

NOTES OF:

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users' Group

Held on Tuesday, 5th September 2017 @ 1800hrs

Birch Suite, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, TN34 3UY

Present:

Paul Carter (Chair) – East Hastings Sea Angling Association

Cllr James Bacon – Hastings Borough Council

Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council

Jez Brinkley – Hastings Motor Boat & Yacht Club

Alan Care – Hastings & Rother Disability Forum

Di Cooke – Hastings Lifeguards

Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association

Russell Field – Hastings Motor Boat & Yacht Club

Cllr Kim Forward – HBC Deputy Leader/Lead member for regeneration

Tim Godwin – Hastings & St Leonards Community Bicycle Workshop & Hastings Urban Bikes

Stuart Hamilton – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society

Gareth Jenkinson – White Rock Neighbourhood Ventures

Christine Boulton-Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association

John Martin – Hastings Motor Boat & Yacht Club

Andre Palfrey-Martin – Save Our Heritage Group

Chris May – Protector Foreshore Trust

Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership

Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park

Chris Richards – Hastings Adventure Golf

Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society

Jo Stewart – Hastings Pier

Sam White – Hastings Windsurfing

Cllr Trevor Webb – Hastings Borough Council

Mark Woodley – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society

Aaron Woods – Hastings Borough Council

Janet McLean – Hastings Borough Council

1. Potential Seafront Development

Meeting agreed to take item 4, Potential Seafront Development as the first item on the agenda. John Walsh, Michael Drain and Adam Hollyoake from the developer team gave a short presentation on the proposed project.

Comments as follows:

- Developers acknowledged concerns about access to the site and agreed that this was a key issue. Transport studies would consider Hastings generally and start at the curtilage of the town and not focus solely on Rock a Nore.
- Consultation would consider the impact on the infrastructure of the increase in residents from the 1,300 new homes. Intended that a number of the new

- homes would be available for key workers and thus encourage professionals in the education and health sectors to the area.
- The developers have borne the costs of putting the project together so far, but would need a special purpose vehicle to take the project forward.
 - The track records of the developers was summarised for the meeting.
 - Programme of technical studies intended.
 - Acknowledged project was in an area of outstanding natural beauty but the project intended to complement the Old Town and integrate with the community and not destroy it.
 - Concern re access to the beach, particularly for those organisations that undertake educational programmes.
 - Developer confirmed that there were no plans to lose the existing number of public car parking spaces or income. Developers wished to have genuine public access to the site.
 - Answers on questions relating to tidal drift and dredging were not known and would form part of the programme of investigatory work to be undertaken.

Kevin Boorman advised that the report will be tabled at the next Cabinet meeting on the 11th September.

Meeting returned to the agenda.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mike Howard, Paul Joy and Clifford Meaden

3. Housekeeping

- Election of a Chair – Paul Carter would act as Chair for the meeting. Appointment process for a new Chair would be undertaken at the AGM in November.
- Hastings Harbour Quarter project would not be a standing item on the CUG agenda. The CUG were recognised as a principal stakeholder in the consultation process for this project.
- The meeting discussed the proposal to submit a letter to Cabinet expressing their objection to the project, but the consensus was that more detail needed to be known before taking such action. This would be reconsidered at a later date.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

- Agreed with no amendments.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

- Shopmobility - CUG can recommend funding for Shopmobility.
- Foreshore Trust Draft Business Plan - Draft business plan had been circulated for comment.

- Cycle Lane at Pelham Place - Aaron had not yet received a response from ESCC and will continue to chase.
Action: Aaron
- Training re watersports - Confirmed that system is in place and that HBC is the central point for recording incidents.
- Rock a Nore Wheelchair Access - Alan has agreed pictures of the wheelchair access. Parked cars blocking access continue to be an issue. Agreed sign needed advising users not to park/obstruct access.
Action: Aaron
- Winch Road - No response on the abandoned cars, noted that some of the vehicles are being used for rubbish storage. Aaron to follow up.
Action: Aaron
- Stamco Site - Confirmed that this site is owned by HBC. Residents of the area have serious concerns about activities on this site. Further discussion to take place outside of the meeting.
Action: Christine Boulton-Lane/Kevin Boorman

6. Foreshore Trust Items

- CCF4 has been very successful so far. Announcement expected shortly confirming an additional round of funding - CCF5. Yasmin suggested that the focus should be on the natural and not the built environment. Kevin would pass on this suggestion.
Action: Kevin
- Foreshore Trust Small Grants Programme
Comments to Kevin who will pass onto Charity Committee.
Action: All
Meeting endorsed an increase in the level of grants awarded and Kevin will take this recommendation to the Charity Committee.
Action: Kevin Boorman
- Charity Committee Minutes received by the meeting without comment.

7. Coastal Items Update

- Kevin advised that after a delay in the start date of the programme harbour arm programme of works due to a damaged barge. The project was expected to commence shortly but may yet be further affected by weather conditions.
- Review of Lifeguard Service
Kevin asked for input from the Group on the operation of the service by the RNLI to feedback into the review meeting. Comments as follows:
 - Red flag signage is not being flown. This is an accepted standard and included in the education being undertaken by the Hastings Lifeguards of over 3,000 children this year.
 - Were there any statistics available on the number of people assisted by the lifeguards?
 - CUG would suggest that the lifeguard season is extended.
 - CUG would suggest that the lifeguard coverage is increased to include a greater area of the beach.

- Chris Richards asked HBC to consider options on how to provide the deckchair hire service next season. Lifeguards had provided this service in previous years. Could this be considered as a concession for next season?

Action: Aaron

8. Member Updates/Any Other Business

- Steve Peak advised that he will be leading a guided tour of White Rock during the weekend.
- Chris Richards asked for a progress update of the “intelligent” signage at Rock a Nore, continuing issues with Rock a Nore car park being full and signs not being updated. Traders would like an HBC contact number for use when they see build-up of vehicles trying to access the car park. Group suggested that wording on the message board at the top of Old London Road needed reviewing in order to divert road users to alternative car parks away from the seafront as they approached the town.
Action: Kevin
- Di Cooke advised that the Lifeguards continue to struggling and are not receiving any assistance, as promised relating to logos etc. The Hastings Lifeguards are a voluntary organisation and have covered more open water events this year than any other year.
Action: Kevin
- Aaron advised that the underpass at White Rock to Pier had been cleaned within the last 2 weeks.
- Dick Edwards – wished to thank HBC councillors for their support at Planning Committee to achieve the doctor’s surgery site in Rock a Nore Road. Still a long way to go but the granting of the planning application was a significant step forward.
- Request for HBC to emphasise the responsibilities and rules to tenants renting the newly erected beach huts. Beach hut owners in the area were concerned that renters may not take the same care of their huts.
- Kevin Boorman confirmed that there were no statutory obligations for staff of water sports operators to have formal qualifications. If the practices are unsafe the companies could be prosecuted under health and safety at work act.
- Kevin Boorman advised that it is proposed to change the management arrangements for Stade Hall and Classroom on the Coast. HBC will be asking for expressions of interest from non-profit organisations to run these venues.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

- AGM – Tuesday, 21st November 2017: 6.00pm – East Hastings Sea Angling Association.