

NOTES OF

Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group Held on Tuesday, 19th June 2018 @ 1800hrs East Hastings Sea Angling Association, Hastings

Present:

Paul Carter (Chair) – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Aaron Woods – HBC (Resort Manager)
Alan Care – Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
Cameron Morley – HBC (Waste & Cleansing Services Manager)
Chris Hoggart – Natural England (part)
Chris Richards – Hastings Adventure Golf
Christine Boulton-Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Cliff Meaden – Epic Life
Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Karl Beaney – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Cllr Leah Levane – HBC (Castle Ward)
Cllr Ruby Cox – HBC (Central St Leonards Ward)
Di Cooke – Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards
Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Hayden Luke – Shipwreck Museum
Hugh Richardson – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
John Bownas – Love Hastings Ltd
Joseph Mitchell – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council
Laurence Bell – White Rock Business Group
Mike Hepworth – HBC (Assistant Director, Environment & Place)
Paul Cosson – HBC (Marketing & Major Projects Manager)
Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society
Peter Wheeler – Hastings District Canoe Club
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership
Allison San Diego – HBC (Secretary)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from:

Cllr Kim Forward – (Vice Chair) HBC, Deputy Leader/Lead Member – Regeneration)
Cllr Dany Louise – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Andre Palfrey-Martin – Save Our Heritage Group
Gerard Loughran – Hastings Arts Forum
Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park

2. ENGLISH COAST PATH

Christopher Hoggart from Natural England attended the meeting to talk about the English Coast path:

- Natural England has started looking at how to improve coastal access around the coast of England
- The work is being done in 59 different sections and it is anticipated that the path will be 4700 miles long once the work is finished
- Paths will be linked up where possible and rolled back as necessary. It is hoped that major infrastructure changes will not be made
- By Spring 2019, a report will be presented to the Secretary of State and a Planning Inspector will visit and consider potential issues
- They are currently consulting on the route between Eastbourne and Camber and it is hoped that towards the end of the year a map will have been produced showing where the paths are
- The implementation phase will then be carried out by the access authority, East Sussex County Council (ESCC)
- Once this is completed there will be a new coastal trail which will be in receipt of government funds which will be used solely for maintaining the path
- Consultation is being carried out with land owners and various groups and Chris is happy to meet interested parties as required. Further information and his contact details will be circulated
- It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda and it will be discussed further at the next meeting

3. LIFEGUARD OPERATION IN HASTINGS

Joseph Mitchell and Hugh Richardson from Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) attended the meeting and spoke about the RNLI lifeguard operation in Hastings:

- The RNLI took over the lifeguard service in Hastings last year. HBC's payment for the service covers wages and RNLI is responsible for providing the necessary uniforms and equipment
- It now also operates in Camber Sands and Bexhill under a separate contract
- The service has been in operation from 26th May and will be carried out on weekends, Bank Holidays and school holidays. From 7th July until the end of September the service will operate daily
- Operational hours are from 10:00 to 18:00, with provision to extend this if there are repeated incidents or high volumes of beach users on any given day
- CUG has previously questioned the red flag policy and it was clarified that as per national RNLI practice, red flags are put up every day but only in patrolled areas when these are deemed to be too dangerous for swimming. There will not be any red flags present in areas not being patrolled, but this would not necessarily mean that the area is safe to swim in
- The meeting expressed its concerns that this conflicts with previous practice and it was further clarified that Foreshore staff are no longer putting up red flags on any parts of the beach to bring its practice in line with that of RNLI. It was recognised that beach users need to be educated. The RNLI intends to

start visiting schools to raise awareness and HBC is also working on proper signage

- Now in its second year of operation, it is intended to properly interact with various local groups. Joseph and Hugh will regularly attend CUG meetings and statistics will be provided to CUG at the end of the season
- Comments and questions about the service are welcome and anyone is welcome to visit RNLi if they wish

4. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING (6th MARCH) (attached)

The notes were accepted as an accurate record subject to one amendment:

Winch Road – Dick advised that a number of abandoned cars are still found parked on the Winch Road. Registration details will be passed to HBC. *19/06 update: details were passed to HBC and the matter is now resolved.*

Matters arising:

- Lawful Development Certificate – has been refused permission. It was confirmed that as of earlier this week, no appeal has been made against this decision
- Stade Amusement Park planning application – has not yet been presented to Planning Committee and is still available online for comments

5. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

a. Charity Committee minutes from 19th March – the minutes were noted

Item 30, Options for Public Art on Foreshore Trust Land – the wording in paragraph 5 would give CUG cause for concern and it was requested that clarification/an amendment be sought. **Action: Kevin**

Item 32, Stade Facilities Management – Kevin advised that it has been confirmed that Sussex Coast College Hastings was appointed, subject to due diligence procedures being completed. Unfortunately, this hasn't progressed as quickly as their management structure has changed. Existing bookings are still being honoured.

b. Seafront Cycle Hire and Deckchairs – Service review

The meeting agreed that the Active Hastings proposal (model 2) would be a great enhancement on the previous service and agreed to fully support the proposal.

The issue of the areas requiring improved access along the seafront was raised and although not covered in the report, has previously been discussed with East Sussex County Council. The meeting agreed that the report should be amended to highlight the issue.

c. White Rock Fountain

The meeting agreed to support the recommendations in the report.

d. Beach Security – Barrier Replacement and Installation

The meeting agreed to support the recommendations in the report.

e. Rock-a-nore Car Park – Feasibility Study and Car Park Stacker Budget

It was recognised that there is a need to take advantage of funding while still available. The feasibility study would help to leverage in more funds from other available sources. It was also noted that more signage is required in the area and the issues should be addressed. The meeting agreed to support the recommendations in the report although minor text amendments should be made to it.

f. Appointment of Grants Advisory Panel Member

The report was noted.

g. Foreshore Trust Financial Report

The report was noted.

h. Agreeing the delivery model for the next Hastings street cleansing service

The meeting agreed its full support for the proposed in-house delivery model.

6. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

a. Harbour Arms Works

Kevin advised the meeting that work is now well underway following the earlier delays. Cornish granite has been delivered and another barge is due to deliver more next week. The work is being monitored as necessary and it is hoped it will be completed by the middle of August.

b. Marina

Kevin advised that there hasn't been any contact with the developers for some time now and there is no update yet on when public consultation will take place.

c. Rock-a-Nore Road

A site visit has been carried out with ward councillors and despite notes being sent to ESCC, a response is still to be received. It was agreed that the access issues should be kept on this agenda, that petition be started and a letter be sent to ESCC to register the group's disappointment regarding the lack of improvements to the area. **Action: Chair**

d. Winch Road

The meeting discussed the difficulties with access in area and it was recognised that both this and Rock-a-Nore Road do not meet disabled user needs. As per the above action, it was agreed to include this in the letter to ESCC. **Action: Chair**

e. External Funding initiatives:

i. Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)

The Hastings Fish Brand work has started and an informal launch will take place in July. The work will support the Seafood and Wine Festival in September, where the formal launch will take place.

ii. Coastal Revival Fund

The HBC Regeneration team is currently looking at suitable options for a project proposal.

iii. Coastal Communities Fund

Work is underway on the 'CCF4' round of funding, which includes the White Rock Fountain.

The meeting acknowledged that a tremendous amount of work is carried out by the Regeneration team and extended its thanks for those involved in the work. Yasmin and Paul Joy were also thanked for their continued work with the team on FLAG.

7. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Draft updated Foreshore Trust Business Plan – it was clarified that this item will be presented to the Charity Committee at a later date. The meeting requested that it is given sufficient time to consider the business plan in a constructive manner.

Bulverhythe Beach – The Shipwreck Museum carry out guided walks of the Amsterdam Wreck and it has been noted that the signage in the area is now out of date. Kevin advised that there may be funds available to have this updated. **Action: Kevin.** Christine advised that the multipurpose track in the area is being renovated

and may be closed for up to six weeks. Despite ESCC promising to advise her when the works were to take place, this did not happen.

Quentin Blake mural – Dick has copies available if anyone wishes to have one.

Isabel Blackman Centre – Dick advised that the centre is subject to further review which is a very harsh thing to do for the groups that run it.

CUG membership – agreed that Groundworks South should be invited to CUG; this will be done via the AGM process.

Boating lake – has been empty for some time now. Kevin advised that there is a crack in the floor. It is hoped that it will be fixed by the end of the month and the lake refilled by 10th July.

Amusement park footpaths – there have been rumours that these have been purchased. This will be clarified and reported to CUG. **Action: Kevin**

White lines on promenade – Kevin clarified that the area between the two kiosks is for shared use and the lines have been removed. The rest of the prom above Bottle Alley area is where there are lines and is not for shared use.

Pier – Peter confirmed that this has been taken over by Sheikh Abid Gulzar. Tomorrow is the 200th birthday of Eugenius Birch and unfortunately will not be celebrated due to the closure of the pier. Peter's team is staying on but most of the staff have now left. Kevin explained that the new owner has met with the local MP and intends to continue with all planned events. HBC has been in touch with him and is hoping to meet with him soon. CUG is interested in what happens, should be kept up to date and it was agreed to invite the new owner to a future CUG meeting.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6pm, Tuesday, 18th September – Muriel Matters House

Meeting closed 19:48

Distribution:

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee