

NOTES OF

Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group Held on Tuesday, 7th June 2016 @ 1800hrs Council Chamber, Aquila House, Breeds Place, Hastings

Present:

Paul Carter (Chair) – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council
Christine Boulton-Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Jill Bradley – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Alan Care – Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Di Cooke – Hastings Lifeguards
Polly Gifford – Hastings Borough Council
Cllr Mike Howard – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Simon Opie – Hastings Pier Charity
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership
Andre Palfrey-Martin – Save Our Heritage Group
Catherine Parr – White Rock Business Group
Allison Pascual – Hastings Borough Council
Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park
Cllr Dawn Poole – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Judy Rogers – HBC (Castle Ward)
Nick Sangster – Hastings Borough Council
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society

1. APOLOGIES

Laurence Bell – White Rock Business Group
Richard Moore – The Source BMX Park
Barbara Rogers – Hastings and St Leonards Tourism Association
Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society
Jan Sellers – Fishermen's Museum
Cllr Trevor Webb – HBC (Central St Leonards Ward)

2. INTRODUCTION: Polly Gifford, HBC's Strategic Cultural Development Specialist

- Polly was invited to the meeting to talk about the Root1066 Festival.
- HBC has commissioned the festival to take place in September/October 2016 and to mark the 950th Anniversary of the battle of Hastings.
- It aims to create a major arts event for Hastings and 1066 Country and raise the profile and attract visitors to the area.
- Events planned include:
 - Blacksmiths on the beach – 8th to 10th July
 - Chris Levine – iy_project: the nature of light and sound at Hastings Pier – 10th September

- Feast of the Dead at the Stade Hall – 21st to 24th September
- The Flat Pack Castle – will also be appearing at events around town
- Most of the events are already on the website and will be added in the next couple of weeks at: <http://www.1066contemporary.com/>
- Stade Saturdays kicked off last weekend with the Hastings Jazz Festival. The full programme can be viewed at:
http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/community_living/pdfs/stade/stadesaturdays
- Polly clarified that events can still be added to the website and that interested parties should get in touch with her at: pgifford@hastings.gov.uk
- Restoration of King Harold Statue – Polly clarified that this is not within the remit that she has but this could be looked into. Nick explained that a survey was done around 10 years ago but the costs were deemed too high. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) could be approached and other options will also be looked into. **Action: Polly/Nick**

3. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

Blue Flag Award

- Nick advised that Marina St Leonards beach has been awarded a combined Blue Flag and Seaside award and Pelham Beach has been awarded the Seaside award by Keep Britain Tidy.
- He explained that the awards are the international quality mark for beaches and is only awarded to coastal destinations that boast the highest quality of water.

White Rock Promenade

- Nick gave an update on the work that has been carried out to date.
- Resurfacing of the tarmac outside the pier was completed in time for the official opening day. It was noted that pedestrians were able to walk along the promenade even though sections were closed off.
- The works affected operations at The Source BMX Park last week due to falling debris from the roof but this was quickly resolved.
- Nick clarified that there will no longer be a segregated cycle lane once the work is complete.
- It is anticipated that the works will be completed in early August.
- Warrior Square steps – the mural, managed by Hastings Youth Council and painted by local artist Aaron Hosanna has now been completed. The final stage is to agree the dedications and an opening ceremony will be held in late July.
- Improvements to seafront access – audits of the facilities at Pelham have been carried out with Hastings and Rother Disability Forum and Hastings Access to Venue and Events. A further audit will be carried out in St Leonards. Short term solutions will be put in place as necessary this year with a view to carrying out longer term solutions next year. Rock-a-Nore Road will be included in this project and a meeting is taking place with East Sussex County Council later this month.

FLAG 2

- Hastings' expression of interest has been selected to progress to the next round of competitive bidding.
- An initial £10k towards development of the Local Development Strategy has been awarded.
- Thanks were extended to Victoria Conheady, Economic Development Manager at HBC, for all of her work.

4. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

Charity Committee Minutes – 21st March

- The minutes had not correctly reported the vote this group had to take on the Kiosk proposal at its last meeting. It should be clarified that of the 18 attendees at the meeting, there were 3 HBC officers (not entitled to vote) and 3 Councillors (who abstained from the vote) present. The Chair of the Charity Commission has asked for the minutes to be amended accordingly.

5. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- HOTRA representation – Jill informed the meeting that she will shortly be moving to the Isle of Wight and Dick Edwards will be taking over as the HOTRA representative. Jill was thanked for her contributions to the work of the group over the years.
- Hastings Pier – Simon informed the meeting that the opening event went well and was well attended. Footfall is averaging 15k each weekend and it is nearing 150k now, the target for the year is 320k. The shareholder offer has been re-opened and the response has been encouraging. Discussions with investors are ongoing. An angling trial is taking place this week and the results of this will determine the way forward.
- Tents on the beach – the issue of people camping on the beach and under the pier was raised. It was recognised that this has been going on for some time now and it was explained that HBC is working with the police and other agencies to resolve the issue. The group agreed to provide its support where it can when required. HBC's Out of Hours Emergency Co-ordinators can be contacted at weekends on 01424 451999.
- Cinque Ports Way and East of Haven – Christine raised the issue with the increase in parking of camper vans and caravans in the area. This situation has previously been raised and no resolution has been met to date. HBC has a Borough Solicitor who should be able to advise on ownership of the land and it was noted that the necessary legal routes would have to be followed. The meeting recognised that there is a problem and will offer its support where required.
- Portable toilets – Alan requested that, when there are events in town, where possible, at least one portaloo for disabled access is put in place.
- Old Town carnival – Anne informed the meeting that this is taking place from 30th July to 7th August.

- Camera obscura – Nick clarified this is currently in storage and will be placed back onto the Stade Open Space. The possibility of placing this on the pier instead will be discussed. **Action: Nick/Simon**
- Net shops – Steve explained that the environment surrounding the shops should be the same as that of the Fishermen's Museum. It was clarified that the ownership of Rock-a-Nore Road is being looked into this year and an update will be provided in due course.
- Midsummer Fish Fest – Kevin informed the meeting that this is taking place on 25th to 26th June at the Stade Open Space.

6. NOTES OF LAST MEETING (17TH MARCH 2016)

Amendments will be made to the notes of the last meeting as previously advised and these will be re-circulated.

Matters arising:

- None

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS (Tuesdays, 6pm)

- 6th September 2016 – East Hastings Sea Angling Club
- 22nd November 2016 – East Hastings Sea Angling Club
- 28th February 2017 – Aquila House

Meeting closed: 1913hrs.

Distribution:

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee

AP 150616 / NS 150616
Paul Carter Chair approved 170616