

**NOTES OF
Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group
Held on Tuesday, 18th September 2018 @ 1800hrs
Muriel Matters House, Hastings**

Present:

Paul Carter (Chair) – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Cllr Kim Forward – (Vice Chair) (HBC, Deputy Leader/Lead Member – Regeneration)
Aaron Woods – HBC (Resort Manager)
Andre Palfrey-Martin – Save Our Heritage Group
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
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)
Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Hayden Luke – Shipwreck Museum
Joe Mitchell – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council (Marketing & Major Projects Manager)
Melanie Clark – Hastings and St Leonards Sailing Club
Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society
Peter Wheeler – Hastings District Canoe Club
Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership
Allison San Diego – HBC (Secretary)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from:

Cllr Dany Louise – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Trevor Webb – HBC (Central St Leonards Ward)
Di Cooke – Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards
Gerard Loughran – Hastings Arts Forum
John Bownas – Love Hastings Ltd
Tim Godwin – Hastings Urban Bikes

Strong disappointment and disgust was expressed by the Chair and others at the meeting at the lack of notification and consultation with CUG on the Stade Family Amusement Park planning application. Fortunately, the application was deferred to the next meeting. It was felt that CUG's views are not being taken into account despite the important role that it carries out. The meeting agreed that it has always made its commitment clear and agreed that it was important to register its views.

2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING (19th June)

The notes were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

- Rock-a-Nore Road – Letter was sent to East Sussex County Council to which a reply has been received stating a review of the area is being carried out
- Winch Road – It was suggested that awareness needs to be raised and the appropriate signage needs to be put up as members of the public are not aware that the Winch Road is a service road
- Bulverhythe Beach – funds have been identified and the signage will be replaced and updated as required

3. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

The agenda pack for the Charity Committee meeting of 24th September was noted.

Annual report and final accounts 2017-18 – Anne queried the £15k allocated for landscaping adjacent to the boating lake. Aaron clarified that this relates to the flower beds in the area and is responsibility of the council.

No other comments were made on the papers to be discussed at charity committee on 24th September.

Questions to the charity committee – Dick raised the issue of some questions asked last year not being captured in the minutes of the meeting, one specifically related to finance which has not been evidenced in any financial report. A response should be sought from the charity committee as to how members of the public should raise questions and how will these be answered as it is not appropriate to have to wait until the following AGM to be able to re-raise the question. **Action: Dick to raise at AGM**

4. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

a. Harbour Arms Works

Kevin advised that the work will be completed by mid-October. The rocks that were received in the last delivery were slightly smaller than expected but the placing should be completed by the middle of next month. Liaison continues between the contractors and the fishermen and both parties have commented on how smoothly the work has gone, thanks to cooperation from both parties and other colleagues. There were issues with foreign students climbing onto the rocks which had been sorted within minutes and Kevin assured everyone that the appropriate multi-lingual signage will be put up on the site.

b. Marina

No update was available but Kevin informed the meeting that a petition was presented to the mayor and an update report is being written by Simon Hubbard, Director of Operational Services to take forward to the next HBC Cabinet meeting.

c. Rock-a-Nore Road

In addition to previous meetings and walkabouts with ESCC Councillors, CUG's objections and concerns have been formally logged in writing with ESCC. As there are limitations as to what else can be done by CUG, Dick proposed that the Foreshore Trust is approached for funding to commission an independent disability group to carry out an access study of the area. This was seconded by Anne and agreed by the meeting. **Action: Kevin**

d. Winch Shed Service Road

It has to be recognised that the road is a functional service road and not safe to be walking along. Awareness needs to be raised that the road is not a public highway and should be used at pedestrians' own risk. The old and cluttered signage needs to be improved or replaced with better signage and the general access of the road should be improved.

e. External Funding initiatives

Coastal Communities Fund (CCF)

Funding was received from government for delivery of CCF round 4. CCF4 includes a coaching programme at The Source Park, a social media and design campaign to promote the local area, installing Wi-Fi along the seafront and refurbishment of the White Rock Fountain. The planning application for the fountain is going forward to November Planning Committee and it is hoped the work will start early next year.

An application for CCF5 has been submitted and it is hoped the outcome will be known within the next 2-3 weeks.

The Bottle Alley lighting was funded from CCF3 and has been shortlisted for a national lighting award; the ceremony takes place in November. Andre commented that it is delightful to have such a feature in a community space that once was perceived in a negative way. Cliff advised that there have been issues with drinking and drug taking in the alley and with businesses operating in such ways that their licenses do not permit. Aaron advised that there have not been any recent incident reports and Joe advised that there have not been any rescues made in the area. Details will be passed to HBC for resolution outside of this meeting. **Action: Cliff/Aaron/Kevin**

7. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Planning application: HS/FA/17/01056 – The Stade Family Amusement Park

CLlr Ruby Cox declared an interest as a member of the Planning Committee and left the room.

As CUG is aware, a planning application was submitted. This was due to be heard at HBC Planning Committee, last week on 12th September, but was deferred to next month as a revised plan was submitted. CUG was aware of the previous submission but not of the revised plan. A number of significant changes have been suggested, which the Foreshore Trust should have noticed and consulted and commented on. In addition, when the amusement park's lease was renewed in 2016, a number of required amendments to the land were specified, none of which have been carried out to date.

Strong concerns were expressed that viewpoints should actively be sought from CUG on any Foreshore Trust land matters. Views are being put across by CUG but there is concern that these are not being taken into account nor listened to. It was agreed that the protector needs to be advised of the issues and views of CUG known.

Cllr Forward advised that the notes from the CUG meeting in March noted strong oppositions and that a request would be put forward but unfortunately no action was recorded.

Dick proposed that CUG as a group request to be added to the standard consultee list for any issues relating to Foreshore Trust land. This was seconded by the chair and agreed by the meeting, with no objections. Discussions will be held with the relevant HBC officers. **Action: Kevin**

Anne proposed putting a motion forward objecting to the proposed footpath. This was seconded by Dick and agreed by the meeting, with no objections.

Anne will forward details to Alli, who will submit the objection on behalf of CUG.
Action: Anne/Alli

Net shops area – Steve advised that following the recent improvements, the tarpaulin which is in place now needs trimming. Aaron advised that the contractors will be visiting soon to make further improvements.

Hastings Week programme – Steve advised this is now available after delays following the sad death of Ion Castro.

Fires in the Old Town – there have been two significant fires recently in the Old Town which has resulted in a fire safety event taking place in Stade Hall this coming Sunday from 1-4pm, focusing on chimney fires. In addition, access has once again been raised as an issue in the High Street as private vehicles parked in the street are wider and blocked a fire engine's path.

Outfall pipe – Aaron advised that work continues with Southern Water and other parties to identify short term works to be carried out. Surveys have been carried out and the results are currently awaited. Bathing water in the area has been good but official results have not been received.

Pier – Peter advised that the navigational light at the end of the pier has been damaged and it is hoped that this can be fixed soon.

Red Flag policy – Cliff pointed out that following the last CUG meeting, he has witnessed several members of the public swimming in flagged, potentially dangerous areas. Public awareness needs to be raised to clear up confusion. The meeting was advised that procurement for signage is underway. Another issue raised is that the lifeguards were not consistent in the advice given as to the length of the patrolled areas. Joe confirmed this is 300 metres.

Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards – Christine gave the update on behalf of Di. The club has continued to try to promote it and gain new members and have covered a number of open water events recently. Challenges still exist and the club's survival is still in the balance and there is a desperate need to find a successful way of being recognised for the level of service it provides. Hastings Borough Council has written a letter of support for a funding bid. The RNLi were also working with the voluntary lifeguards. The update will be circulated to CUG.

West of Haven – Christine reminded the meeting that the western part of town is still a part of this group. She expressed her thanks to Aaron as a West of Haven Liaison Group has been set up and it is planned to build on this work in the future.

English Coast Path – Christine met with Christopher Hoggart from Natural England and gave her feedback. Dick advised though that Christopher has since retired and no further meetings have been held.

Bathing pool site – a public meeting is taking place on Tuesday where the latest development plans for the bathing pool site. CUG was made aware as it may be approached for support in the future.

Caravans in West St Leonards – 12 illegally parked caravans were reported today. Aaron advised that work continues between HBC and other colleagues, including discussions between HBC and ESCC leaders, to ensure the correct enforcement actions are carried out. Unfortunately, the bylaws are different for beaches and highways which make enforcement difficult.

Sailing club – Melanie advised that the Foreshore team provided significant help to sort the beach for the sailing club and expressed her thanks at this.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGM – 6pm, Wednesday, 5th December 2018 – EHSAA

Meeting closed 19:41

Distribution:

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee