

# Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

## East Hastings Sea Angling Association 1800 hrs

Present:

Paul Carter, East Hastings Sea Angling Association, Chair  
Christine Boulton-Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association, Vice Chair  
Chris Richards – Hastings Adventure Golf  
Yasmin Ornsby, Hastings Fishermens Protection Society/Stade Partnership  
Di Cooke – Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards  
Laurence Bell, Hastings Rowing Club & White Rock Hotel  
Andy Davey – RNLI  
Sarah Milne - RNLI  
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society/Fishermen's Museum  
Cllr Karl Beaney – Hastings Borough Council  
Steve Peak, Friends of the Country Park  
Cllr Judy Rogers – Hastings Borough Council  
Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council  
Abbie Williams – Hastings Borough Council  
Sarah Crosby – Hastings Borough Council (notes)

### 1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from - Paul Joy (HFPS), Cliff Meaden (Windsurfing/Epic Life), Cllr Andy Batsford (HBC), James Cook (Protector), John Bownas (BID), Aaron Woods (HBC), Peter Wheeler (Hastings Canoe Club), Hugh Richardson (RNLI), Melanie Clark (Sailing Club) and Dick Edwards (Old Town Residents Assoc)

**Post Meeting note – Hastings Old Town Residents Assoc has now formally disbanded, so Dick has retired from CUG. Sincere thanks to Dick for his contribution to CUG over the years.**

### 2 MEMBER UPDATES

Kevin Boorman mentioned that it is Midsummer Fish Festival this coming weekend on the Stade Open Space.

Cllr Judy Rogers reported that work on the old Debenhams building is progressing well and they hope to open at the end of July. Happy Harold will be out this coming Saturday for trips.

Chris reported good visitor numbers this year. Compared to 2019 they are up by 8% and weather has been good too. They held the World Championships in June and saw the highest number of entries, which created a good number of overnight stays. It will be the championships 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year.

Anne has been busy working on the Old Town Carnival Week programme. There was discussion about Tug–O–War and although it is going ahead it will not be included in the programme.

Sarah reported that she has been busy with water safety. They now have a full team of water advisors and working with organisations including the sailing club and swimming groups. They

joined in the Water Taster weekend which was very good. They will take part in Pirate Day giving out water safety messages and sand art. On August 13<sup>th</sup> they will be doing similar. They are going into schools and giving out general advice on the beach, especially as they are noticing a lot more inflatables, paddleboards and swimming in the sea that are being rescued. Tombstoning has also picked up. Also looking to working with businesses.

Andy reported similar issues with increased number of rescues for inflatables, paddleboards, swimmers etc needing rescuing, alongside the recent tombstoning that is taking place. Also had to deal with a jet skier from London riding fast and inshore, not aware of the rules so being kept busy. Their visitor numbers are high, and they are getting a lot of requests from schools etc for tours but do not have the resources to accommodate them all so are having to juggle this demand. On Sunday both boats will be out scattering ashes. Migrant numbers/rescues for the Hastings boat have dropped but know that the Border Force and Navy are keeping busy.

Steve is worried about the erosion of the beach and cliff following accumulation of shingle. Beach level has dropped to its lowest ever known and eating into the cliff. Would like to know who is organising anything to be carried out for this. Kevin explained that they have written to the marine experts at Canterbury following our last meeting for advice.

Andy then explained he has just spent £30k on propellers for two boats because of the beach issues. Kevin will pursue with marine experts at Canterbury.

Melanie sent in a written report – Watersports Festival 2023

*The Hastings & St Leonards Sailing Club held a mini water sports club taster session and information day on Saturday 28th May. The event was highly successful albeit we were blessed with sunshine and good winds which of course was conducive to a perfect day. Between 10-2 we had approx. 100 taster sessions of both sailing and kayaking and received a number of donations towards our changing room project which was an added bonus. We felt that as the event was not run over the actual bank holiday weekend we achieved far more contact with the local community than in previous years. I would ask that the Council and other water sport/ sea activity members look to arranging a joint festival in 2023 and maybe this could be discussed at the next CUG.*

Kevin explained that Hastings Borough Council has no budget for new events but would be happy to help facilitate this and advertise the event. Suggestion of a small working user group be set up. Laurence thought this was a good idea and would send a member from the rowing club and paddleboarding.

Abbie informed members that round six of event grants was now available and will send the link round to all members. Suggested that this grant could be used for Water Festival 2023.

Paul reported that the club has been very busy recently but difficult to compare with financial years, but from 2018 they are up 35%. The club is now being used more as a community facility, which is good, but does increase the wear and tear costs.

Last year they set up junior angling on a Wednesday evening on the beach, and it started with around 8-9 attending. They now are so busy they have 7 instructors and more requests still coming in. Sarah from RNLI suggested coming to give a talk to the group.

Paul also informed the group that one of his members sadly passed away. It was Brian who had all the steam engines in the garage. Understand that in due course they are being donated to a museum.

Laurence reported that the Rowing club held a regatta a few weeks ago and went very well. They would like to get involved in the Water Sports event next year. He also reported that they have had to deal with squatters in one of their premises, which has not been an easy process.

### 3 FEEDBACK FROM ISSUES ARISING SINCE LAST MEETING

#### Constitution

The constitution group recently finalised their new document and this was circulated to all members for their information. The group were happy to adopt the new paper.

#### Beach Issues

As agreed, Kevin will chase up the marine experts.

Di explained that it was becoming a daily issue. They are helping to cover several events including those on the Pier and recently crew have had to hold off coming ashore until it is a good state of tide, which means long hours for the staff. They cannot say no to covering the events as this is how they raise their money for much needed new equipment. The beach is too steep for their quad bike in many cases.

Paul agreed that it changes daily. They can send the flatten in at 1600 hours and then at 0500 hours its too high again.

RNLI believe that too much shingle was moved this year, as they have never had to launch so much on the east side, but there is no water on the west side, the slope is so bad as the shingle has been taken away.

Agreed that there is no easy answer, and that may have to adapt the way we all work in the future. Part is due to nature/climate change but would still like to see the expert's advice.

Steve explained its letting shingle build up on the harbour arm, which stops shingle move on its long shore drift.

Kevin explained the issue is that if the harbour arm had not been put in place, it would have caused major problems in town, causing the town centre to be flooded as its below sea level, and as already mentioned, will chase the experts. **Post meeting note, CUG members will have seen an update from Liam at Canterbury Council in response to this.**

#### Big Wheel

Members asked for an update on the big wheel that has been left on the beach. Kevin explained that he has many times by phone and email to get this sorted. The group asked if enforcement action could be taken. Kevin to follow up.

### 4 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

#### Stade Footpath

As mentioned in this meeting before, there is no legal power for the footpath to be reopened and there have been continued promises that it will be reopen once the work has completed. It was also mentioned that the heras fencing around the amusement site is not looking good, and clearly is not temporary. They have started work on site so are within their planning permission timeline. It was felt that the fencing was not appropriate for a conservation area. Anne to look at background detail again about the footpath and Kevin to liaise with planning colleagues and also look at enforcement with legal again.

Also agreed that a letter from CUG be sent to him with all the groups concerns/issues. Paul will draft a letter, which Cllr Rogers will then take to planning enforcement.

#### Net shop Maintenance

Steve asked to see the programme of works.

Kevin explained that urgent works back in April have been commissioned but there is no programme available. There is commercial discussion with HFPS and Hastings Borough Council on going which is not available publicly. Steve disagreed that it was a commercial matter and would like to see a copy of the programmed works.

#### Adventure Golf

Chris explained to the group that he has planning permission for the works but has been given a lot of conditions to follow which work is now underway for. It involves a lot of tests on the land etc, and he is working very closely with Westridge, their preferred contractor, but work is progressing well. He has had to apply for Foreshore Trust for landlords' permission. Would like to have the work starting in October this year. The planning committee meeting was delayed in February to June which also caused a delay in the works. He will ensure the building is completed to a high standard.

Kevin explained that CUG was a sounding board for property decisions on Foreshore Trust land and the Charity Committee and it is required to have an input on all developments. Kevin asked the view of CUG on the new building.

Chris left the room for the discussion/decision.

Some members commented they would have to abstain due to not being able to consult the groups they represent on CUG which was noted. Kevin also reported it has been referred to CUG at previous meetings, and has recently gone through the planning committee which was available to all.

The vote for whether CUG approved the use of land for the development was:

For x 4

Against x 0

Abstained x 5

Therefore, no objections were made and agreed that Chris has been excellent in updating the group on the development.

Chris was invited back to meeting and was told of the decision. He thanked the group.

Kevin also highlighted that member are on CUG to represent their group and the agenda is circulated in advance of the meeting to allow members to talk to their relevant colleagues for any matters on the agenda

#### Rock-a-Nore Storm water outfall

At a recent meeting Southern Water (SW) gave a presentation and was asked about the water outfall. SW did not know if it was still in use and reported that they would find out and let us know. No information has been received. Kevin to chase SW and report back.

#### Beach Hut Sites/Tent Dwellers/Dog Bylaws

Christine reported on the beach hut site with water issues and tent dwellers.

She has spent a lot of time with SW following the incident last year, and still meeting them on site as they now want to carry out work laying new sewer pipes. The new pipe is 2km long and is from the treatment centre to the pumping station. It was suggested that this would happen in the summer which is not felt acceptable. They have an AGM this coming Sunday which SW are unable to attend along with officers from Hastings Borough Council but their local Cllr is coming. They want answers to what, why, when and how they will be carrying out the work and were promised maps/details but nothing has been received. It was felt that SW treatment has been indefensible, and there is still no news of compensation from last year. If there is to be serious disruption to the site, then beach hut owners need to be consulted.

Kevin knows that the maps/details are being chased as he and Aaron met with SW a couple of weeks ago. The paperwork needed to be updated and Aaron is continuing to chase. He thought that it would take a while before work started on site and not likely until at least October, and paperwork will be sent as soon as it received, but not sure if it will be available for AGM.

They have also had issues with tent dwellers on site. It has taken nearly three years to get one to move, the problem is that as soon as the paperwork starts to be submitted for enforcement, they move from that area and the whole process has to start again. It's a difficult area as they are under civic offence and not criminal offence. Proceedings are not easy as human right considerations etc have to be considered along with other checks and balances.

Dog control orders were not renewed and causing issues around the huts as owners are not picking up after their dog, and some are not on leads. Kevin explained that there papers were going forward to the next Cabinet meeting in August.

Christine asked if the council could contact every beach hut owner and explain to them the latest position. It was not for her a Chair of the beach hut users to do this. Kevin to ask Aaron to update beach hut users of these events.

### Bathing Pool

Christine gave an update on the Bathing Pool site which has been raised before at CUG. There have been no further changes from the last meeting as the developer is carrying out surveys. After this there will be full consultation. There was uncertainty when the consultation would start. Cllr Rogers to ask for an update at next group meeting.

### Stade Partnership

Agreed that as this group has been dormant for quite a while, it would meet again to see all the options to start up again or dissolve. It was felt that some of the issues at CUG are more appropriate for Stade Partnership. Yasmin is Chair and will set up a date to meet with Paul, Anne, Kevin, and RNLI.

## **5 NEW MEMBER NOMINATION**

The below nomination was made for Mat McDonnell to join CUV

*“Thank you for taking the time to try and include us on the CUG. Important to note that this nomination isn't for me, Matt McDonnell alone - this is for representation of the Bike Lab community bike workshop with premises directly on the foreshore warrior square east of Oscars and Goat Ledge.*

*We do not claim to speak for all people on bikes - although we come into contact and listen to many of them - or align ourselves with any campaigns necessarily. We help people reuse, repair and ride bikes from our place on the seafront. Volunteer run, donation based. That's it. Given that the only piece of existing infrastructure (if you can call a painted line and 300 yards*

*of tarmac infrastructure) for bikes is along the coast it feels like we should get a space on this group for that as-well as being tenant leaseholder on the coast.*

*Hope that makes sense.*

*All the best,*

*Mat McDonnell - mechanic, coordinator, volunteer”*

This nomination was voted on and agreed unanimously for him to be part of CUG.

## **6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Watersport Festival but already mentioned under member reports.

## **7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

As the Foreshore Trust Charity Committee papers were not available as the meeting has been postponed to July, it was agreed that the papers be circulated once available and any responses would be taken by email, unless an emergency meeting was needed.

Next CUG meeting likely to be end of September.

Paul thanked everyone for their input.

The meeting closed at 1940