

**NOTES OF
Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group
Held on Tuesday, 6th September 2016 @ 1800hrs
East Hastings Sea Angling Association, The Stade, Hastings**

Present:

Cllr Dawn Poole (Chair) – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Laurence Bell – White Rock Business Group
Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council
Christine Boulton-Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Alan Care – Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Di Cooke – Hastings Lifeguards
Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Cllr Mike Howard – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership
Andre Palfrey-Martin – Save Our Heritage Group
Cliff Meaden – Epic Life
Allison Pascual – Hastings Borough Council
Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park
Chris Richards – Hastings Adventure Park
Barbara Rogers – Hastings and St Leonards Tourism Association
Nick Sangster – Hastings Borough Council
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
Cllr Trevor Webb – HBC (Central St Leonards Ward)

Apologies:

Paul Carter – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Cllr Judy Rogers – HBC (Castle Ward)
Jan Sellers – Fishermen's Museum
Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society

1. HOUSEKEEPING

Alan enquired as to whether an evac chair is available at the venue. This will be confirmed and the group informed. **Action: Allison**

2. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG 2)

- Kevin gave an update: the Round 1 submission was successful and Hastings FLAG had been invited to prepare a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for submission in Round 2. This has been completed and a decision is anticipated in October.

- The LDS covers three thematic areas: 1) Creating a sustainable fleet and supply chain; 2) Protecting the environment and informing the fleet through scientific research and modernisation and 3) Developing the identity of The Place through educational, economic and brand development.
- If successful, the 2-year programme would commence in 2017.

Coastal Communities Fund 4 (CCF4)

- Kevin gave an update: the bid was submitted at the end of June and the outcome should be known by the end of this month.
- The aim of the bid is to improve the economic wellbeing of the White Rock area. This will involve activities from businesses and social enterprises that will create increased visitor numbers and jobs to local businesses and people.
- Partners to the bid are: The Source, Hastings Pier Charity and the Coastal Communities Team (managed by White Rock Trust). HBC will be the accountable body.
- Dick enquired as to whether a concession scheme for local residents could be set up. Some residents had expressed concern that the costs are too high and that for some families there could also be transport costs to take into account. It was clarified that it currently costs £6 for use of the park for two hours and a further £3 for a second session. Kevin agreed to speak to The Source operators but asked the meeting to bear in mind that they also have operating costs to meet. **Action: Kevin**

White Rock Promenade

- Nick gave an update: the re-surfacing of the promenade from Bottle Alley to Robertson Street has now been completed. As a result, all former markings have been removed and there is no longer a segregated cycle lane. Once all of the works have been completed, it is hoped that signage and stencils will be put in place.
- Palm trees and steel bollards are already in place.
- Bespoke benches will be ready by the end of this week.
- Work on the kiosk will be completed by mid-October.
- Work on the listed kiosk has not been done yet. The specification has been revisited and will be reduced before being sent out to tender.
- HBC Cabinet has given in principle agreement to provide more chalets on the seafront, east of the pier. Procurement is still to be looked into.
- Coastal medium term plan funding has been received from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and two large groyne will be built and shingle replenished to help stabilise the beach. The meeting welcomed this news but agreed that in order to improve the beach further the outfall pipe, which has started to collapse and is very unsightly, has to be removed as this poses a threat to the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors alike. Nick assured the meeting that there is ongoing discussion between HBC and Southern Water and that Clean Seas is going to produce a timeline for the pipe in order to inform the public. An update will be given at the next meeting. **Action: Nick**
- At the end of this season, the lifeguard service will be reviewed. It was recommended that the Foreshore Trust considers providing additional funding for the service as the number of beach users and the season has increased in recent years.

- Options for LED lighting for Bottle Alley are to be looked into and it is hoped that the lighting will be in place by the end of this calendar year. A demonstration will be carried out in due course for which an invitation will be extended to members of this group.
- Disappointment that a formal tender process for the kiosk did not take place was again expressed. Nick assured the meeting that Charity Committee took the views of this group into account, although there were other influencing factors which led to the decision that the committee made.
- Safety was discussed as there has been a significant increase in footfall along the seafront and there is now a need for an additional crossing. It was agreed that the issue needs to be addressed and that this group would send a letter to East Sussex County Council to highlight the safety issues and concerns.
Action: Nick

Stade Amusements lease

- Nick updated: confirmation has been received from the HBC Estates team that the lease has been renewed. Term: 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2032.
- Concerns were expressed by the meeting that the required improvements had not been carried out to date. Nick confirmed that a list of works to be done has been agreed and this will be circulated for information. **Action: Nick**

4. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

Charity Committee Minutes – 27th June

- The minutes were noted and will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting. **Action: AP**

5. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Kevin advised that the iy_Project (large scale sound and light event) is the opening event for the ROOT1066 festival and is taking place at 8pm on Saturday at the pier. The Seafood and Wine festival takes place on 17th/18th September at The Stade Open Space. On Saturday, 15th October a series of events will be taking place to mark the 950th anniversary of the battle of Hastings and the seafront will be closed to traffic from 15:00-23:00 approximately. All of the bonfire societies in East Sussex will be taking part in Hastings bonfire night, which will be heavily stewarded. Seafront businesses, however, are advised to keep their own security arrangements in place.
- Chris raised the issue with the bin and litter not being collected along the seafront. He has had to employ two additional members of staff and the adventure park bins are emptied three times a day, although the beach bins not being collected is causing major problems for businesses and visitors. Kevin assured the meeting that the issue is being taken very seriously at the highest level and that advice on changes would be received in the next few weeks. It was also recognised that it is difficult to use the MyHastings system to report bins along the seafront and this matter should be brought to the attention of the Foreshore Trust. In addition, the difficulty encountered when

reporting graffiti was discussed. In previous years, only one phone call was needed. Nowadays it can take up to four weeks to get a resolution. It was agreed that Scott Coughlan, HBC's Waste Services Manager would be invited to the next meeting to discuss the issues which have been raised. **Action:**

Nick/Allison

- Yasmin advised that John Cole's exhibition is currently on display at the Fishermen's Protection Society and a talk by John and Paul Joy will take place at The Stade Hall as part of the Seafood and Wine Festival on 17th September.
- Laurence advised that a replica of the Bayeux tapestry is currently on display in the crypt at St Mary in the Castle and is worth a visit.
- Nick advised that works started today to install Wi-Fi hotspots, from Rock-a-Nore Road to Warrior Square. 10 hotspots will be installed by the end of October. It was suggested that local businesses could help promote this once the Wi-Fi is up and running. This seafront public Wi-Fi network was agreed as part of CCF3 funding.
- Christine advised that the situation has still not been resolved with regard to camping on the beach, behind beach huts, the litter and mess created as a result, and the visitors in camper vans and caravans to the area. It was recognised that action needs to be taken urgently. Nick apologised for the amount of time it has taken to sort the issues but explained that in terms of the problematic caravan, the Environment Agency (EA) had to build a case for eviction first and obtain a county court order in order to evict the owner, who has now moved onto HBC land as a result. HBC now has to follow the same process that the EA went through. A height barrier was installed but it has been noted that the Out of Hours co-ordinators had been giving out the code for the barrier, it was suggested that the code now needs changing. **Action: Nick.** In terms of litter and mess, street wardens do visit the area in question and prosecutions have been made, however, unfortunately, there are no longer resources available to have a presence on site all day. It was noted that HBC is due to review dog control issues later this year.
- Cliff raised the issue of car park signage not working properly in some places and the fact that they had lost two customers as a result. 'Park and Ride' was discussed as an alternative, but Kevin explained that this was not utilised when it was made available in Hastings.
- Cliff advised that they had been using the Creative and Tourism Mentoring Network programme which was very good and helpful. He extended his thanks to the team behind it.
- Steve raised the issue of the environment surrounding the net shops not being what it should be and that there is grass where there should be shingle. It was agreed that a site visit should be arranged to include Steve, Nick, Yasmin and Cllr Poole. **Action: Allison**
- Andre advised that digital prints of the Bottle Alley panels will soon be available and that photos will also be in the local paper soon.
- Cllr Webb advised that it is still safe to walk down Kings Road and that a lot of work to increase the safety in the area is being carried out. Issues have already been brought to the attention of the Home Secretary. Joint working between the relevant agencies will continue to improve the situation.

6. NOTES OF LAST MEETING (7th June 2016)

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

- The Camera Obscura is currently on display at the Ladies Parlour. Afterwards this will be moved onto the pier and will remain there for the rest of the year.
- Restoration of King Harold Statue – an update will be sought. **Action: Allison**
- It was agreed for future meetings that the notes of the last meeting item will be moved to the front of the agenda.

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

- 15th November 2016 – East Hastings Sea Angling Club
- 28th February 2017 – Aquila House

Meeting closed: 1948 hours

Distribution:

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee