved for funding at various levels, with some subject to conditions. All the projects are to be delivered within a year of approval of the grant.

The Grants Advisory Panel's recommendations are outlined in Appendix A.

Ian Sycamore noted that there are 5 events planned up to June which may possibly not go ahead as scheduled due to the coronavirus crisis. One of the grants is to support the Mayday biker event. Kevin Boorman, Marketing and Major Projects Manager, confirmed that if the Mayday run is cancelled there may still be bikers attending and there will need to be infrastructure in place to deal with that.

The Chair noted that Karen Hopkins, Senior Compliance Monitoring Officer, was leaving the council at the end of the month and thanked for her hard work dealing with the grant programme over the years.

Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the meeting:

- 1. Consider for approval the Small and Events Grants Pilot Round 2 2020-21 recommendations of the GAP as set out in Appendix 1**
- 2. Recommend the continuation of the combined Small and Events Grants programme following the evaluation of the pilot**
- 3. Recommend the changes proposed at item 11, following the questionnaire feedback on the pilot programme, including any necessary provision within the Foreshore Trust business plan**

Reasons:

The Grant Advisory Panel has appraised the merits of the applications received for Small and Event Grant support and has made a number of recommendations for grant awards that can be funded from the available 2020-21 budget. The pilot was to run for two rounds (one year) and with the second call now closed it has been evaluated.

61. PROPOSED LARGE GRANT PROGRAMME

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Ian Sycamore, External Funding Manager, presented the report to propose the themes, criteria, governance and process of assessment for the Foreshore Trust Large Grants Programme for discussion and agreement.

The report also asks the Committee to allocate as part of the Foreshore Trust Charity's budget an amount of approximately £16,000 - £19,000 per year to resource the administration of this programme (along with the current small and events grant programme), to be provided by a new 0.5 FTE post.

If approved the programme will launch in June with the expectation of having projects to start in April 2021 to run for three years but contracted on an annual basis.

The Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues confirmed that the budget would have to be amended to reflect the cost of the 0.5 FTE post.

It was confirmed that the Grants Advisory Panel were advised on the new programme and this was discussed at the GAP AGM.

The Chief Legal Officer informed the Committee that the Foreshore Trust charitable scheme had been amended by the Charity Commission to increase the membership of the Grants Advisory Panel by 2 to take account of the additional work load.

Councillor Batsford proposed approval of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Rogers.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- 1. Charity Committee to agree the themes, criteria, governance and process for implementation of a proposed Foreshore Trust Large Grants Programme.**
- 2. To allocate grant amounts available for the 2021–2024 periods as part of the Foreshore Trust Charity's budget setting process; with the proposed total grant funding available for the five core themes being approximately £161,000 per year with an additional £20,000 per year in both years 2 and 3 to address the 'Golden Thread' mental health and wellbeing theme.**
- 3. To allocate as part of the Foreshore Trust Charity's budget setting process an amount of approximately £19,000 per year to resource the administration of this programme (along with the current small and events grant programme), to be provided by HBC.**

Reasons:

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The Foreshore Trust Charity Committee agreed in March 2019 to develop a large grants programme alongside its combined small and events programme. It also agreed that the large grants programme would support third sector organisations to deliver Hastings wide community support services within a number of activity themes. This report discusses this proposal in detail for subsequent approval for implementation to meet the proposed launch date of summer 2020. The Foreshore Trust budget also needs to allocate the proposed funding for the programme including the administration costs.

62. LIFEGUARD REVIEW 2019

Kevin Boorman, Marketing and Major Projects Manager, presented the report to update the Committee on the 2019 lifeguard service in Hastings.

In 2019 the lifeguards saved four lives, rescued seven people, assisted sixteen, performed major first aid on five casualties and minor first aid on 22. This is the first time that the RNLI lifeguards' intervention has been classified as 'saving lives' at Hastings and is the most serious form of intervention.

In addition, some 14,230 members of the public were engaged with 'preventative actions' (an action described as 'an action conducted by the lifeguard team to prevent persons coming into contact with harm including; PA announcement, moving flags, displaying safety signage, educating beach users').

It was agreed that a press release and letter of thanks should be issued to recognised the RNLI's work.

Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the charity committee notes the excellent lifeguard service provided by the RNLI on the town's beaches in 2019, including the saving of four lives, and thanks the RNLI for the service they provided.

Reasons:

To acknowledge the excellent service the RNLI lifeguards provided in 2019.

63. COASTAL USERS' GROUP UPDATE

Kevin Boorman presented the report in Victoria Conheady's absence.

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Following the Coastal Users' Group (CUG) meeting in December a small group of CUG representatives met with Hastings Borough Council officers to identify a way forward. The group noted the lack of resource within the Council for supporting wider seafront issues.

It was suggested that a liaison officer post be created to ensure that communication and feedback between the CUG and the Foreshore Trust is as open and productive as possible, in between and following on from the quarterly meetings.

CUG members reiterated at the meeting that without this dedicated resource they could not see how they could continue in the advisory function for the Foreshore Trust.

After some discussions, officers and the Chair of the Charity Committee agree that, assuming sufficient financial resources are available over the long term, this post should be created.

Councillor Batsford proposed approval of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Rogers.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- 1. Approve the creation of a part time (0.3 FTE) Coastal Users Group liaison officer, at a cost of up to £12,000 pa**
- 2. Approve the changing of the group into two parts: a) a smaller core group focussed on the Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable business as advisory group (as outlined within the constitution) b) a wider group focussed on the wider seafront issues.**
- 3. That the charity committee note the business plan will be presented at the June committee.**

Reasons:

1. After considerable discussion with representatives of the Coastal Users Group (CUG), a workable way forward to ensure a healthier working relationship with the Hastings and St Leonards Charitable Foreshore Trust has been proposed, which necessitates a more focused advisory group on FST matters, but still maintain a larger seafront/coastal users' group.
2. Through discussion with the coastal users' group representatives, the shrinking officer resource and analysis of future FST workload the need for a dedicated resource to support partnership working between the CUG and the FST has been identified, subject to agreement by the full Coastal Users' Group, which meets on Tuesday 10th March.

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3. Given that the above role's workload fluctuates throughout the year, we propose to include 1.5 days a week working with the Coastal Users' Group (CUG) with the proposed FST programme compliance and support officer, if possible. It is also likely that the programme compliance and support officer workload may also fluctuate throughout the year dependent on the grant programme cycles, and therefore we need only create a 0.8 FTE post.

64. ELECTRIC BIKE TRIAL PROJECT

Keith Duly, Leisure Development Manager, presented the report to request the use of the electric bikes from the Seaside Cycle Hire for a short-term trial which encourages local work-related journeys.

The Seafront Cycle Hire is funded by the Foreshore Trust and operated by Active Hastings. The service includes 23 bikes available to hire, 6 of which are electric.

The project aims to encourage more council workers to cycle to local meetings. The trial period will enable the Council to gather insight regarding the potential benefits, including:

- Promotion of healthy lifestyles amongst council workers
- A more environmentally friendly way to travel for those switching from car and taxi use
- Efficiencies regarding lower vehicle running costs, reduction in staff sickness and travel time during peak traffic

The trial will be reviewed and evaluated during December. A case study will be drafted as part of the project evaluation. If successful, there is the possibility of exploring further opportunities perhaps to broaden the offer to other partners and residents.

It was confirmed that a separate insurance policy was in place for staff using the bikes.

Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. That the electric bikes are used for a trial period without impacting on the agreed Seaside Cycle Hire provision.

Reasons:

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To trial the use of electric bikes as an alternative mode of transport for local work-related use. If this short-term trial is a success, there is potential for it to be expanded and made more permanent. Possible long-term benefits include healthier and more efficient local work force and a more environmentally friendly mode of local transport.

65. APPOINTMENT OF PROTECTOR

Chris Barkshire-Jones, Chief Legal Officer, presented the report to appoint a Protector to the Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust which is necessary under The Scheme dated 13 January 2011 authorised by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Following an interview process it was proposed that James Cook be appointed with effect from 20 March 2020 for a period of three years.

The Committee and officers present thanked Chris May for his service as Protector over 9 years.

Chris May thanked the Committee for their remarks.

Councillor Batsford proposed approval of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Rogers.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. To appoint James Cook with effect from 20 March 2020 for a period of three years.

Reasons:

On 13 January 2011, the Charity Commission for England and Wales approved Hastings Borough Council as trustee for the Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust. The scheme required that the trustee must appoint a Protector of the charity "whose fiduciary duty will be to ensure the integrity of the administration of the charity, and who must report to the Charity Commission any matter which he has reasonable cause to believe is likely to be relevant for the purposes of the exercise by the Commission of any of its functions.

66. FORESHORE TRUST - FINANCE REPORT (INCLUDING 2019/2020 BUDGET)

Peter Grace, Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues, presented the report to advise members of the Committee on the current year's financial position (2019/20) and to determine the budget for 2020/21.

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The budget agreed in March 2019 identified budgeted income at £1,477,000 and expenditure at £1,296,000. The budgeted surplus for the year being £181,000 after direct governance costs, but before distribution of grants, capital charges and before use of Reserves.

Income is currently projected to be less than budget. The amount of car parking income anticipated is now £68,000 less than budgeted which is indicative of fewer visitors to the area as a result of the adverse weather and concerns over the potential impact of coronavirus. Rental income and Investment income remain on budget.

Expenditure is expected to be £51,000 under budget. This is due to lower maintenance expenditure (£12,000) which is now expected to be spent in 2020/21 and an anticipated underspend of £39,000 on charitable activities.

The combination of the expected reduction in income and decrease in expenditure will give rise to a net £17,000 decrease in the anticipated operating surplus at the year end. This is now forecast to be £164,000.

The budget for 2020/21 was attached as Appendix A to the Assistant Director's report.

The Assistant Director confirmed that the budget projections will need to be amended to reflect the agreed new staff post. The 2020/21 budget was set before the implications of the coronavirus were known. Although the Trust has adequate reserves expenditures may have to be looked at. A revised set of proposals may be brought back to the Committee to reflect this.

Councillor Batsford proposed approval of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Rogers.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- 1. To agree the current financial position for 2019/20.**
- 2. The allocation of general grants for 2020/21 be set at £60,000 and event grants at £30,000.**
- 3. Approve the proposed expenditure funded from Reserve – albeit further approval to proceed will be required for a few schemes (marked with an *).**
- 4. Approve the budget for 2020/21.**

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5. Financial monitoring reports continue to be presented to each meeting of the Charity Committee.

6. No increase in car parking charges for 2020/21

Reasons:

The Council has the responsibility for the proper management of the financial affairs of the Trust. In doing so it complies with Accounting Codes of Practice and the high standards required for the accounting of Public money.

A deficit slightly above budget expectations is anticipated for 2019/20 in respect of operating income and expenses. Once grant and project costs are taken into account a deficit of £203,000 is anticipated against a budgeted deficit of £197,000.

67. MINUTES OF COASTAL USERS GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY, 10TH MARCH

The minutes of the Coastal Users Group (CUG) meeting held on 10 March 2020 were submitted for the Committee to note.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Coastal Users Group meeting held on 10 March 2020 be received and noted.

68. URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

Urgency provisions were utilised for the item Pebsham Place Car Park EV Charging Points and agreed earlier due to the requirement for works to be commissioned at the same time as the works commissioned by the council.

69. PELHAM PLACE CAR PARK EV CHARGING POINTS

Kevin Boorman, Marketing and Major Projects Manager, presented the report to request funding of up to £15,000 from the Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Trust to purchase and install new electric vehicle (EV) charge points for Pelham Place Car Park.

There are currently two EV charge points in council operated car parks. One in Pelham Place Car Park and one in Marina Car Park. Both EV units are out of warranty and not working. The one in Pelham Car Park has been vandalised and needs replacing. The one in Marina requires to be reset every day but only one of the connections seems to work.

Following a competitive tendering process the recommendation is to award the contract to Hannington and Gilbert for the installation of 3x EO Genius 32A/7KW

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single phase charging stations at Pelham Place Car Park. These stations are not leased but would be owned outright.

The Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues, noted that the funding was not included in the budget so agreeing the recommendations would amend the budget.

Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the Charity Committee agrees

- 1. To allocate up to £15,000 for the purchase and install 3 EV charge points in Pelham Place Car park.**
- 2. That the Charity committee approves that Hannington and Gilbert are selected to supply, install and maintain new EV charge points at Pelham Place Car Park.**
- 3. That delegated authority is given to Assistant Director Regeneration and Culture in consultation with the Chief Finance officer and the chair of the charity to identify the appropriate charging rates for energy usage and parking, in line with other EV charge points in council owned car parks.**

Reasons:

There is only 1 EV point in the car park at the moment and this has been vandalised to the point where it is unusable. Originally this was maintained by Charge Your Car but this company have been acquired by BP Charge Master.

There is an urgent need to not only provide working local EV charge points but also to increase our current number of chargers as we work towards meeting the UK's target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and the councils own vision to make Hastings carbon neutral by 2030.

Hannington and Gilbert are a local company who are also an approved installer for the EO Charging Network. Hannington and Gilbert would also provide full maintenance of the units.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.58 pm)

Agenda Item 5



Report to: Charity Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting: 13th July 2020

Report Title: Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Round 3 2020-21
(responding to COVID-19 pandemic crisis) recommendations

Report By: Victoria Conheady
Assistant Director Regeneration and Culture

Urgency provisions were utilised for this report and it was agreed earlier due to the requirement to notify approved grant applicants as soon as possible so projects could start late June/early July, which was prior to the next meeting of the Charity Committee.

Purpose of Report

1. To present the recommendations of the Grant Advisory Panel (GAP) in respect of applications for the Small and Events Grants Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID 19 pandemic crisis)

Recommendation(s)

1. Consider for approval the Small and Events Grants Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID 19 pandemic crisis) recommendations of the GAP as set out in Appendix 1 (with projects listed in Appendix A) and request allocation of an additional £258 from reserves to fund beyond the £45,000 threshold

Reasons for Recommendations

Urgency provisions were utilised and a decision agreed earlier due to the requirement to notify approved grant applicants so projects could start late June/early July, prior to the next meeting of the Charity Committee taking place.

The Grant Advisory Panel has appraised the merits of the applications received for Small and Event Grant support and has made a number of recommendations for grant awards that can be funded from the available 2020-21 budget.

Round 3 of the Foreshore Trust small and events grant programme was re-focused on projects responding to COVID-19. Because of this we reduced the window for applications so submissions could be assessed and approved as soon as possible. Our guidance stated 'It is anticipated final approvals will be made by the Charity

Committee in mid to late-June 2020.'

The Grant Advisory Panel re-scheduled their meetings and met over a shorter period to make their recommendations available for discussion at the planning meeting on 22 June, rather than the normal Autumn meeting, to expediate approvals to applicants to ensure their projects were able to respond to the immediate need.

Background

1. The Foreshore Trust Small and Events Grants is a small and events grants scheme for voluntary and community groups offering a service or running an event within Hastings & St. Leonards.
2. In September 2018 there was approval to develop a pilot for a year from April 2019 to March 2020 of combined events and small grants programme.
3. Following approval of the continuation of the programme after the pilot by the Charity in March 2020, round 3 (2020-21) was scheduled. (Round 4 (2021-22) is scheduled for launch in Autumn 2020 for approvals in March 2021 and projects to start from April 2021.)
4. Shortly after the March charity committee meeting the COVID-19 pandemic hit and it was decided by the Charity that the round 3 programme should be focused on responding to this need. The guidance and application form, including the time-lines, were updated with approval from the GAP and the Charity Committee.
5. The call was open for a shorter period to allow for approvals as soon as possible rather than the late September/early October date.
6. £45,000 is available for Round 3 in the 2020-21 financial year for grants of up to £6,000 each.

Small and Events Grants Awards 2020-21

7. The process used to invite and evaluate grant applications was in accordance with the protocols agreed by the Charity Committee in December 2014.
8. The Panel met via Microsoft Teams over the course of two days in early June 2020 to discuss the respective merits of each application. Its recommendations are set out in the report from the Panel Chair (Appendix 1).
9. All of the applications for funding were assessed in terms of the organisations' ability to deliver their proposals, how closely the proposed activities match the priorities of the Charity Committee, value for money, a fair distribution of funds amongst all the priorities and members of the community and their relevance to responding to the COVID-19 need.

10. In total, eleven projects are recommended for approval with some of these subject to conditions. All the approved projects are to be delivered between June 2020 and March 2021. The amount recommended totals **£45,258**.

11. It is worth noting that during the assessment process by the GAP, of the total value of projects submitted (£246,547), a figure of £109,702 (24 projects) were worthy of consideration for approval. These were prioritised down to the chosen eleven given the £45,000 allowance.

Policy Implications

12. The Foreshore Trust's Grants Schemes support activities that impact positively on the social and economic wellbeing of residents in the Borough, as well as assisting organisations in delivering a range of activities for local people that might otherwise be unavailable. The priorities of the Events Grants Scheme are to provide assistance to projects that increase the number of people participating in healthy and enjoyable activities along the seafront and that celebrate and enhance cultural diversity.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Equalities and Community Cohesiveness | Yes |
| Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17) | |
| Risk Management | |
| Environmental Issues | |
| Economic/Financial Implications | Yes |
| Human Rights Act | |
| Organisational Consequences | |
| Local People's Views | |
| Anti-Poverty | |

Additional Information

Appendix 1 – Report by the Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel with the Panel's recommendations (Appendix A).

Officer to Contact

Ian Sycamore isycamore@hastings.gov.uk 01424 451339

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Report to: Charity Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting: 13th July 2020

Report Title: Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Round 3 2020-21
(responding to COVID-19 pandemic crisis) recommendations

Report By: Andrew Colquhoun
Chair, Foreshore Trust Grants Advisory Panel

Purpose of Report

1. To make recommendations as to which organisations should be funded under the Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID-19 pandemic crisis) and the allocations that will be made to each.

Recommendation(s)

1. To consider the Grant Advisory Panel's (GAP) recommendation to award small and events grants to the organisations shown in Appendix A.
2. To request grant funding for this round at £45,258 from the forecasted £45,000.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The recommended organisations for grant funding have been selected following an open application process and awarded to those considered by the GAP to best meet the Foreshore Trust's aims and objectives.
2. This round was assessed with a focus on projects responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic and includes projects that will commence from late June/early July.

Introduction

1. The Foreshore Trust Small and Events Grants Pilot is a small and events grants scheme for voluntary and community groups offering a service or running an event within Hastings & St. Leonards. £45,000 is available for Round 3 in the 2020-21 financial year for grants of up to £6,000 each.
2. For this particular round the Charity Committee amended the guidance and application form to focus the call to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The timings for assessment and approvals were reduced to enable applications to be funded in late June/early July rather than the normal October start.
3. Hastings Borough Council, as administrator for the Foreshore Trust Events Grants Programme, advertised the programme in late April 2020 via a social media campaign and in the Hastings Voluntary Action newsletter, the Hastings Observer and in East Sussex County Council's external funding newsletter. An e-mail was also circulated to all previous Foreshore Trust grant applicants. The deadline for receipt of applications was 18th May 2020.

Assessment of applications

4. A total of 85 enquiries were received and by the closing date, 50 applications were submitted. One application was ineligible meaning that 49 applications with a total amount requested of £246,546.75 were assessed. This is approx. 5.5 times the grants fund available, so the round was 5.5 times oversubscribed.
5. The GAP met via Microsoft Teams on 9th and 10th June 2020 to review and score the applications. As in previous years the GAP members were paired up for the initial assessments and these was then jointly reviewed at the meeting.
6. All GAP members had previously declared conflicts of interest, which precluded them from appraising applications from particular organisations.
7. In assessing the applications, the GAP attempted to ensure they were assessed in terms of the organisations' ability to deliver their proposals, how closely the proposed activities match the priorities of the Charity Committee and this round, value for money and a fair distribution of funds amongst all the priorities and members of the community.
8. Following a full assessment process, GAP members agreed to the recommendations shown in Appendix A (recommended applicants and not recommended applicants). To avoid undermining the work of some organisations, it is recommended that the list of not recommended applications and the reasons for recommendation for the recommended applications be removed from Appendix A when the Charity Committee Meeting papers are published.
9. Of the 49 applications considered, GAP recommends to the Charity Committee that 11 of these be approved for funding at various levels, with some subject to conditions. All the projects are to be delivered within 9 months of approval of the grant.

10. The projects recommended for approval total £45,258.

11. It is worth noting that during the assessment process the GAP was made aware of the recent DEFRA food funding as part of the Community Hub support which had a direct impact on some food related applications (which were submitted prior to this funding being available). It was decided that these applications were not recommended for funding via this Foreshore Programme.

Policy Implications

12. The Foreshore Trust's Grants Programme is a funding regime that will impact positively on the economic and financial environment in the Borough and will assist organisations in delivering a range of activities for local people. This current round was focused on responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Equalities and Community Cohesiveness | Yes |
| Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17) | No |
| Risk Management | Yes |
| Environmental Issues | No |
| Economic/Financial Implications | Yes |
| Human Rights Act | No |
| Organisational Consequences | No |
| Local People's Views | No |
| Anti-Poverty | No |

Additional Information

Appendix A – Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Programme Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID-19 pandemic crisis) recommendations

Officer to Contact

Ian Sycamore
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014242451339

Appendix A - Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Programme Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID 19 pandemic crisis) recommendations

| Applicant | Project Name | Funding recommended | Reasons for Recommendations |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| Hastings Furniture Service | Small Necessities HFS will provide 60 "Starter Packs" of crockery, cutlery, kitchen utensils and personal hygiene necessities to previously homeless, resettled, families or individuals. | £5,200 | The panel agreed this was a strong application with clear beneficiary numbers and would recommend for funding. It would benefit the people of Hastings and would be a good project. |
| Counselling Plus Community | Supporting the Front Line: Therapy for Social Care Workers CPC will provide, on average, 10 sessions of expert, professional counselling for 18 people working in social or clinical care who are experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety because of the risks they experience on a daily basis at their workplaces due to COVID-19. | £6,000 | The panel felt this was a strong application with clear beneficiary numbers, although queried what would happen with the funding if the 18 intended beneficiaries are not found or do not come forward. Due to this, it was agreed that the 90% advance payment could be split (with some held back) based on evidence of successful beneficiaries found. The normal final 10% payment will be released on project completion. |
| Xtrax | A Space To Be Using the opportunity of lockdown and our reduced service, we want to refurbish two rooms at Xtrax at a total cost of £3660. One room will be dedicated to working with individual young people in confidence. The other room will hold sensitive information and enable staff to work, in private, on issues such as safeguarding and advocating for clients with a range of agencies. | £3,660 | The panel agreed this was a strong application. The applicant has been running for a long time and provides a good service. One caveat was the timescale specified in the application, stating a completion date of end of June, which would not be possible if funding will not be available until late-June/early-July. It was agreed to recommend the application for funding, subject to realistic delivery timescales being checked with the applicant. |

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|------------------------------|---|--------|---|
| Ore Community Land Trust | <p>The Bridges steps pathways project</p> <p>During Covid-19 Speckled wood has seen a greater increase in visitors during this current climate more people in the community have been visiting and walking through the wood. There are many bridges, steps and pathways through this wooded valley, which are now faulty dangerous and non functional. These bridges steps and pathways are the only main routes for the community using the wood. The bridges and steps will need newly built constructions within new areas, rather than making minor repairs.</p> | £1,995 | The panel agreed this was a good application. It would encourage use of the green space which is important for health and wellbeing in the current pandemic. The funding would cover core materials and work will be carried out by volunteers, therefore not incurring any extra costs. |
| Hastings Community Transport | <p>HCT covid-19 response</p> <p>To provide transport solutions that help with the current covid-19 pandemic</p> | £6,000 | The panel thought this was a good application and would strongly support their activities. They have been an active organisation during the pandemic and are playing a fundamental part in the response locally. They are only one of a few organisations who were able to supply suitable vehicles for the service they provided. |
| Bike Lab Hastings | <p>Hastings Bike Lab – Covid 19 Response Programmes</p> <p>Hastings Bike Lab promotes cycling culture in Hastings & St Leonards through a free to access volunteer run community bicycle workshop where people can access advice, bikes for refurbishment, spare parts and tools. Our activities provide people with physical and mental wellbeing benefits, skills education, social cohesion and contribute towards a healthier environment for our town. Covid 19 has forced the closure of our public workshop sessions but volunteers (taking all necessary precautions) have found ways to continue the work we do. We would like to apply for funding toward our Key Worker Bike and Mobile Library programmes.</p> | £3,800 | The panel agreed this is a good application with clear beneficiaries although it felt that the library part was too ambitious, made no mention of other literary provision in the area, nor was there any evidence of demand. Based on this, it was agreed that part funding would be recommended on the condition that the library element (£2,200) is not funded. |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------|---|
| Association of Carers | <p>Carers virtual café project</p> <p>Carers are very often socially isolated and therefore they may benefit for meeting and talking to other carers. Due to the current situation in regard to the Coronavirus, Carers are likely to become more socially isolated and have less opportunities to meet others. Carers will be supported to participate in on line activities, via Zoom which will include on line quizzes, craft activities, mindfulness, Yoga etc.</p> | £938 | The panel agreed this was a strong, modest application, offering good value for money. It was recognised that carers have increasing pressures and can become socially isolated and this application offers something that no other has. |
| Culture Shift CIC | <p>Being Our Best Selves (BOBS)</p> <p>In 2019, BOBS was developed as a pilot project in Eastbourne supporting disabled adults (particularly with learning disabilities and autism) and carers to develop skills and strategies to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing. (see Being Our Best Selves). Since lockdown began, we have adapted delivery in Eastbourne and would like to support people in Hastings and St Leonards who are similarly vulnerable and at high risk of social isolation.</p> | £1,800 | The panel liked that this is based on a successful pilot and that it would be able to make the transition from online to physical activities once lockdown restrictions are lifted. The grant requested has been reduced to eliminate existing costs. |
| Audioactive | <p>SHIFT Hastings : Music Mentoring Project</p> <p>To bridge the provision of one to one music mentoring services provided to some of Hastings and St Leonards most vulnerable young people while further funding is being secured and provide vital project management capacity to bolster further fundraising. To use engagement with the mentor to assist in successful transition back into secondary education in September and October 2020 and into the successful community-based studio sessions at Western and Warrior Studios in St Leonards.</p> | £5,265 | <p>The panel agreed this was a well written application. Although there is a small number of beneficiaries it agreed this application is for a very worthy cause due to the complex scale and need of the young people in question.</p> <p>The panel also queried whether the funding requested was for its core business or additional to it. It was agreed that it would recommend funding the application subject to clarification being provided on this point.</p> |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Sweet & Dandy | <p>Stade Saturdays</p> <p>To programme a set of Stade Saturdays concerts and events on the Stade Open Space to reignite Hastings and bring families back to seafront entertainment safely. Likely September to coincide with Coastal Currents as the biggest press and publicity we can generate to attract footfall and show we lead the way with COVID-safe events. This should also kick-start faith back in the rest of the organisations to re-book that space going forward.</p> | £6,000 | The panel agreed this was a good application with contingency plans written in and would help residents to take part in free events in a controlled, gradual way. It also noted that the total budget includes £5,000 which is already pre-approved by HBC; reduced from £15,000 last year. It was agreed that given the uncertainty around social distancing and Covid-19 restrictions, any grant funding would be contingent upon securing the necessary licences from HBC. |
| Creative Space Science CIC | <p>Space@Home</p> <p>The project will be a continuation of our Space@TheStade events, with hands-on activity packs for children to engage with at home. This project will aim to engage with children and families enduring social distancing due to COVID-19 by providing space-themed science activity packs delivered through the local Trussell Trust food bank, therefore reaching those in our community with greatest need.</p> | £4,600 | The panel agreed it was a well written, comprehensive application and is a really innovative project. It was agreed that the existing employment costs should be removed and it would recommend part funding at £4,600. |
| Total | | £45,258 | |

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Agenda Item 6



Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 13th July 2020

Report Title: Appointment of Grants Advisory Panel Members

Report By: Christine Barkshire-Jones Chief Legal Officer and Statutory Monitoring Officer

Purpose of Report

To maintain the levels of Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) members at maximum

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To appoint Terrence Fawthrop to the Grants Advisory Panel for a period of three years with immediate effect**
- 2. To minute that urgency powers were used on 22nd June 2020 to formally appoint Susan McNally to the Grants Advisory Panel for a period of three years from that date**
- 3. To give delegated authority to the Council's Chief Legal Officer to embark on a further recruitment drive for more volunteers to be considered for the Grants Advisory Panel**

Reasons for Recommendations

The Grants Advisory Panel must be able to have enough members to assess and evaluate grant applications under the Scheme dated 13 January 2011

Introduction

1. The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) was introduced within the Scheme dated 13 January 2011 in which Hastings Borough Council became the Trustee for the Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust
2. The Scheme stated that GAP should have no fewer than four members and no more than eight. This has subsequently been amended to no more than 10 members by the Charity Commission by application by the Council's Chief Legal Officer. This was to assist GAP with the additional work created by the introduction of a new larger grants programme.
3. The Council advertises annually in the Hastings Observer for volunteers for GAP. Interviews are undertaken by the respective 'Chairs' of GAP and the Charity Commission. Throughout the year as existing members leave we then have a pool of approved candidates to appoint.

Currently

4. Susan McNally has been working with GAP recently as they have been in the process considering of grant applications. It was therefore necessary to use urgency powers to formalise that appointment. Urgency powers need the approval of the Monitoring Officer and the decision to be made by a delegated officer in consultation with Charity Committee members and the Protector. The Charity Committee members and the Protector agreed to this appointment on 22nd June 2020.
5. Charity Committee is on the 13th July 2020. Terrence Fawthrop can be formally appointed then and commence work with other members as and when required.
6. We will need to run another advertisement to attract more volunteers as soon as we are able as we have utilised all those approved candidates.

Timetable of Next Steps

7. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

| Action | Key milestone | Due date (provisional) | Responsible |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Approve recommendations | Approve recommendations | 13 th July 2020 | Charity Committee |
| | | | |

Wards Affected

Insert the list of wards affected

Implications

Relevant project tools applied? No

Have you checked this report for plain English and readability? Yes

Climate change implications considered? No

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness

Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)

Risk Management

Environmental Issues

Economic/Financial Implications

Human Rights Act

Organisational Consequences

Local People's Views

Anti-Poverty

Additional Information

Insert a list of appendices and/or additional documents. Report writers are encouraged to use links to existing information, rather than appending large documents.

Officer to Contact

Christine Barkshire-Jones

cbarkshire-jones@hastings.gov.uk

01424 451731

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Agenda Item 7



| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Report To: | Charity Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | Monday, 13th July 2020 |
| Report Title: | Status Report - Foreshore Trust Business Plan 2019/20 – 2024/25 |
| Report By: | Victoria Conheady, Assistant Director, Regeneration & Culture |
| Key Decision: | N/A |
| Classification: | Open |

Purpose of Report

To present a review of progress made in 2019/20, and in year COVID-19 related activity

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report on 2019/2020 Business Plan as appended to this report be noted.
2. That the Committee delegate authority for any minor modifications to the Assistant Director of Regeneration and Culture in consultation with the Chair of the Charity Committee.
3. That it is agreed that the activity projected in the 2019/20-2024/2025, as agreed in March 2019 for this financial year be followed (except for exceptions noted in paragraphs 18-23).
4. That a business plan for the 5-year period commencing 2021/2022 be presented in March 2021, once COVID-19 impact on the Foreshore Trust assets are understood, and full engagement with the coastal users' group is allowed under covid social distancing rules.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The Charity Committee requires a business plan to support its decision-making on the use of Foreshore Trust assets and surpluses.
2. It was agreed at the Charity Committee in March 2020 that this year's business plan be presented at the June 2020 meeting to enable full consultation and engagement with the Coastal Users Group after the appointment of a 'Foreshore Trust Liaison officer'
3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the development of a business plan has not occurred

Background

1. The business plan normally is a rolling 5-year plan which is revised every year. It is based upon our current knowledge of maintenance, income, required capital works and proposals for new activities.
2. It normally is subject to review and modification as developing proposals and investigations are completed, most significantly in relation to the Stade facilities and the White Rock Baths area.
3. The plan should be reviewed annually.
4. Due to the impacts detailed below it has not been possible to work on a business plan for this financial year and into next financial year. We are still to understand the loss of income for the trust from the COVID-19 pandemic. This could impact the ability to deliver some of activity, beyond maintenance of our assets.
5. In addition to this, due to realignment of staff we have not had the capacity to draft a business plan for this financial year and will be basing maintenance and other activity on the 5-year plan which was adopted last year.

FY 20/21 and the COVID-19 pandemic

6. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented effect on all sectors and changed everyday life here and across the world. As a council we have had to quickly refocus our priorities and the way we operate. We are working at an incredible pace on a huge range of issues to protect our community and staff to reduce transmission of the infection, as well as continuing to deliver essential services. It has been an extraordinarily demanding period for the council, but staff have worked above and beyond coming together as one team to serve our community.
7. Councillors and officers have worked in collaboration with key local partners including East Sussex County Council (ESCC), the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), other Boroughs and Districts, the Sussex Resilience Forum, East Sussex Housing and Homelessness Cells, and participated in national networks such as the Local Government Association, District Councils Network, liaising with relevant central Government departments and briefing the local MP.
8. Following the initial intensity of the crisis, we are continuing to adapt and react often quickly as government guidance changes. Focus is now on moving towards the re-start and recovery phases for the economy and community of the town. This is being done whilst continuing to keep our residents safe; abiding by social distancing rules; continuing to support our most vulnerable residents; supporting businesses and maintaining essential services.

Relevant services which impact the Charity

9. **Waste and street cleaning services** - There has been minimal impact on waste and street cleaning services for residents. Garden waste collections were only suspended for 4 weeks, and all household waste and recycling collections undertaken by our waste contractor have continued uninterrupted. The introduction of further safety and social distancing measures for our in-house street cleaning staff has enabled street cleaning

services to continue, keeping the town clean and tidy. Bulky waste collections were resumed on 5 May after a short period of suspension.

10. **Foreshore Trust Car Parks - Parking changes during COVID-19** - Hastings Borough Council offered key workers the opportunity to park for free at all council and Foreshore Trust -owned off street car parks in the borough up for the 12 weeks up until the end of June 20.
11. **Suspended services** - A number of services were suspended due to lockdown restrictions or to staff being reassigned to other priority areas. The cliff railways, all public conveniences, playgrounds, tennis courts, bowling greens, putting pitches, multi-use games areas and skate ramps are closed. Work on the Country Park Visitor Centre has stopped. Pest control appointments were suspended. Some regeneration projects have paused.
12. **Cycle and Deck Chair Hire.** This provision was due to commence for the summer season and is currently delayed until government guidance allows the provision of these services. It is expected that there will be costs incurred for increased cleaning and health and safety measures, and it is possible that this means that there is insufficient return to make this work financial within the already agreed subsidy.
13. Due to Active Hastings staff being realigned to working on the community hub response, there has been no resource available to review the business operation model of this concession, though this is now taking place.

Financial Implications

14. The Council estimates loss of income to amount to some £3.37m on the basis that lockdown ends in July. Areas of income loss include, for example, car parks (including those owned by the Foreshore Trust), cliff railways, licensing, planning fees, rentals, investment income, business rates, Council Tax.
15. In regard to projected loss of income to the Foreshore Trust – assuming lockdown eased fully by the end of July is approx.:
 - a. £1.33m total council loss of income for car parks, of which it is estimated that the Foreshore Trust could potentially be impacted up to £600,000, although figures are still to be confirmed.
 - b. Currently £25,000 of rental income and lease income has been deferred for the first quarter of the 2020/21 financial year, but expectations are that this will be recovered by the end of the financial year.

RNLI lifeguard service – Summer 2020.

16. The RNLI lifeguard service was due to commence on the last weekend of May. However due to staffing availability (a number of their seasonal staff work in New Zealand/Australia, in our winter and with COVID-19 travel restrictions have been unable to travel; they have also been unable to recruit and train staff in the UK during the lockdown, the RNLI service is now due to commence here on 20th June, two weeks earlier than expected, subject to procuring appropriate PPE. That will be at Pelham, the busiest station.

17. Work continues to try to provide a further life guarding service at Marina, however that may be unachievable in the short to medium term, not least to the fact that the RNLI have do not have sufficient trained staff at present. Ironically the closure of our Summerfields pool, and others, means they can't train additional staff.

FY 20/21 –COVID-19 response: Overview of changes to FY 20/21 business plan items.

Foreshore Trust Combined Small & Events Grant Programme (responding to COVID-19 pandemic crisis) Round 3

18. The chair of the charity in consultation with the protector and the chair of the grant advisory panel agreed to alter the scheduled combines grant call to focus on the COVID-19 response. It was agreed that the grant call would primarily fund organisations to help our communities respond to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
19. This COVID focussed round has had a quicker turnaround to award grant funding to local organisations that are responding to the challenges within our community presented by the current health pandemic. Applications will also be considered from organisations which have been indirectly disadvantaged by the pandemic or which bring proposals to enhance social cohesion at the present time.
20. The main aim of this programme will be to support smaller voluntary and community groups in carrying out activities and services supporting the current demands and needs of local residents to provide relief and support.
21. The fund also has ambitions to help with capacity building of smaller voluntary and community groups to strengthen their ability to carry out their work. Grants of up to £6,000 will be awarded to voluntary and community groups providing support within Hastings. To release the funding as quickly as possible the call was open for less time than normal.

Large Grants Scheme

22. Officers were planning to launch this programme this year, however due to the workload of COVID-19 directed combined scheme, and staff being realigned to the council's response during March/April and part of May, the launch of this scheme has been delayed. This scheme will be financed during 21/22 and successful programmes will commence activity from April 2021.
23. **Electric vehicle charge points** - The installation of electric vehicle charge points in Pelham car park was agreed in March 2020 and is due for completion during the Summer/Autumn of 2020.

2019/2020 Business plan achievements:

24. Appendix 1 gives an overview of the main achievements of the business plan across the last financial year.
25. Some highlighted achievements are detailed as follows:
 - a. Page 1 – Completion of white rock water feature
 - b. Page 3 – Completion of the FLAG programme
 - c. Page 4 – Commencement of the Foreshore Trust Seafront Arts Programme

Consultation

26. Though the views of this report and appendix 1 will be sought from the Coastal Users Group and the Protector, when work starts on compiling the future business plan, a method of closer engagement in its development will be sought from the Coastal Users' Group, as outlined in the paper which went to the March 2020 committee.
 27. The Coastal Users' Group's comments will be contained in the minutes of their next meeting (7th July).
 28. The Protector's comments will be considered at the meeting of the Charity Committee on the 13th July 2020.
-

Timetable of Next Steps

29. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

| Action | Key milestone | Due date (provisional) | Responsible |
|---|---|------------------------|--|
| Present paper at the Committee planning meeting | Review document | 22 June | Assistant Director Regeneration and culture |
| Coastal Users Group | Seek coastal users group comments | 7 July | Marketing and Major Projects manager |
| Charity Committee | Chair, protector and members of the charity committee adopt recommendations | 13 July | Assistant Director, Regeneration and Culture |

Wards Affected

Castle, Central St. Leonards, Old Hastings, West St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score: 38.9

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Equalities and Community Cohesiveness | |
| Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17) | |
| Risk Management | Y |
| Environmental Issues & Climate Change | |
| Economic/Financial Implications | Y |
| Human Rights Act | |
| Organisational Consequences | |
| Local People's Views | Y |
| Anti-Poverty | |
| Legal | |

Additional Information

Appendix 1: Foreshore Trust Business Plan Achievements - FY 19/20

Officer to Contact

Victoria Conheady
vconheady@hastings.gov.uk
01424 451796

Appendix 1: FST Business Plan Achievements 2019/20

Refurbishment of White Rock Water Feature

Following the refurbishment of the White Rock Baths in 2016 and the opening of the Source Park as a BMX and skateboard venue, the water feature above the building remained a key eyesore in this area of the promenade. The Council, as trustee was successful in securing funding from the fourth round of the national Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) to replace the redundant fountain with new feature for enjoyment on the Hastings seafront.

The new feature, titled 'Sea Mist', creates a new destination space at the promenade and complements existing adjacent assets. It uses high-quality long-lasting materials, specifically for the misters and paving which will be subject to coastal elements and regular water coverage from the mister jets. Substantial waterproofing to the fountain space/roof structure provided, thereby further mitigating against water ingress into The Source Park below. Programming feature for the misters to turn on/off, thereby minimising water usage and option to turn off overnight. The feature includes a good-sized mobility access plaza space – enhancing the objective of creating a destination and a social space.

Additional funding totaling £79,000 was obtained from the CCF programme to complete the refurbishment and restoration of the feature was completed in early April 2020. Formal opening of the new water feature will be delayed until COVID 19 lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Car Parks

This was the first year of increased budget for the Seasonal Rock a Nore Car Park Stackers. This meant that they were in post for the busy Easter Period. This worked well through the whole summer season and there were no repeats of the serious congestion issues seen in previous years. The staff who worked this year had been in post in previous years and received numerous thanks for the role that they performed and the manner that they did this in.

Hastings Borough Council's CCTV control room at Muriel Matters House has been closed (March 2020) due to budget restrictions and alternative monitoring arrangements for the car parks are currently being explored.

Grounds Maintenance

There are no significant changes to the foreshore grounds maintenance contract. For the Trust, the annual cost of seafront grounds maintenance has reduced. The ground maintenance contract has been operated by Idverde since 2016.

The Stade

Stade Hall is now operated by the East Sussex College Group – their plans for the building includes commercial lettings and activities, adult education for community partners project and advanced learners project, offering ‘level 3’ bespoke fish mongering, butchery and patisserie courses.

The college had also agreed to a significant community element working with Hastings Voluntary Action to promote volunteering opportunities for long term unemployed, working with Billingsgate seafood training school and the Foreshore Trust to develop a programme with school involvement to promote sea food cooking; linking with community partners; and offering employability skills, and apprenticeship qualifications, at Stade Hall.

Please note that not all the above activities have commenced as the new arrangements are still in the early phase of the operating agreement.

Stade open space - during 19/20 there were 23 bookings for the Stade open space. Due to the COVID 19 lockdown activities during 20/21 are likely to be minimal.

Maintenance and repair work – during the year the automatic barrier providing access to RNLI lifeboat station was replaced and a new barrier was installed by the Angling Club. Fob access has been given to the RNLI, Fishermen and Club members to access the Blue Stade.

Herring Fair on the Open Space – the 2019 Herring Fair was held on 23rd and 24th November, in an attempt to extend the tourism season in Hastings. This was the eighth year of the event and was for the first time funded by the FST due to the community nature of this event, support of the local fishing industry and the fact that it does attract some visitors from outside town which generates income for the Trust from car parking charges during the ‘off season’. Although the Fair was successful in 2019 it failed to break even, and the Charity Committee has decided not to fund the event in the future taking into consideration the cost, impact and dependence on the weather for success.

Promenade and Beach

Hastings Fisheries Local Action Group Programme 2017/19 – the FLAG programme came to an end in March 2020.

The three-year programme engaged with 14 different organisations to successfully deliver 18 projects across 3 themes of (i) creating a sustainable fleet and supply chain, (ii) the environment and (iii) the place. The majority of targets for each project were achieved and overall there was a 95% spend on allocated budget.

This achievement was publicly recognised at the end of programme event, where three very diverse projects showcased their successes and the overall impact to the industry and local community was celebrated. The *Supporting Sustainable Sepia Stocks* project studied cuttlefish eggs and produced reports that include recommendations to increase sustainability of egg survival post-fishing. The *Fit to Fish* project engaged the local community and raised awareness of health and wellbeing. The *Aspiring Chefs' Academy* project educated and trained 35 young people in the fishing industry. The *Hastings Fish Brand* project has supported over 40 local businesses in establishing a fish brand that will continue beyond the project. The *Icemaker* project has ensured that ice is available for fishermen, suppliers and wholesalers in Hastings Fish Market maintaining the quality and freshness of the local catch.

Although the future of FLAG funding is currently unknown, the Hastings FLAG Board agreed to continue to meet following the end of the programme, to maintain partnership working and to stay aware of the ongoing issues in the industry.

Lifeguard Service - as a result of the success of the pilot, at the charity committee meeting on 11th December 2017 the committee agreed unanimously to enter into a three-year contract with the RNLI to provide the Hastings lifeguard service. A number of 'tweaks' were made to the service following the pilot, including earlier starts at all three sites – Pelham, Pier, and Marina. 2019 was the second full year of the three-year contract.

During 2019 on Hastings beaches the lifeguards saved four lives, rescued seven people, assisted sixteen, performed major first aid on five casualties and minor first aid on 22. This is the first time that the RNLI lifeguards' intervention has been classified as 'saving lives' at Hastings and is the most serious form of intervention: - without the action of the lifeguards, four people may have drowned. In addition, some 14 230 members of the public were engaged with on 'preventative actions' (an action described as 'an action conducted by the lifeguard team to prevent persons coming into contact with harm including; PA announcements, moving flags, displaying safety signage, educating beach users').

All the RNLI's key performance indicators were met and no complaints were received about the service, either by the RNLI or by HBC.

Public art project initiation - The Foreshore Trust Seafront Arts Programme was agreed and is being delivered by Sweet and Dandy Ltd. In its first stage, a series of workshops were held involving three Hastings secondary schools, East Sussex College Hastings and the Eggtooth youth project.

The workshops explored issues around sea and beach pollution by plastics and articulating them in artistic designs, artwork and sculptures. These sessions have been ongoing since November 19 and will continue until July 2020 (subject to COVID restrictions). The workshops are led by artists Peter Quinnell, Leigh Dyer and Sarah Evans and are currently engaging the participants in ways to raise public awareness of the biggest major plastic pollutant, cigarette butts, through public art in the form of a public art piece and related campaigns along the seafront, to be delivered in the Autumn of 2020 (again subject to lifting of COVID 19 restrictions).

Cycle and deck chair hire 2019 concession - The Cycle Hire Hut operated for 46 days between 25th May to 22nd September 2019. 235 bikes and 413 deck chairs were hired in this period. Cycle maintenance and replacement costs were a lot higher than expected. The trust also agreed to the use of the electric bikes from the Seaside Cycle Hire for a short-term trial which encourages local work-related journeys, encouraging the switch from car to electric bike. This proposed trial is aimed at council staff and would rely on additional use of the bikes when the Cycle Hut is closed or possibility at off-peak times. If the trial is successful, then there is potential to investigate external funding for a more permanent scheme.

Street and beach cleansing – two FLAG funded projects to address issues of marine litter were awarded during the year. 1 HBC led project ‘Save our seas’ ran through the summer – including seafront posters and banners, social media and the installation of new beach litter bins on the promenade and a pilot of branded beach-based bins.

The second community led – behavioural change and marketing campaign to reduce the amount of litter discarded thoughtlessly. This project was led by the Marine Conservation Society which worked with local schools to teach children about marine litter, it’s impact and how to take care of the marine environment.

Quality Coast Award/Blue Flag status – the council achieved re-certification of Blue flag achieved for 2019 at Marina, Seaside Award achieved for both Marina and Pelham.

Hastings Harbour Arm – works to the Hastings Harbour Arm was completed in February 2019. The Harbour Arm is a very important structure on the seafront as it retains beach material that protects the fishing fleet and the town from flooding. The works involved encasing the existing Hastings Harbour Arm in armour rock to help protect it from further deterioration.

FST Grants Programme (projects supported during 2019 – 2020)

| Foreshore Trust Events Grant Programme - 2019-20 | | |
|--|--|----------------------|
| Organisation | Project Name and Aim | Grant Awarded |
| Creative Space Science CIC | Space at the Stade - astronomy accessible to all | £2,000 |
| Energise Sussex Coast | Sustainability on Sea Festival Event | £2,000 |
| The Groundwork South Trust Ltd | Nature Holiday Club Activities on Bulverhythe Beach | £1,992 |
| Hastings Storytelling Festival Ltd | Hastings Storytelling Festival Free Children's Day | £2,000 |
| IdolRich TheatreRotto | The Dinosaur's Egg | £2,000 |
| 18 Hours Ltd | Journeys Dance Festival: 'Ballroom Dance at the Stade' | £2,000 |
| Seaview | The Big Sleep 2019 | £2,000 |
| St Leonards Festival | St Leonards Festival 2019 | £2,000 |
| | Total | £15,992 |
| Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grant Pilot Round 1 2019-20 - Approved | | |
| Organisation | Project Name and Aim | Amount agreed |
| Actors of Dionysus (aod) | Greek drama workshop project | £1,449.00 |
| Hastings & St Leonards CAP Debt Advice | Relief & prevention of poverty caused by debt | £4,800.00 |
| CDA for Family Support Work | Active Horizons at Family Support Work (FSW) | £4,000.00 |
| Counselling Plus Community | Supporting Positive Mental Health of Local Young People | £3,000.00 |
| Hastings & Rother YMCA | Replace the Windows of the Art Shack and add a Portable Ramp | £4,566.00 |
| Hastings Arts Forum Ltd | "Drawn to Life" Big Draw weekend | £2,301.89 |
| Hastings Fat Tuesday Ltd | Umbrella Parade and pre-parade workshops | £2,927.50 |
| Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society | Project BEACHED | £4,760.00 |
| Hastings Furniture Service | Workshop on Wheels (WoW) | £6,000.00 |
| The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity Hastings | Safehaven Men | £3,865.00 |
| Sussex Prisoners' Families | Sussex Prisoners' Families | £5,800.00 |
| The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) | Hastings Health Walks | £3,000 |
| The Athelstan Nursery | Communication and Language friendly space for families | £6,000.00 |
| The Sara Lee Trust | Provision of free specialist counselling and complementary therapy | £2,000 |
| Xtrax (Hastings and Rother Drop-In Centre) | Reaching Young People | £4,268.00 |
| | Total | £58,737.39 |

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Agenda Item 8

NOTES OF

Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group

Held on Tuesday, 7th July 2020 @ 18:00hrs

Via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Paul Carter – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Aaron Woods – Hastings Borough Council
Andrew Davy – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
Christine Boulton-Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Chris Richards – Hastings Adventure Golf
Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Leah Levane – HBC (Castle Ward)
Cllr Margi O'Callaghan – Charity Committee Chair and HBC (Silverhill Ward)
Cllr Trevor Webb – HBC (Central St. Leonards)
Di Cooke – Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards
Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
James Cook – Charity Committee Protector
Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council
Melanie Clark – Hastings and St. Leonards Sailing Club
Nick Fawcett – 1066 Boardriders
Peter Wheeler – Hastings District Canoe Club
Simon Terry – Hastings and St. Leonards Sailing Club
Tanya Szendeffy – Hastings and St. Leonards Sailing Club
Allison San Diego – Hastings Borough Council (notes)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies were received from:

CI Sarah Godley – Sussex Police
Cllr Dany Louise – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Karl Beaney – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Cllr Ruby Cox – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership

2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING (10TH MARCH)

The notes were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

Liaison Officer post – an appointment was made, but unfortunately, COVID-19 happened. This is now on hold until COVID-19 recovery is more advanced. The CUG position remains unchanged and the principle is still supported but only when circumstances allow to recruit the right person.

3. FEEDBACK FROM ISSUES ARISING SINCE THE LAST METING

Planning Consultation: HS/FA/20/00355 – The Stade Family Amusement Park, The Stade, Hastings, TN34 3AR

The planning application is for removal of galvanised Heras fencing to be replaced with blue iron curved fencing.

It is understood that there is a blue line on the map which does apply to the boundary of the site. It has been clarified that the area to be fenced off is within the red line.

The meeting indicated its support for the application, provided the fencing is kept within the boundaries of the red line as indicated on the map. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

CUGs comments and support for the application will be submitted to HBC's Planning team. **Action: Allison**

4. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

The reports were noted.

Kevin explained that due to the COVID-19 overtook all work at HBC and therefore, there are limited reports going forward at this stage. Until HBC can take stock of its losses, it will be doing minimal work on non-essential areas.

It has been noted that some public toilets have now been opened as lockdown has eased, but with limited opening hours. Kevin explained that cleaning resources have been redeployed to clean those that are open more often, i.e. every one to two hours. The lack of access to clean water elsewhere was discussed and it was suggested that outside basins could be installed where required. Aaron explained that all seafront drinking fountains had to be closed and there have been issues with people asking when these would be made available to wash their hands in, which of course, is not appropriate. It has been difficult to keep the balance right and follow government guidelines, especially as these keep changing.

The meeting proposed and agreed putting forward a request to HBC to have the toilets open for as long as possible of an evening, as they normally are in the summer.

With regards to CCTV monitoring being cut, Kevin explained that the running costs of this service were very high and if it was to be re-instated, savings would have to be found elsewhere within the budget. CCTV is also monitored locally by Sussex Police. Some CUG members also monitor the situation locally with their own CCTV systems and liaise with the police when necessary. Andrew offered to liaise with Kevin and HBC outside of this meeting as he may be able to help, based on his previous experience working as Maidstone's Business Improvement District chair.

5. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

Coastal sea defence work – Aaron advised that the outline business case and funding for phase 3 of the work has been approved. This phase of the work is to upgrade the groynes from the Pier to West St. Leonards and will progress this financial year. An update will be provided when available.

RNLI Lifeguards – Kevin advised that the lifeguards are only currently operating at Pelham beach and it is hoped that operations will start at the Marina in 2-3 weeks time.

Thank you to HBC – Dick suggested that CUG should pass its thanks to council officers and councillors for all of their work and efforts during the last couple of months. Christine provided her thanks to the Foreshore staff who have been doing an amazing job. Chris also noted his thanks as the business support grant funds were issued within a few days, whereas it has been reported that for other areas it had taken weeks. Agreed unanimously.

6. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Call for projects – Kevin explained that as part of government recovery plans, a call for quick win capital projects that can be delivered by 31st March 2021, has been opened. Up to £1m of capital funding is available. Kevin asked CUG members to get in touch with him in the next few days with details if possible. **Action: ALL** The press release will be circulated. **Action: Kevin/Allison**

Tourism – as CUG members are aware, the pandemic has been a particularly difficult time for local tourism. Kevin explained that HBC and partners are doing their best to assist local businesses and asked if anyone has any concerns to raise to please contact him.

Isabel Blackman Centre – Dick updated that a £45k deposit has been made towards the purchase of the building. He was congratulated on the work carried out on this.

Beach hut fees for next year – Christine asked that as people have not been able to use their huts so far this year, perhaps HBC could consider not increasing the fees for next year.

Bathing Pool Site – Christine also asked if HBC could re-consider the proposal as it is more important than ever to consider what is done with our local seafront.

Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards – Di explained that the lifeguards have not been able to do any work until recently but some lifeguards have been training and finished their first assessments today and all are doing a selection day tomorrow to work for the RNLI, here and at Camber. All of the theory training was completed online via Zoom over three days and then the practical work was completed in smaller groups. Di also thanked Kevin for his quick response in providing the local authority permission in order for the lifeguards to be able to carry out their activities in the sea. Thankfully the governing body has removed the requirement to do any pool work and the fitness requirement has moved to an outside one. It is hoped that another course can be carried out later in the Summer. The lifeguards have also started to

promote swimming, with a few members and booking will be required in order to keep the numbers down.

Fishermen's Museum – Anne updated that as of 18th July, the museum will be open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons only. It has also been noted that there have been issues with someone sleeping in the boats, although it is not sure if Aaron's team has noticed this, and that there has been confusion around open space next to museum.

Old Town Carnival – Anne explained this is going ahead virtually and details will be advertised. It is also hoped that the History House will be open in time for this.

Adventure Golf – Chris advised that the site managed to open earlier, as there was a natural one-way system which could be operated safely. Staff training had also been enhanced. It has been noted that although customers have been following guidelines, it has been difficult but manageable. 30 members of staff have returned to work, although 3 are still on furlough. The meeting welcomed this good news.

Foreshore team and West Hill Cliff Railway – Aaron updated that the Foreshore team continued working throughout lockdown, although there were minor issues with staff having to shield, but it is now back up to full strength and they can be contacted if there are any issues. The West Hill Cliff railway has re-opened and two metre social distancing is being observed where possible, although only one metre is possible in in the carriages. The queuing system has been changed to ensure minimal time is spent there by customers. Continued monitoring will take place and changes made over time.

Wardens – Cllr Levane suggested a future agenda item to discuss coordination between the three teams of wardens operating in Hastings: Foreshore Trust, Business Improvement District and HBC.

1066 Boardriders – had discussed setting up a base area for the Boardriders. Aaron advised that there have been various challenges for sporting facilities due to social distancing and this will be discussed further outside of this meeting.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18:00, Tuesday, 15th September. Venue to be confirmed.

The chair thanked everyone for their contributions, and it is hoped that by the next meeting, things will have improved and a face to face meeting can be held. CUG members should feel free to contact him at any time if they have any matters to discuss.

Meeting closed 18:59

Distribution:

Hastings and St. Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee