

# **NOTES of Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th June 2015 @ 1800hrs.**

## **Present:**

Laurence Bell, White Rock & America Ground Business Group  
Jill Bradley, HOTRA  
Alan Care, Hastings & Rother Disability Forum  
Paul Carter, East Hastings Angling Association (*Chair*)  
Kevin Boorman, HBC Head of Marketing & Communications  
Christine Boulton-Lane, West of Haven Beach Users Association  
Di Cooke, Hastings Lifeguards  
Virginia Gilbert, HBC Head of Amenities, Resorts & Leisure Services  
Cllr. Mike Howard, HBC (West St. Leonards Ward)  
Cherry Longley, HBC  
Cliff Meaden, Hastings Windsurfing  
Simon Opie, Hastings Pier Charity  
Yasmin Ornsby, Stade Partnership  
Steve Peak, Friends of Hastings Country Park  
Councillor Dawn Poole, HBC (Old Hastings Ward and Lead Member for Amenities, Resorts & Leisure Services)  
Chris Richards, Hastings Adventure Golf  
Nick Sangster, HBC Resort Services Manager  
Anne Scott, Old Hastings Preservation Society  
Cllr. Trevor Webb, HBC (Central St. Leonards Ward)

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Andre Palfrey-Martin, Save our Heritage  
Brendon McDonagh, Hotels and Tourism Association  
Jan Sellers, Fishermen's Museum

## **2. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE**

### **2.1 Bathing Water Quality Update**

VG advised that the final pre-summer water purification was installed in Alexandra Park (floating islands/planting etc.). The last 3 weeks of water quality monitoring have all been excellent. It appears therefore that the efforts of HBC/EA/SW partnership seem to be producing the results required. In September a little further work in the Park will take place between the lower ponds etc. to further slow down the ebb and flow of water. NS commented that raising the awareness of the public has also assisted greatly. Noted that monitoring for the summer season ends in September with results published in November. If Hastings fails and then fails 4 years consecutively we would have to erect signage and close the beach area. However results so far are extremely positive.

### **3. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS**

#### **3.1 White Rock Area Improvements**

NS talked through the project papers/drawings/sketches circulated with the agenda.

Public feedback has been positive so far with one concern raised regarding management of people in that area. NS advised that the kiosk is likely to sell light refreshments. There may be a small stage for low key performances but any possible noise issues will be discussed fully. There is a public exhibition on Thursday 11th June at the White Rock Hotel. Persons are able to email NS with further comments until close of play Friday 19th June. It is intended to submit the proposal for planning consent by early July. Some elements of the scheme are not fully funded and the works will be tendered on an options basis.

**Report noted. Project fully supported by the Group with the exception of AS abstaining on behalf of OHPS whose members had not been briefed about the project yet.**

#### **3.2 Big Beach Update**

NS updated the Group about elements of this FLAG funded project.

**Fuel Tanks for Fisherman:** These environmentally secure tanks are currently being installed.

**Winch Road:** The first phase has been completed. Second section is commencing this week. The project is on schedule for completion by the summer holidays. There have been some issues with access to market parking etc. AC commented on disabled access particularly by the gate/coastguard barrier and the need for a disabled parking bay at the end to assist disabled fishermen. Agreed that NS will look into the addition of a path to the side by the coastguard barrier and the provision of a step gate plus windbreak at the end area. **Action NS**

**Winch Shed** is progressing well.

**Rock-a-Nore Interpretation:** Draft artwork is being discussed.

**Report noted.**

### **4. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Charity Committee minutes 23rd March 2015 were noted.

### **5. COASTAL USERS GROUP SEAFRONT IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- 5.1 The CUG draft plan together with the Seafront Strategy Refresh Action Plan were circulated to the group on 11th May 2015 for comments by 31st May. The Group were tasked with identifying aims and outcomes it would wish to progress over a two year period (2015-2017). Group members were asked to be mindful

that their draft action plan should be considered in relation to and complement/support the HBC Seafront Strategy Refresh Action Plan.

5.2 Following discussion the Group agreed not to proceed with its own action plan and would rather assist with the monitoring and delivery of the HBC Seafront Strategy Refresh Action Plan on a regular basis together with the continuation of inputting comments to the Foreshore Trust via Charity Committee. **Action NS/All**

5.3 However the Group did raise the following issues which it would like to see addressed in the future. **Action NS**

Beach Cleans

Enhancement of Web Information (possibly via Facebook similar to other seaside towns)

Net Shops – maintenance of shingle ground. VG/NS advised that this area is subject of a twice-annual weed spray.

Beach Access for Coastal Users and Disabled Coastal Users: NS advised that improving access generally does appear in the HBC Seafront Strategy Refresh Action Plan.

Beach Levelling: NS advised that this is a costly exercise and is not supported environmentally. There are plans to re-audit the two main beaches and obtain guided from disability groups with the possible introduction of boardwalks/all-terrain wheelchairs etc.

## 6. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1 Disabled Access – White Rock Hotel

Noted that disabled access to the Hotel is gained via the car park to the rear of the building.

### 6.2 Disabled Access – White Rock Baths Project

Unfortunately disabled access is a problem at this location. The project feasibility study explored installing lifts into the building complex but this was not practical. It is likely that viewing of competitions etc. will be addressed with the provision of screens.

6.3 **Disabled Access – EHSAA:** AC commented that although the building has a disabled lift there are no advisory notices which would be welcomed. **Action PC**

6.4 **Rickshaw Service:** This service will commence from early July and operate from the Pier promenade westwards. Noted that tickets must be pre-booked.

6.5 **Old Town Carnival:** Dates are 1st-9th August. Programmes available from beginning of July.

6.6 **Hastings Pier:** Opening Spring 2016.

### 6.7 Epic Life Windsurfing

CM wished to thank LB for allowing some usage/operational space in the White Rock Hotel. Bodiam will be the main office (leaflets tabled). CM commented

that he is taking bookings into next year and the Academy is re-writing national syllabi etc.

- 6.8 **Disabled Persons:** AC comments that following parking improvements there seem to be more disabled persons out and about, which is to be welcomed.
- 6.9 **Marina Parade – Proposed Promenade Improvements/Additions:** CR advised the Group of proposals to enhance and improve the area (seating, café extension, increasing facilities, resurfacing, shelters etc.). The Group felt this was a positive move and supported the project (subject to Charity Committee approval). **Action CR/NS**
- 6.10 **History of the Pier Book**  
SP requested any information/memories of the Pier which would be extremely helpful in the compilation of his book. **Action All**
- 6.11 **Rock-a-Nore/Country Park Sewer Pipe:** SP enquired if the pipe was still operational. VG advised that she would check but believe it still to be a combined storm water drain (for surface water). **Action VG**
- UPDATE:** According to the Environment Agency Rock-a-Nore is a storm outflow (CSU) which can be used in extreme weather for sewer overflows.*
- 6.12 **Midsummer Fish Festival 20th June:** Request to promote support this event which will lead into the Stade Saturday's programme (6pm start from 20th June to September).
- 6.13 **Virginia Gilbert**  
Following the latest restructure VG will be leaving the authority in June 2015. The group expressed their thanks for her service to CUG and from all seafront users in general.
- 6.14 **Competitions Pelham Beach:** The recent major competition The 2015 World Adventure Golf Masters (WAGM) was a resounding success. The final Major of the year, the World Crazy Golf Championship at the Seafront Crazy Golf Course wk/end 24/25th October.
- 6.15 **Independence Day, America Ground:** There will be a small-scale celebration at the America Ground supported by traders etc.
- 6.16 **Sticks of Rock Lighting:** A further section will be installed (London Road to Azur).
- 6.17 **Fishermen's Museum:** SP asked if he could label the Tank Trap and Mine close to this building as tourists are very interested in them and would appreciate appropriate labels. Agreed. **Action SP**
- 6.18 **Angling:** PS reported that a common forum for anglers had been set up in order to provide one unified voice regarding fishing/angling projects etc. (e.g. promotion of fishing on Hastings Pier). Agreed that PC will forward contact details to SOpie/CMeaden/NSangster. **Action PC**
- 6.19 **Angling Concerns:** CM expressed concern about locations of anglers/fishing lines etc. which are an H&S issue with certain other coastal users.

- 6.20 **Rock-a-Nore Road Surfacing:** VG advised that ESCC will re-inspect the area in June and asked if there were any particular areas of concern. On the whole it is believed the entire road requires resurfacing as the road has an assortment of surface finishes. Areas of particular concern are:- the camber o/s The Dolphin PH; loose kerbs, gratings o/s Fishermen's Museum; considered that a repaving scheme to join up with the area completed o/s Jerwood Gallery would be preferable. **Action VG/NS**
- 6.21 **Rock-a-Nore Signage:** Three signs throughout the town are functioning correctly and monitored/operated by the CCTV team. A further sign installation close to the end of Rock-a-Nore Road will be subject of ESCC/HBC officer discussion in June.
- 6.22 **Cycle Track**  
CBL asked again about the planned repairs to the cycle track. NS advised that ESCC has looked at 3 or 4 options which are all costly. ESCC will be reporting internally on its preferred option.
- 6.23 **Sea Road Motor Homes:** A few complaints have been received regarding motorhomes parked on an area of land by the former bathing pool site. Options for /eliminating this usage are being discussed internally. Cllr. MH however enquired if in fact HBC could welcome these vehicles (similar to sites on the continent) if a parking area/facilities were organised properly it would be seen as a positive facility for the Borough. **Action NS to discuss with Regeneration**
- 6.24 **White Rock – 20mph Speed Limit:** LB advised that this area is being promoted for a 20mph speed limit due to a number of serious accidents along this stretch towards the Pier. VG advised that a study for traffic flow enhancements is within the Seafront Strategy Refresh Action Plan.

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

## 8. NOTES OF LAST MEETING (3RD MARCH 2015) / MATTERS ARISING

- 8.1 Agreed.
- 8.2 Matters Arising: Covered within the notes above.

## 9. REMAINING SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2015 / 2016

8th September 2015  
17th November 2015 (also AGM)  
8th March 2016  
7th June 2016

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 8th September 2015 @ 6pm  
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Queens Road, Hastings  
(Chair – Cllr. Dawn Poole)

Meeting Closed: 1920hrs.

**Distribution:**

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users' Group  
Charity Committee

CML 180615/VG190615

Paul Carter Chair approved 26th June 2015