

Hastings Old Town Residents Association

November Newsletter

Isabel Blackman Centre

HOTRA in league with other voluntary groups across the town have persuaded the Local Strategic Partnership to write to ESCC about the way this issue is being handled. The ESCC Lead Member Cllr Bentley will consider this appeal in November. The East Hastings Area Management board have also written. The ESCC current position is flawed. The stated timescales cannot be achieved and none of it is in the best interests of the vulnerable older users.

Multi Use Games Area on Pelham beach BRILLIANT NEWS

After several years and many meetings real progress was made when Planning Permission was granted in June for the construction of this much needed facility. Our next hurdle was raising the money. We knew from the best of 3 quotes that we had to find £130,000. We identified potential funders who might help. But we had to secure cash commitment from Hastings Council for those funders to be convinced. Sadly although we asked about help we got no answer.

Foreshore Trust

This is the body set up to ensure that the original Victorian bequest to “Her Majesty’s subjects” is properly established to the satisfaction of the Charity Commissioners. Negotiations have been going on for over 4 years. The Trust receives the income from parking and rents on its land. The issues are so complex that the only happy people at the moment are some legal experts. But amongst all of this the Foreshore Trustees decided that they would pay for the MUGA. It was with great pleasure that HOTRA could announce this at our open meeting to discuss the Academies proposals on 20th October.

Spring 2010

The MUGA will be built together with 2 sand covered Volleyball courts next to the Lifeguard hut. These are to be paid for by the leaseholder of the mini-Golf course. *But still more !*

We have written to the Primary Care Trust to ask if there is any way that professional fitness machines can be placed along the seafront, together with a permanent Table Tennis table. This would give free sport and fitness activities for all ages. As Hastings residents are allegedly very unfit this must be good for us! It will certainly be good for our young people to have a place to go for sports.

Magdalen & Lasher plan for a 15 bed secure annexe at Old Hastings house

The joint meeting with OHPS heard about the need and were presented with an impressive set of images. This was an example of how to explain and promote significant building works. The local community can now have every confidence that the needs of these very vulnerable people will be properly addressed.

[Some of us would wish that the statutory bodies could be as skilled in fulfilling their roles]