

## **Appendix 1: FST Business Plan Achievements 2019/20**

### **Refurbishment of White Rock Water Feature**

Following the refurbishment of the White Rock Baths in 2016 and the opening of the Source Park as a BMX and skateboard venue, the water feature above the building remained a key eyesore in this area of the promenade. The Council, as trustee was successful in securing funding from the fourth round of the national Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) to replace the redundant fountain with new feature for enjoyment on the Hastings seafront.

The new feature, titled 'Sea Mist', creates a new destination space at the promenade and complements existing adjacent assets. It uses high-quality long-lasting materials, specifically for the misters and paving which will be subject to coastal elements and regular water coverage from the mister jets. Substantial waterproofing to the fountain space/roof structure provided, thereby further mitigating against water ingress into The Source Park below. Programming feature for the misters to turn on/off, thereby minimising water usage and option to turn off overnight. The feature includes a good-sized mobility access plaza space – enhancing the objective of creating a destination and a social space.

Additional funding totaling £79,000 was obtained from the CCF programme to complete the refurbishment and restoration of the feature was completed in early April 2020. Formal opening of the new water feature will be delayed until COVID 19 lockdown restrictions are lifted.

### **Car Parks**

This was the first year of increased budget for the Seasonal Rock a Nore Car Park Stackers. This meant that they were in post for the busy Easter Period. This worked well through the whole summer season and there were no repeats of the serious congestion issues seen in previous years. The staff who worked this year had been in post in previous years and received numerous thanks for the role that they performed and the manner that they did this in.

Hastings Borough Council's CCTV control room at Muriel Matters House has been closed (March 2020) due to budget restrictions and alternative monitoring arrangements for the car parks are currently being explored.

## Grounds Maintenance

There are no significant changes to the foreshore grounds maintenance contract. For the Trust, the annual cost of seafront grounds maintenance has reduced. The ground maintenance contract has been operated by Idverde since 2016.

## The Stade

**Stade Hall** is now operated by the East Sussex College Group – their plans for the building includes commercial lettings and activities, adult education for community partners project and advanced learners project, offering ‘level 3’ bespoke fish mongering, butchery and patisserie courses.

The college had also agreed to a significant community element working with Hastings Voluntary Action to promote volunteering opportunities for long term unemployed, working with Billingsgate seafood training school and the Foreshore Trust to develop a programme with school involvement to promote sea food cooking; linking with community partners; and offering employability skills, and apprenticeship qualifications, at Stade Hall.

Please note that not all the above activities have commenced as the new arrangements are still in the early phase of the operating agreement.

**Stade open space** - during 19/20 there were 23 bookings for the Stade open space. Due to the COVID 19 lockdown activities during 20/21 are likely to be minimal.

**Maintenance and repair work** – during the year the automatic barrier providing access to RNLI lifeboat station was replaced and a new barrier was installed by the Angling Club. Fob access has been given to the RNLI, Fishermen and Club members to access the Blue Stade.

**Herring Fair on the Open Space** – the 2019 Herring Fair was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November, in an attempt to extend the tourism season in Hastings. This was the eighth year of the event and was for the first time funded by the FST due to the community nature of this event, support of the local fishing industry and the fact that it does attract some visitors from outside town which generates income for the Trust from car parking charges during the ‘off season’. Although the Fair was successful in 2019 it failed to break even, and the Charity Committee has decided not to fund the event in the future taking into consideration the cost, impact and dependence on the weather for success.

## Promenade and Beach

**Hastings Fisheries Local Action Group Programme 2017/19** – the FLAG programme came to an end in March 2020.

The three-year programme engaged with 14 different organisations to successfully deliver 18 projects across 3 themes of (i) creating a sustainable fleet and supply chain, (ii) the environment and (iii) the place. The majority of targets for each project were achieved and overall there was a 95% spend on allocated budget.

This achievement was publicly recognised at the end of programme event, where three very diverse projects showcased their successes and the overall impact to the industry and local community was celebrated. The *Supporting Sustainable Sepia Stocks* project studied cuttlefish eggs and produced reports that include recommendations to increase sustainability of egg survival post-fishing. The *Fit to Fish* project engaged the local community and raised awareness of health and wellbeing. The *Aspiring Chefs' Academy* project educated and trained 35 young people in the fishing industry. The *Hastings Fish Brand* project has supported over 40 local businesses in establishing a fish brand that will continue beyond the project. The *Icemaker* project has ensured that ice is available for fishermen, suppliers and wholesalers in Hastings Fish Market maintaining the quality and freshness of the local catch.

Although the future of FLAG funding is currently unknown, the Hastings FLAG Board agreed to continue to meet following the end of the programme, to maintain partnership working and to stay aware of the ongoing issues in the industry.

**Lifeguard Service** - as a result of the success of the pilot, at the charity committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 the committee agreed unanimously to enter into a three-year contract with the RNLI to provide the Hastings lifeguard service. A number of 'tweaks' were made to the service following the pilot, including earlier starts at all three sites – Pelham, Pier, and Marina. 2019 was the second full year of the three-year contract.

During 2019 on Hastings beaches the lifeguards saved four lives, rescued seven people, assisted sixteen, performed major first aid on five casualties and minor first aid on 22. This is the first time that the RNLI lifeguards' intervention has been classified as 'saving lives' at Hastings and is the most serious form of intervention: - without the action of the lifeguards, four people may have drowned. In addition, some 14 230 members of the public were engaged with on 'preventative actions' (an action described as 'an action conducted by the lifeguard team to prevent persons coming into contact with harm including; PA announcements, moving flags, displaying safety signage, educating beach users').

All the RNLI's key performance indicators were met and no complaints were received about the service, either by the RNLI or by HBC.

**Public art project initiation** - The Foreshore Trust Seafront Arts Programme was agreed and is being delivered by Sweet and Dandy Ltd. In its first stage, a series of workshops were held involving three Hastings secondary schools, East Sussex College Hastings and the Eggtooth youth project.

The workshops explored issues around sea and beach pollution by plastics and articulating them in artistic designs, artwork and sculptures. These sessions have been ongoing since November 19 and will continue until July 2020 (subject to COVID restrictions). The workshops are led by artists Peter Quinnell, Leigh Dyer and Sarah Evans and are currently engaging the participants in ways to raise public awareness of the biggest major plastic pollutant, cigarette butts, through public art in the form of a public art piece and related campaigns along the seafront, to be delivered in the Autumn of 2020 (again subject to lifting of COVID 19 restrictions).

**Cycle and deck chair hire 2019 concession** - The Cycle Hire Hut operated for 46 days between 25th May to 22nd September 2019. 235 bikes and 413 deck chairs were hired in this period. Cycle maintenance and replacement costs were a lot higher than expected. The trust also agreed to the use of the electric bikes from the Seaside Cycle Hire for a short-term trial which encourages local work-related journeys, encouraging the switch from car to electric bike. This proposed trial is aimed at council staff and would rely on additional use of the bikes when the Cycle Hut is closed or possibility at off-peak times. If the trial is successful, then there is potential to investigate external funding for a more permanent scheme.

**Street and beach cleansing** – two FLAG funded projects to address issues of marine litter were awarded during the year. 1 HBC led project ‘Save our seas’ ran through the summer – including seafront posters and banners, social media and the installation of new beach litter bins on the promenade and a pilot of branded beach-based bins.

The second community led – behavioural change and marketing campaign to reduce the amount of litter discarded thoughtlessly. This project was led by the Marine Conservation Society which worked with local schools to teach children about marine litter, it’s impact and how to take care of the marine environment.

**Quality Coast Award/Blue Flag status** – the council achieved re-certification of Blue flag achieved for 2019 at Marina, Seaside Award achieved for both Marina and Pelham.

**Hastings Harbour Arm** – works to the Hastings Harbour Arm was completed in February 2019. The Harbour Arm is a very important structure on the seafront as it retains beach material that protects the fishing fleet and the town from flooding. The works involved encasing the existing Hastings Harbour Arm in armour rock to help protect it from further deterioration.

## FST Grants Programme (projects supported during 2019 – 2020)

<b>Foreshore Trust Events Grant Programme - 2019-20</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project Name and Aim</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>
Creative Space Science CIC	Space at the Stade - astronomy accessible to all	£2,000
Energise Sussex Coast	Sustainability on Sea Festival Event	£2,000
The Groundwork South Trust Ltd	Nature Holiday Club Activities on Bulverhythe Beach	£1,992
Hastings Storytelling Festival Ltd	Hastings Storytelling Festival Free Children's Day	£2,000
IdolRich TheatreRotto	The Dinosaur's Egg	£2,000
18 Hours Ltd	Journeys Dance Festival: 'Ballroom Dance at the Stade'	£2,000
Seaview	The Big Sleep 2019	£2,000
St Leonards Festival	St Leonards Festival 2019	£2,000
	Total	<b>£15,992</b>
<b>Foreshore Trust Small &amp; Events Grant Pilot Round 1 2019-20 - Approved</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project Name and Aim</b>	<b>Amount agreed</b>
Actors of Dionysus (aod)	Greek drama workshop project	£1,449.00
Hastings & St Leonards CAP Debt Advice	Relief & prevention of poverty caused by debt	£4,800.00
CDA for Family Support Work	Active Horizons at Family Support Work (FSW)	£4,000.00
Counselling Plus Community	Supporting Positive Mental Health of Local Young People	£3,000.00
Hastings & Rother YMCA	Replace the Windows of the Art Shack and add a Portable Ramp	£4,566.00
Hastings Arts Forum Ltd	"Drawn to Life" Big Draw weekend	£2,301.89
Hastings Fat Tuesday Ltd	Umbrella Parade and pre-parade workshops	£2,927.50
Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society	Project BEACHED	£4,760.00
Hastings Furniture Service	Workshop on Wheels (WoW)	£6,000.00
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity Hastings	Safehaven Men	£3,865.00
Sussex Prisoners' Families	Sussex Prisoners' Families	£5,800.00
The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)	Hastings Health Walks	£3,000
The Athelstan Nursery	Communication and Language friendly space for families	£6,000.00
The Sara Lee Trust	Provision of free specialist counselling and complementary therapy	£2,000
Xtrax (Hastings and Rother Drop-In Centre)	Reaching Young People	£4,268.00
	Total	<b>£58,737.39</b>