

**NOTES OF
Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group
Held on Tuesday, 6th March 2018 @ 1800hrs
Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings**

Present:

Paul Carter (Chair) – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Cllr Kim Forward (Vice Chair) – HBC Deputy Leader / Lead member – Regeneration
Alan Care – Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Alice Tebb – Marine Conservation Society
Andre Palfrey-Martin – Save Our Heritage Group
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
Chris Richards – Hastings Adventure Golf
Christine Boulton-Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Cliff Meaden – Epic Life Adventure Activities Sussex
Cllr Judy Rogers – HBC (Castle Ward)
Cllr Mike Howard – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Cllr Trevor Webb – HBC (Central St Leonards Ward)
Di Cooke – Hastings Lifeguards
Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Gerard Loughran – Hastings Arts Forum
Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council
Laura Beerling – Hastings Borough Council
Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park
Tim McDonald – Shipwreck Museum
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership
Allison San Diego – Hastings Borough Council (notes)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Tim Godwin – Hastings Urban Bikes
Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Aaron Woods – HBC
Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society

2. BEACHY HEAD EAST RECOMMENDED MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE

Alice Tebb, Agents of Change Project Coordinator, Marine Conservation Society attended the meeting:

- The Beachy Head East recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ) is an area proposed by stakeholders in 2011 as part of Balanced Seas and as part of the government's commitment to a national network of Marine Protected Areas to conserve fragile marine habitats and vulnerable species

- The area that has been identified to be consulted on is between Beachy Head East and Hastings Pier and covers 206 sq km
- The MCZ will ensure the future for local marine ecology and would help conserve marine habitat and vulnerable species
- It was clarified that any activity that would have a detrimental effect and the fact that the shingle bank is very close to the potential MCZ would be given careful consideration
- It is expected that government will be issuing consultation advice on the Marine Conservation Zone in the summer
- Further information will be circulated to the group for their consideration at the next meeting

3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING (AGM: 21ST NOVEMBER 2017) (attached)

Accepted as an accurate record

Matters arising:

- Winch Road – clarified that the barrier was replaced and is functioning
- Annual report of the Grant Advisory Panel – Kevin has contacted the protector to request a written report be supplied
- RNLI – Kevin has been in contact to invite them to one of the CUG meetings, ideally in the summer when the lifeguard service is operating
- Cycle route – question of when the cycle route markings along the upper promenade above Bottle Alley will be re-instated. Kevin confirmed that the order has been placed and paid for, and it is hoped that the work will be carried out prior to Easter
- Constitution – will be reviewed again at the next AGM

4. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

a. Charity Committee items for 19th March

- i. Minutes from 11th December 2017 – the minutes were noted
- ii. Foreshore Trust Events Grant 2018-2019 – the report was noted
- iii. FLAG ice maker grant request – the report was noted and supported by the meeting
- iv. Stade Hall Facilities Management – the report was noted. Kevin clarified that the identity of the successful tenderer will be made public after the Charity Committee meeting on 19th March. It was clarified further that it is not yet known if the hire charges will remain the same or if these will change once the new operator is in place. It was agreed that they will be invited to the next meeting. **Post meeting note :-** The recommended manager will be named in the charity committee papers, published in advance of the meeting

- v. White Rock Fountain – the report was noted and supported by the meeting
- vi. Public art options – Michael Hambridge, HBC's Arts and Cultural Development Officer explained that following the success of The Landing, (sculpture as part of ROOT1066 Festival), he was asked to come up with ideas for temporary installations, on Foreshore Trust land. The proposal is to investigate further and prepare a model product for 2019, using Foreshore Trust funds as leverage. Deliverability and feasibility options are currently being looked into. It was clarified that funding of up to £20k is sought from the trust and that insurance options will also be considered
- vii. Play and sports activity hub proposal – Laura Beerling, HBC's Play Development Officer explained that a proposal is being put forward to financially support a play session/hub at the RNLI hut (dependant on whether the RNLI still need the hut). It is intended that the play session is run every Saturday throughout April to October. Any income generated will go towards maintenance costs. The meeting supported the proposal.

b. Lawful Development Certificate HS/EX/18/00067 & Planning Application HS/FA/17/01056

A planning application for alterations to the Stade Amusement Park, was submitted on 5th December 2017, which includes a number of alterations to the Stade Amusement Park. In addition, a Lawful Development Certificate, which asks for permitted development rights for the site has been submitted.

Disappointment was expressed that this group was not notified of the development. It was hoped that out of respect for this group given its important role, it should have been notified directly and invited to comment. It was clarified that the application and supporting information was advertised on the council website, is still available to comment on and yet to be considered by the council's planning committee. Cllr Forward assured the meeting that she would seek a briefing from planning officers and will circulate this to the group. If further questions arise from the briefing, these should be forwarded to Kevin.

Action: Cllr Forward

Strong oppositions to both applications were expressed. The site in question is a key site and right of way is an important issue. It was agreed that it will be requested that, in the future, this group be notified of all planning applications affecting Foreshore Trust land.

Cllr Rogers declared an interest as a member of the planning committee and left the council chamber.

It was agreed that the details of both applications should be circulated and if a majority object, an objection will be made and a special meeting with planning and legal officers will be requested.

Steve put forward a motion that this group opposes the lawful development certificate and the planning application in principle. This was seconded by Dick and agreed by the meeting (7 voted in favour and 6 abstentions).

5. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

a. Harbour Arms Works

As Kevin has previously reported, the works had been postponed until later this spring. Assurance has been given that the works will happen and Kevin is hoping to hear more in the next few days.

b. Coastal Community Team (CCT) & Coastal Communities Fund (CCF)

Kevin updated that good progress is being made on CCF4 projects, including Wi-Fi along the seafront and in the town centre, a marketing and social media campaign to promote the area and Rock House refurbishments. CCF5 proposals are currently being looked at.

c. Marina

No further update on the proposed marina. Agreed this should be a standing agenda item from this point on.

6. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Carter apologised for the structure of the meeting and he will review the agenda prior to the next meeting and outstanding items such as disabled access on Winch Road will be included in the agenda until the items are signed off.

Cllr Mike Howard – informed everyone that this is his last meeting as he will not be seeking re-election in May. He expressed his thanks to the group, who also expressed theirs

Photo from Dick – suggesting how to improve the cycle and way walk along the seafront will be forwarded to HBC to be passed to the relevant officer

Storytelling picture boards – for the old bathing pool site. Andre will be making contact with HBC colleagues to get the project moving again

Net shop environment – Steve's campaign to improve net shop environment has progressed and the area looks much better now. It is hoped that more funds can be found to continue with the remaining work

Rock-a-Nore Road – required improvements remain on the agenda of this group and of the Stade Partnership. The whole area, including the Winch Road needs improvement to enable better access for all. Agreed this would be a standing agenda item. Clarification on when the improvements will be carried out will also be sought. **Action: Kevin**

Hastings Arts Forum – Gerard informed the meeting that the their trustees are working hard on new art projects and to better utilise the beach as a result

Play Development in Hastings – Laura Beerling thanked the meeting for allowing her to present the play proposal and was also thanked for attending. She will update further after the summer season.

West of Haven Beach Users – Christine updated that the beach hut users still have not received their annual invoices from the council. Kevin explained that there have been issues and a meeting with finance and legal colleagues had taken place earlier that afternoon, but it is hoped the invoices will be dispatched as soon as possible.

Hastings Lifeguards – Di expressed her thanks to EHSAA for their support. Unfortunately this year is not looking good for the lifeguards as membership is down by 50% but they are still expected to cover all of the same events as last year and more. Work continues to promote the lifeguards, and a number of changes have been made to accommodate the required training courses. The group fully support the work and any support that can be provided will be gratefully received.

Winch Road – Tim queried the use of the road and if general access should be encouraged near the Shipwreck Museum instead. It was suggested that this item become a standing agenda item and that a motion to ask East Sussex County Council how they will meet the needs of those trying to use the area and the needs of the c8000 new users of the area will be met once the new surgery opens.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6pm, Tuesday, 5th June – Muriel Matters House

Meeting closed 19:52

Distribution:

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee