

## **NOTES OF**

### **Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group**

**Held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 @ 1800hrs**

**Committee room 1, Aquila House, Breeds Place, Hastings**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Dawn Poole (DP) (Chair) – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)  
Fiona Bell (FB) – Hastings Borough Council  
Laurence Bell (LB) – White Rock Business Group  
Kevin Boorman (KB) – Hastings Borough Council  
Christine Boulton-Lane (CBL) – West of Haven Beach Users Association  
Jill Bradley (JB) – Hastings Old Town Residents Association  
Alan Care (AC) – Hastings and Rother Disability Forum  
Cllr Mike Howard (MH) – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)  
Cliff Meaden (CM) – Epic Life  
Simon Opie (SO) – Hastings Pier Charity  
Andre Palfrey-Martin (APM) – Save Our Heritage  
Allison Pascual (AP) – Hastings Borough Council  
Steve Peak (SP) – Friends of Hastings Country Park  
Chris Richards (CR) – Hastings Adventure Golf  
Barbara Rogers (BR) – Hastings and St Leonards Tourism Association  
Nick Sangster (NS) – Hastings Borough Council  
Anne Scott (AS) – Old Hastings Preservation Society  
Cllr Trevor Webb (TW) – HBC (Central St Leonards Ward)

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Paul Carter – East Hastings Sea Angling Association  
Di Cooke – Hastings Lifeguards  
Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society  
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership  
Jacqui Stanford – Shipwreck Heritage Museum

#### **2. INTRODUCTION: Fiona Bell, HBC's Regeneration Officer and Sea Escapes Business Advisor**

- Fiona explained that the Creative and Tourism Mentoring Network has been set up to provide one-to-one business mentoring in order to support the development and expansion of local businesses through the Coastal Communities Fund.
- A number of businesses have already joined the network which will run until November, although it may finish before then if the target of assisting 34 businesses is met earlier.
- Workshops will be held at the White Rock Hotel in April and September.
- Coastal Users Group members who are aware of businesses in need of support were asked to refer them to her at [mentoring@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:mentoring@hastings.gov.uk) or on 01424 451786.

- Alan raised the issue of the difficulty met in finding out which businesses provide accessible toilet facilities in the area. Fiona agreed to take this up with local businesses.

### **3. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS UPDATE (NS)**

#### **White Rock Promenade Kiosk Proposal**

- Nick clarified that the proposal has not yet been agreed and although planning permission has already been granted the Charity Committee are only due to consider this at their meeting on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March.
- The meeting discussed the potential benefits of having a well-established operator such as The Source taking this work on. Some of the group felt that other local businesses may have been interested that had not been consulted. Members of the group expressed their concern that a formal tender process was not taking place.
- Anne proposed that any concessions for Council or Foreshore Trust owned kiosks are subjected to the formal tender process. This was seconded by Alan and agreed (8 votes for, 3 abstentions, 0 objections) by the meeting.
- Nick explained that the improvements to the promenade have been delayed as the works have had to be tendered for a second time. The scope and scale of the improvements were reduced as the first tenders received were far in excess of the available budget, and some details needed to be changed to secure planning consent. The new tenders were received earlier this week and are now within the available budget. It is hoped that a contractor will be appointed by the end of this month. The first priority will be the resurfacing of the promenade.

#### **Winch Road Drainage**

- The report was noted.

#### **Pelham Place Area Improvements**

- The report was noted.

#### **Events Grants 2016-17**

- The report was noted.

#### **Stade Facility Management**

- The report was noted.
- The FLAG 2 application includes an element of future management of the facility.

#### **Charity Committee Minutes – 14<sup>th</sup> December**

- The minutes were noted.

#### **4. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE**

##### **Marine Litter Group**

- As mentioned at the last meeting, Nick explained it has been proposed that a working group be formed. Volunteers are needed and Coastal Users Group members can email through their nominations. The Angling Club and Fishermen's Protection Society will be approached for representation. Simon confirmed that Hastings Pier Charity will field a representative.

#### **5. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Epic Life – Cliff explained that they have registered a new company and have taken on three apprenticeships. A new training programme has been set up and it is hoped that more apprenticeships will be taken on in the future.
- Hastings Pier – Simon explained that the construction of the pier should be completed before Easter and that the internal fit out work will be completed next month. A press event is taking place on Tuesday morning. It is planned that the gates will be open to the public during April, with a gala opening event taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> May.
- Visitors to Hastings and St Leonards – Barbara raised the issue of the shortage of accommodation and insufficient coach services to the area. Airbnb was discussed, although it is not clear how to access this facility to book accommodation and how useful it is in terms of tracking visitor numbers. The lack of available facility to keep track of visitor numbers was acknowledged.
- Bottle Alley – Andre was asked to put together some ideas for the panels on either end of Bottle Alley to attract footfall into the area. Samples of these were presented to the meeting and well accepted. Andre was thanked for his hard work. The refurbishment works are on target to be completed by the end of the month and it is hoped that the kiosk will be let out to EF Language school.
- Root 1066 and 950<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hastings – Kevin explained that numerous events are planned to take place from June right through to October – details to be announced.
- Cllr John Hodges – the meeting acknowledged the work that Cllr Hodges did as Chair of the Charity Committee and as Councillor for the Old Hastings ward. The new chair of the Charity Committee is Cllr Colin Fitzgerald. He is hoping to attend the next meeting in June.
- Old Town Week – Anne informed the meeting that entries need to be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> May. The submission forms will be published in the Old Town Parish News.
- West Marina Café – Cllr Howard informed the meeting that the café has been well received in the area and a lot of positive feedback has been received.
- Root 1066 Blacksmiths event – Nick informed the meeting that a planning application has been submitted and that the mock-up of the iron work is available to view online.
- Pirate Day – is once again being organised by Roger Crouch and is scheduled to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> July.

- The Source – the BMX park is now operational and has received a lot of positive feedback. Other local businesses have benefitted as a result. The group agreed that Rich Moore (one of the Directors) will be invited to join this group.
- Cycling Festival – is scheduled to take place in Hastings on 11<sup>th</sup> June and then in Bexhill on 12<sup>th</sup> June.
- Sea defence – Nick informed the meeting that news is awaited on a funding grant which could provide up to £3M for building of groynes and to repair the Harbour Arm.
- White Rock promenade – Laurence raised the issue of the danger of the lowered curb along the promenade, particularly outside The Source. It was agreed that a letter should be sent from this group to the relevant officer at East Sussex County Council (ESCC). **Action: NS**. It was also suggested that ESCC would be asked to visit to assess the site. **Action: TW**.
- Lack of parking along the promenade – issue needs to be addressed. Again, the relevant officer at ESCC will be asked to visit. **Action: TW**. Noted that a coach drop off point has been identified outside the pier and it is hoped that a taxi drop off point will be agreed soon. Statistics on the use of the A259 since the opening of the Link Road will also be requested from ESCC. **Action: TW**
- Lack of parking in West St Leonards – needs to be addressed. Christine explained that there have been a number of caravans and a horsebox which have been parked at Seaside Road for a number of months now which need to be removed. The need to establish whether these are on HBC or ESCC owned land before any removal can be arranged. This will be looked into. **Action: NS**
- Hastings Adventure Golf – Chris informed the meeting of the recent improvements carried out to the site which will be completed in April and opened in May.

## 6. NOTES OF LAST MEETING (AGM 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015)

The notes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

### Matters arising:

- Polly Gifford, HBC's Strategic Cultural Development Specialist will be invited to the next meeting. Noted that the Root 1066 website soft launch took place earlier today. **Action: NS/AP**
- Tour of The Source Park – visit for this group to be arranged. The possibility of holding this jointly with HBC members will be looked into. **Action: NS/AP**

## 7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

6<sup>th</sup> September 2016

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Meeting closed: 1936hrs.

**Distribution:**

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group  
Charity Committee

AP 180316

Cllr Dawn Poole Chair approved 180316