

**NOTES OF
Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group
Held on Tuesday, 12th March 2019 @ 1800hrs
Muriel Matters House, Hastings**

Present:

Paul Carter (Chair) – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Christine Boulton-Lane (Vice Chair) – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Aaron Woods – HBC (Resort Manager)
Andre Palfrey-Martin – Save Our Heritage Group
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
Christopher May – The Protector, Charity Committee
Cliff Meaden – Epic Life
Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Karl Beaney – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Cllr Kim Forward – (HBC, Deputy Leader/Lead Member – Regeneration)
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
Dominic Richard – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Haydon Luke – Shipwreck Museum
Hugh Richardson – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Laurence Bell – White Rock and America Ground Business Group
Rosie Leech – HBC (FLAG Animator)
Victoria Conheady – HBC (Assistant Director, Regeneration and Culture)
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership
Allison San Diego – HBC (Secretary)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from:

Chief Inspector Sarah Godley – Sussex Police
Cllr Dany Louise – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Joe Mitchell – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Kevin Boorman – HBC (Marketing & Major Projects Manager)
Melanie Clark – Hastings and St Leonards Sailing Club
Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park
Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society

2. FISHERIES LOCAL ACTION GROUP (FLAG) UPDATE

Rosie Leech, FLAG Animator, from HBC attended to give an update:

- FLAG is an EU fund, part of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

- Hastings is one of six FLAGs in England which was awarded £800k, with £600k to be spent on community-led fishery related projects and this is the second round in which it was successful in bidding for the fund
- The primary aspect of Rosie's role is to support applicants to develop funding applications that meet the local development strategy and are eligible under EMFF
- Applications are sent to the FLAG Board (made up of representatives from public, private, voluntary and fishing industry) for approval
- Now into the second year of the three year programme, all projects have now either been approved or awaiting final approval and an additional £40k is required and being requested
- There are a number of projects, some approved and some still awaiting approval. Some of the projects are:
 - Ice maker at the fish market, which is used by the fishing community
 - Health and safety training for the fishing fleet
 - Fit to Fish health training programme
 - Supporting Sustainable Sepia Stock, which included conducting research into cuttlefish egg mortality rates
 - Stade Barriers
 - 2 marine litter projects
 - Aspiring Chefs Academy, led by Education Futures Trust, where students prepare a cheap locally sourced fish dish
 - Hastings Fish Brand, a website and logo has been developed and cooking courses are available at the Classroom on the Coast
- Rosie has been supporting individual fishermen with applications and is willing to help those interested in submitting applications
- A public open meeting will be held in April, to showcase some of the projects and the date will be circulated when confirmed

Previously, ad hoc grants like the ice maker had been approved and clarification is sought on how decisions are made. **Action: Rosie**

Post meeting note: a report was approved by [Charity Committee on 19th March 2018](#)

Rosie was thanked for her attendance and for the work that is being done. She can be contacted at: hastingsflag@hastings.gov.uk if further information is required.

3. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING (5th December AGM)

The notes were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

- Rock-a-Nore Road and Winch Road – all were reminded that information on any work to date, equalities issues, hazards, incidents, impact on the local economy and other relevant information should be forward to Alli for inclusion in the register. **Action: ALL**

4. FEEDBACK FROM ISSUES ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Planning application: HS/FA/17/01009 – The Stade Family Amusement Park

Cllr Levane declared an interest as a member of HBC planning committee and left the chamber.

The Stade Family Amusement Park planning application was approved by the planning committee at its meeting last 6th March.

The meeting expressed its disappointment with the decision. There was general agreement that previously expressed concerns had not been taken into account by the Charity Committee, and further disappointment that despite recent meetings and agreed processes, feedback has not been received from the committee as to why CUG's advice was not taken.

There was also no consultation with CUG before a new lease was granted to the tenant in 2016 and despite disappointment being expressed back at the time, feedback was not received from the committee. Dick proposed that a synopsis of the lease and a brief paper be sought from officers outlining CUG's position as a group under the Charity Committee and what action should be taken if it is not provided with the information it requires in order to make a decision or recommendation to the Foreshore Trust. This was seconded by Christine and agreed by the meeting with no objections.

It was further clarified that any approved applications are expected to comply with conditions that the planning committee would have issued. If anyone is aware that this is not happening with any application, then HBC officers should be informed.

5. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

a. Harbour Arms Works

The main phase of work is now complete. Further re-leveling work has been planned and will take place from 25th March for a couple of weeks, then will continue again later on in the year. Further groyne and beach recycling work will be done. Surveys have been carried out to check if further timbers have to be installed.

b. Marina

No update available.

c. Rock-a-Nore Road

As discussed, information is required from CUG members for inclusion in the register.

The meeting once again discussed the unacceptable condition that the road is in and despite years of discussions, campaigning, frustration and site visits, nothing has been done to improve it. The new surgery will have to submit a scheme for a new pedestrian crossing and tactile paving across the road, but this is as part of the development and will not resolve the problems. There was general agreement that a

patch repair and some tidying up could be carried out and should be requested from East Sussex County Council.

It was agreed that a petition should be created, which was fully supported by the meeting. **Action: Chair.** Once set up, CUG will be informed.

d. Winch Shed Service Road

Contact has been made with East Sussex County Council and the cycle route issue now sorted.

As with the Rock-a-Nore Road issue, CUG members are asked to forward on any details for inclusion in the register. **Action: ALL**

e. External Funding initiatives

No updates at the moment.

6. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

The items were noted by the meeting.

Foreshore Trust Business Plan 2019/20 – 2024/25

- Income of £1.5m was noted by a member of the group – it was highlighted that the grants process is a well established process but any surplus funds need to be spent and welcomed that a larger grant initiative will be set up. Victoria advised that the Grants Advisory Panel will be consulted on the development of this larger grants scheme during the next few months once the business plan has been approved
- Positioning paper – looking at the potential of shifting responsibilities from HBC to the Foreshore Trust was mentioned at the last meeting. It was clarified that the paper considered various aspects, including costs and maintenance over the next ten years which the Foreshore Trust should be paying for going forward. The necessary adjustments have been made in the budget, although this is not articulated in the text of the plan, but reflected in the financial information, spending plan – pages 25 – 32
- Water quality at Pelham Beach – it was explained that Southern Water are carrying out work, including testing of the water to check why the results were not as expected. It has committed to carrying out a programme of works to get the quality of water back to what is expected
- Rock-a-Nore car park – CUG felt that it needs to be resurfaced. Pages 27 and 28 of the business plan shows that funds have been made available for works to the car park, throughout the lifetime of the plan
- Weather kiosk – is not included in the business plan as it is not on Foreshore Trust land. Aaron clarified that this is included in the HBC work plan and inspected annually
- Leisure – watersports and the impact of clubs such as the rowing club, in terms of the blue economy and its importance to the Trust and the town could have been articulated more strongly in the plan

- Toilets at the east of the pier – the toilets are not within the Hastings Act and therefore are unable to be leased to commercial operators. However, interested operators are welcome to submit an expression of interest to HBC as there may be other units available. *Post meeting note:* After seeking clarification please note that this unit has not be offered to the current pier owner, due to the legal position outlined above, as the pier owner is a commercial operator
- The future of the old Pier Hub building within the footprint of the White Rock Baths – was raised and it was clarified that there is a separate report is being taken to the next Charity Committee, and can be found within the CUG papers pack

7. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Caravans at Sea Side Road – there are currently a number of caravans parked in the area, and the problem seems to have spread, which has several impacts, including that of the image of the town. Cllr Forward assured the meeting that HBC officers have been working with partner agencies for some time now although there are wider issues that need to be addressed, not just the moving of the caravans. Action is being taken, a number of notices have been served and court proceedings are taking place. There is also a new project to help individuals to get and sustain tenancies.
- Isabel Blackman Centre – the closure has affected a number of clients and it is understood that not all of them have been offered alternative arrangements. Grant funding is required to continue to run the service
- West of Haven Beach Users – Christine extended her thanks to Aaron and his team for their continued work, including a recent problem with flytipping which is being dealt with
- West Marina Bathing Pool Site – it is recognised that housing is required in the area, but there remains strong opposition to the proposed development of the site. Cllr Forward clarified that the site has been identified for housing within the Hastings Local Plan. Once the developer plans are available, these will be consulted on far and wide and will be shared with CUG. This will be a standing agenda item from this point on
- Amy Godfrey – Amy is leaving HBC and Yasmin and the meeting expressed their thanks to her as she was the first administrator for CUG when it was first established

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGM – 6pm, Tuesday, 11th June 2019 – EHSAA

Meeting closed 19:44

Distribution:

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee