

NOTES OF

Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group Held on Tuesday, 17th September 2019 @ 1800hrs Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings

Present:

Paul Carter (Chair) – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Christine Boulton-Lane (Vice Chair) – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
Cliff Meaden – Epic Life
Cllr Dany Louise – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Ruby Cox – HBC (Central St Leonards Ward)
Dean Baker – Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards
Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
George Barrow – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Hugh Richardson – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Kevin Boorman – HBC (Marketing & Major Projects Manager)
Peter Wheeler – Hastings and District Canoe Club
Pete Heasman – East Sussex Highways
Stuart Beale – East Sussex Highways
Tim McDonald – Shipwreck Museum
Allison San Diego – HBC (Secretary)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

All were welcomed to the meeting and introductions made.

Apologies have been received from:

Andre Palfrey-Martin – Save Our Heritage Group
Chris Richards – Hastings Adventure Golf
Cllr Karl Beaney – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Cllr Kim Forward – HBC (Deputy Leader/Lead Member – Regeneration)
Di Cooke – Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards
Isabel Dorman – Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Lead Lifeguard Supervisor)
Joe Mitchell – Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Area Lifesaving Manager)
John Bownas – Love Hastings Ltd
Laurence Bell – White Rock Business Group
Melanie Clark – Hastings and St Leonards Sailing Club
Nick Fawcett – 1066 Board Riders
Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park
Tim Godwin – Hastings Urban Bikes

2. CYCLE ROUTES – HASTINGS SEAFRONT

Pete Heasman and Stuart Beale from East Sussex Highways presented the cycle route refurbishment proposals for Hastings Seafront:

- East Sussex Highways maintain the highways and cycle routes on behalf of East Sussex County Council
- The National Cycle Network Route 2 is 'owned' by Sustrans and is intended to span between St Austell, Cornwall to Dover, Kent
- The length of the route running through Hastings, along the seafront, is maintained by East Sussex County Council
- The intended refurbishment work will include painting, new and refreshed cycle markings, enhancing existing symbols, lines and signage on the routes, footpaths and pedestrian crossings, installing corduroy slabs where necessary, and installation of a bollard opposite the trampoline area at Pelham
- The works will commence on 30th September and should be completed by the end of the week, weather permitting
- Clarification will be provided on plans to refresh the markings heading west along Albert Road, as it was understood this was a rolling programme. Advice will also be sought regarding the surfacing at West Street, which also needs some attention. **Action: Pete**
- With regards to speed limits, it is recognised that speeding cyclists is an issue and accidents do happen. As part of the assessment of the route, incident reports were requested, but it does not appear that any were reported. Unfortunately there is no enforcement in place, nor can speed limits be introduced. It was clarified that the advisory speed limit on cycle routes is 17mph and a cyclist should use the road if they are intending to exceed this
- Any further questions can be emailed to:
Peter.Heasman@eastsussexhighways.com or
Stuart.Beale@eastsussexhighways.com

3. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING (11TH JUNE)

The notes were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

- None

4. COASTAL AMUSEMENTS AND THE WAY FORWARD

The appeal decision was issued by the Planning Inspectorate in respect of The Stade Family Amusement Park planning application. There was general agreement at the meeting that the best way forward now is to engage with the tenant, Michael Lee, to find out what his plans are for the amusement park.

Concerns remain with regards to the lease and whether the conditions have been carried out.

Disappointment was expressed with the decision, but, as this was not issued by HBC, it was agreed that clarification should be sought as to whether this now supersedes the planning permission issued by HBC. **Action: Kevin**

It was agreed that once the legal position is clarified, the chair will request to meet with the owner and report back to CUG. **Action: Chair**

5. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

The items were noted by the meeting.

All were reminded that Kevin will be formally taking CUG's feedback to Monday's Charity Committee meeting and will seek clarification on any points raised.

2019-2020 Small Events Grants Round 1 recommendation report

- Dick declared an interest as the Storytelling Festival is a Foreshore Trust grant recipient

Annual report and final accounts 2018-19

- Bathing water quality – Dick asked that clarification be sought on what independent checks are being done on the bathing water quality and what the Foreshore Trust is doing to ensure these checks are being carried out
- Water play facility – Dick asked if an update is available as water play features in the business plan but does not seem to get any further than this
- Special responsibility allowance of £6,512 paid to the Chair of the Charity Committee – it was originally understood that trustees cannot receive any expenses. Anne asked that clarification be sought as to whether this is acceptable to the Charity Commission?

Finance report (quarterly monitoring)

- Dick asked that clarification be sought on the anticipated deficit; is this due to a lack of income or increase in expenditure? Is the Foreshore Trust comfortable with this?

6. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

a. Rock-a-Nore Road

Petition is underway.

b. Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards

Dean thanked everyone who has supported the lifeguards and helped raise funds. The written update from Di Cooke will be circulated with the notes of the meeting. With regards to a new engine, it was recommended that contact be made with Border Force or the Coastguard, as they may have spares available.

c. West Marina Bathing Pool site

It is not clear if a lease has been granted. The strong view still remains that the site should remain as it is and any development would result in a potential loss of parking in the area. There will be a stall at the 'Big Green Fair' taking place on The Stade on 29th September between 11:00-16:00, where information will be available. (Please note that the correct date is 29th September, not 28th as discussed).

d. Caravans – Sea Road

Problems still continue in the area. Kevin advised that the necessary actions are being taken and court dates are awaited in order to move the current occupants.

Kevin also explained that recent occupants of The Stade were moved on quickly as the police were able to use special powers. Kevin was thanked for his participation in the process.

e. External funding initiatives

HBC has been invited to apply for the 'Stronger Town Fund' but this is not specifically related to the Foreshore Trust.

In terms of marine defence work at the west of the pier, marine engineers from Canterbury have been commissioned to do the necessary analysis and a programme of work will be drawn up.

7. MEMBER UPDATES/ ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- East Hastings Sea Angling Association – the good news is that EHSAA has become an internet sensation, featuring on YouTube videos where bikers have been jumping on the pitch roof. Whilst this is good publicity, it is highly recognised that this is very dangerous and the chair expressed concerns as to where the liability lies if someone gets injured
- RNLI statistics – Hugh updated on statistics for this season: 23 missing children and adults at Marina, Pelham and Pier, 22 minor first aid treatments, 5 major first aid treatments, 15 assists, 6 rescues and 4 lives saved. With regards to the flag policy, it was clarified that the current information is available on both HBC and RNLI websites
- Cycling routes – Christine asked that if possible, the net paving in the West of Haven area be kept as is as it helps deter cyclists from speeding
- New exhibitions – Anne advised that new exhibitions on net shops will be available until next Old Town week
- Isabel Blackman petition – Dick asked that CUG members sign the petition. This can also be completed online via East Sussex County Council petitions
- Storytelling festival – Dick advised this is taking place at The Stade on 5th Oct
- Seafood and Wine Festival – Kevin thanked everyone for their support last weekend, which was a very busy and successful event

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGM:

6pm, Tuesday, 3rd December – East Hastings Sea Angling Association

All were advised to give early consideration to nominations, membership and any other changes that may have to be carried out. A reminder will be sent out nearer the time.

Meeting closed 19:35

Distribution:

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee