

Hastings Old Town Residents Association

October Newsletter

Hastings Academies – a special meeting at 7.00 on Tuesday 20th October

A meeting for all interested in the debate about setting up 2 Academies will be held in All Saints hall. Please come along. Listen to the arguments and raise your questions. The speakers will include someone from the Anti Academies Alliance, Julian Crampton – Vice Chancellor Brighton University, the lead sponsor, Bill Goodwin ESCC Academies Project Director, and Sir Dexter Hutt, manager of Ninestiles Plus.

Local secondary schools have been performing below average for over 10 years. This summer the GCSE results for the 3 schools now managed by Ninestiles plus [Hillcrest, The Grove and Filsham Valley] achieved a stunning improvement in their pass rates. Clear evidence that our children are as capable as any given the right chances.

But are 2 academies the best way forward? Come and join the debate.

Isabel Blackman Centre

With a further report to be considered at County Hall in November there is a worrying silence. Hastings has a very large number of older people living in poverty with additional needs – over 4,400. There is a statutory duty to provide for this vulnerable group. Their number is increasing year by year.

No details have been offered yet of increased provision or the budget to pay for it. This silence is adding to the anxiety of the current users of both the Isabel Blackman and Moreton Centres. Their friends and families are not being offered adequate assurances. The excellent staff group deserve better treatment as well. If you find this truly unacceptable please write a letter to your MP Michael Foster, your County Councillor Jeremy Birch and your Ward Councillors Sue Palmer and Richard Stevens. Simply send it c/o Hastings Town hall.

Courthouse Street

The ESCC contractor who is supposed to lay the special coloured top coat this month has told County Hall that they can not do the work until the DSpring. This is a great disappointment to the residents and traders alike.

Membership

Reminders have been delivered. Please help by making your payment promptly

Website

Remember to check at www.hptra.org.uk