

**NOTES OF
Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group
Held on Tuesday, 7th July 2020 @ 18:00hrs
Via Microsoft Teams**

Present:

Paul Carter – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Aaron Woods – Hastings Borough Council
Andrew Davy – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
Christine Boulton-Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Chris Richards – Hastings Adventure Golf
Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Leah Levane – HBC (Castle Ward)
Cllr Margi O'Callaghan – Charity Committee Chair and HBC (Silverhill Ward)
Cllr Trevor Webb – HBC (Central St. Leonards)
Di Cooke – Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards
Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
James Cook – Charity Committee Protector
Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council
Melanie Clark – Hastings and St. Leonards Sailing Club
Nick Fawcett – 1066 Boardriders
Peter Wheeler – Hastings District Canoe Club
Simon Terry – Hastings and St. Leonards Sailing Club
Tanya Szendeffy – Hastings and St. Leonards Sailing Club
Allison San Diego – Hastings Borough Council (notes)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies were received from:

CI Sarah Godley – Sussex Police
Cllr Dany Louise – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Karl Beaney – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Cllr Ruby Cox – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership

2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING (10TH MARCH)

The notes were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

Liaison Officer post – an appointment was made, but unfortunately, COVID-19 happened. This is now on hold until COVID-19 recovery is more advanced. The CUG position remains unchanged and the principle is still supported but only when circumstances allow to recruit the right person.

3. FEEDBACK FROM ISSUES ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Planning Consultation: HS/FA/20/00355 – The Stade Family Amusement Park, The Stade, Hastings, TN34 3AR

The planning application is for removal of galvanised Heras fencing to be replaced with blue iron curved fencing.

It is understood that there is a blue line on the map which does apply to the boundary of the site. It has been clarified that the area to be fenced off is within the red line.

The meeting indicated its support for the application, provided the fencing is kept within the boundaries of the red line as indicated on the map. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

CUGs comments and support for the application will be submitted to HBC's Planning team. **Action: Allison**

4. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

The reports were noted.

Kevin explained that due to the COVID-19 overtook all work at HBC and therefore, there are limited reports going forward at this stage. Until HBC can take stock of its losses, it will be doing minimal work on non-essential areas.

It has been noted that some public toilets have now been opened as lockdown has eased, but with limited opening hours. Kevin explained that cleaning resources have been redeployed to clean those that are open more often, i.e. every one to two hours. The lack of access to clean water elsewhere was discussed and it was suggested that outside basins could be installed where required. Aaron explained that all seafront drinking fountains had to be closed and there have been issues with people asking when these would be made available to wash their hands in, which of course, is not appropriate. It has been difficult to keep the balance right and follow government guidelines, especially as these keep changing.

The meeting proposed and agreed putting forward a request to HBC to have the toilets open for as long as possible of an evening, as they normally are in the summer.

With regards to CCTV monitoring being cut, Kevin explained that the running costs of this service were very high and if it was to be re-instated, savings would have to be found elsewhere within the budget. CCTV is also monitored locally by Sussex Police. Some CUG members also monitor the situation locally with their own CCTV systems and liaise with the police when necessary. Andrew offered to liaise with Kevin and HBC outside of this meeting as he may be able to help, based on his previous experience working as Maidstone's Business Improvement District chair.

5. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

Coastal sea defence work – Aaron advised that the outline business case and funding for phase 3 of the work has been approved. This phase of the work is to upgrade the groynes from the Pier to West St. Leonards and will progress this financial year. An update will be provided when available.

RNLI Lifeguards – Kevin advised that the lifeguards are only currently operating at Pelham beach and it is hoped that operations will start at the Marina in 2-3 weeks time.

Thank you to HBC – Dick suggested that CUG should pass its thanks to council officers and councillors for all of their work and efforts during the last couple of months. Christine provided her thanks to the Foreshore staff who have been doing an amazing job. Chris also noted his thanks as the business support grant funds were issued within a few days, whereas it has been reported that for other areas it had taken weeks. Agreed unanimously.

6. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Call for projects – Kevin explained that as part of government recovery plans, a call for quick win capital projects that can be delivered by 31st March 2021, has been opened. Up to £1m of capital funding is available. Kevin asked CUG members to get in touch with him in the next few days with details if possible. **Action: ALL** The press release will be circulated. **Action: Kevin/Allison**

Tourism – as CUG members are aware, the pandemic has been a particularly difficult time for local tourism. Kevin explained that HBC and partners are doing their best to assist local businesses and asked if anyone has any concerns to raise to please contact him.

Isabel Blackman Centre – Dick updated that a £45k deposit has been made towards the purchase of the building. He was congratulated on the work carried out on this.

Beach hut fees for next year – Christine asked that as people have not been able to use their huts so far this year, perhaps HBC could consider not increasing the fees for next year.

Bathing Pool Site – Christine also asked if HBC could re-consider the proposal as it is more important than ever to consider what is done with our local seafront.

Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards – Di explained that the lifeguards have not been able to do any work until recently but some lifeguards have been training and finished their first assessments today and all are doing a selection day tomorrow to work for the RNLI, here and at Camber. All of the theory training was completed online via Zoom over three days and then the practical work was completed in smaller groups. Di also thanked Kevin for his quick response in providing the local authority permission in order for the lifeguards to be able to carry out their activities in the sea. Thankfully the governing body has removed the requirement to do any pool work and the fitness requirement has moved to an outside one. It is hoped that another course can be carried out later in the Summer. The lifeguards have also started to

promote swimming, with a few members and booking will be required in order to keep the numbers down.

Fishermen's Museum – Anne updated that as of 18th July, the museum will be open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons only. It has also been noted that there have been issues with someone sleeping in the boats, although it is not sure if Aaron's team has noticed this, and that there has been confusion around open space next to museum.

Old Town Carnival – Anne explained this is going ahead virtually and details will be advertised. It is also hoped that the History House will be open in time for this.

Adventure Golf – Chris advised that the site managed to open earlier, as there was a natural one-way system which could be operated safely. Staff training had also been enhanced. It has been noted that although customers have been following guidelines, it has been difficult but manageable. 30 members of staff have returned to work, although 3 are still on furlough. The meeting welcomed this good news.

Foreshore team and West Hill Cliff Railway – Aaron updated that the Foreshore team continued working throughout lockdown, although there were minor issues with staff having to shield, but it is now back up to full strength and they can be contacted if there are any issues. The West Hill Cliff railway has re-opened and two metre social distancing is being observed where possible, although only one metre is possible in in the carriages. The queuing system has been changed to ensure minimal time is spent there by customers. Continued monitoring will take place and changes made over time.

Wardens – Cllr Levane suggested a future agenda item to discuss coordination between the three teams of wardens operating in Hastings: Foreshore Trust, Business Improvement District and HBC.

1066 Boardriders – had discussed setting up a base area for the Boardriders. Aaron advised that there have been various challenges for sporting facilities due to social distancing and this will be discussed further outside of this meeting.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18:00, Tuesday, 15th September. Venue to be confirmed.

The chair thanked everyone for their contributions, and it is hoped that by the next meeting, things will have improved and a face to face meeting can be held. CUG members should feel free to contact him at any time if they have any matters to discuss.

Meeting closed 18:59

Distribution:

Hastings and St. Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee