

Minutes of HOTRA Committee Meeting 14 February 2012

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Sue Bower, Kim Stallwood, Phil White, Bruce Nichol, June Prior, Elizabeth Stevens, Cllr. John Hodges, Cllr. Richard Stevens, Ann Novotny, Shirley Hawley, Jill Bradley, Kate Francis, Michael Lambrechts

Apologies: none.

Minutes of 10 January: accepted.

Matters arising: Email to Cllr. Hodges requesting input re George Street PO facilities. **Any comments to JB please to co-ordinate HOTRA response.** Slight improvement to street cleaning in Butlers Gap.

Reports:

Secretary's Report

JB gave a brief summary of the special Coastal User's Group presentation she attended on 8 February re Bottle Alley and the West Marina Lido. Her notes follow:

Two presentations and chance for CUG to ask questions and give feedback.

Neil Choudhury Architects presenting their draft Bottle Alley Feasibility
Adam Daly presenting proposals in respect of the Lido at West Marina.

Bottle Alley

Needs repairs to concrete, little used, unpleasant area associated with drunks, drug users, unsafe.

Proposal based on arches at Brighton, fill in alley then cut out 5/6 bays or units for shops, cafe, toilets, artists' studios.

Possible beach chalets going through the sea wall (with flood barriers), possibly for overnight stay, i.e. Whitstable where chalets are serviced by a hotel. Apparently lot of demand for them.

Create beach walk in front with more access routes to beach.

Top promenade under-used, possible new retail kiosks same size as bus shelters.

Rental from kiosks/units would pay for repairs.

Parking for deliveries shown on model.

Private investment would be sought, budget available in two weeks time.

Attract more tourists, move people along from Old Town attractions.

Comments from CUG: not keen on closing Bottle Alley or putting walkway along beach (movement of shingle?). Why not clean it up, re-open kiosk/cafe/toilets, hire out existing bays overlooking beach for markets etc. Others felt Choudhury's proposals would work. Updates to come.

West Marina Lido (also including Stamco land)

Lido would be central attraction with good quality restaurant/bar. Showed photo examples from Holland.

Develop family-friendly restaurant (120 covers inside) /bar offering good locally sourced food, music and entertainment.

Would become focal point for West St Leonards, near station.
Use converted shipping containers to keep down costs and recycled and sustainable materials.
Pavilion with sundeck flexible to allow concerts etc. during summer.
Showers, changing facilities and lock-up facilities.
Proper measures for running music concerts (sound, licensing, hours etc).
Could have farmers markets etc, possible ice rink in the winter.
Parking for 200 bicycles over water tank.
Landscaped similar to Derek Jarman's garden.
Parking for nearby beach hut users.
Marine lock-up for small sea craft.
Applying for Blue Flag status for beach.
Involvement in Coastal Currents and other events.
Regeneration, would provide jobs during construction, and approx. 30 when finished in high season.
Seafront bus, or landtrain, linking it with Pier, Jerwood Gallery etc. via stations. All-year usage, already had good feedback. Have been offered 7 year lease, and have business model to support £1.5m investment.

Comments from CUG: excellent idea, others made no comment. Updates to come.

Need to work together on these projects, including the Pier, investors more likely to be interested in several venues as a package. Must make it better to invest in Hastings than elsewhere.

Treasurer's Report: 13 new members in January. HOTRA's Co-operative Bank Account is now open. More problems with Santander: PW has written long letter to senior complaints person there, no reply as yet (copy to be sent to Financial Ombudsman). ... Figures: as at 9 January current account £546.45, as at 6 February reserve account £1,042.20. PW attended sub-group meeting of FLAG, his notes follow:

REPORT ON FLAG MEETING 01/02/2012

This was the first meeting since the official launch of the FLAG on the 14th January 2012.

Email: flag@hastings.gov.uk

The FLAG office is immediately on the left hand side as you enter the Stade Hall. It will be open every weekday morning. £963,000 pounds of 50/50 match funding has been allocated. The 2011 -2013 business plan is available. This is a detailed description of the structure of the FLAG including all involved organisations, together with details of all proposed FLAG projects. I have a copy and one will also be available in the FLAG office. Working groups were set up for the following early FLAG projects:

- Bulldozers/shingle
- Fishmarket improvements
- Seafood training kitchen
- Educational Initiatives
- Fishermen's equipment
- Tourism (I am on this group)

I am sure Joy Collins would welcome anyone with particular interest/expertise wishing to serve on these working groups. The working fishermen on the group were pessimistic about the future of the Hastings fleet. At present only 3-4 of the 29 boats in the fleet are regularly going to sea and each boat is only earning about £70 per week.

Hastings Community Network: nothing to report.

Website: nothing to report.

Chairman's Report:

Highways Working Group Update: good last meeting, making progress. 28 Feb. meeting will discuss Christmas lights, could be replaced with appropriately-worded banners? High Street Traders will decide then check with residents. **SB to keep an eye on this.** JB mentioned OHPS considering similar banner for Courthouse Street.

Jerwood "Test" Opening Monday 12/3 @ 3-4.30pm: 50 attendees so far.

Winkle Island Working Group Update: new statue to be installed later in March. Two Club members working on designs for Island and will attend our March meeting. RS very pleased with progress of joint effort, hopefully a long-term partnership. Unveiling to be on 1 April with Lord Warden of Cinque Ports Lord Boyce.

Meeting about Anti-Social Behaviour after Major Events: last month's meeting resulted in thorough 17 page Risk Assessment. Big problem of youngsters drinking, causing accidents then HBC won't allow events.

Roebuck Surgery Patient Participation Group: AN volunteered to be HOTRA representative. Thanks Ann. How can practice be improved to better serve patients, etc.

Digital Switchover: any action from HOTRA? Reminder of available information to be included in March HOTRA newsletter. 3 April event at main Museum (St Johns Place) to give details of what's what, especially for over 75s and disabled folk.

Volleyball Festival: NHS offered £26k across East Sussex for various activities, DE applied for £1,900 for August, failed, over-subscribed by 3.

Virtual College – Academies Local Advisory Panel: if a child is excluded from a school, another school has to admit that child within 48 hours, but not academies. Virtual College set up in Hastings by Brighton Housing Trust for three days per week. **To be raised at Local Strategic Partnership** – over half children here get nothing from current education system. **DE will also write to Amber Rudd.** Problem in attracting good teachers.

Stade Open Space Licence Application for Music Events: DE put in HOTRA's objection re noise from amplified music. More than 30 events per year? All agreed Steering Committee should include someone representing Old Town residents.

Olympic Torch: Old Town will be shut for a few hours on 17 July, lots of associated events.

Planning:

Complete make-over of old wash house at rear of 72 High Street

58 All Saints Street garden room application.
81 High Street change of use for front room to shop.

Museum Advisory Group: BN concerned at lack of interest/ideas from group. Little success with his ideas, more concerned with short term than future.

Members Concerns:

Fishing quotes: **DE to write to Amber Rudd, Michael Foster and MEP Sharon Bowles.**

Glass recycling.

Christmas lights to come down next week, absence of Indemnity Certificate to those whose buildings were used.

The Crown pub is up for sale.

Barbara Ward's house in High Street in poor state, dangerous? Grotbusters?

Refuse collection during recent snow took long time due to staff put on gritting duty.

Community Noticeboard rather tatty. BN mentioned inputting numbers on mobile phones re local attractions popular in other places.

More publicity for HOTRA, i.e. HOTRA WORKING FOR YOU stickers on lamp posts, shop and house windows.

Fishing boat on Pelham Place roundabout instead of fountain. **DE to write to Kevin Boorman.**

5 May storytelling to be confirmed.

Future Programme:

Committee Meeting 10 April @ Ann Novotny's.

Roland Jarvis exhibition: **DE to email tasks/requests for volunteers to set up on 2/3 May.**

DE requested budget of £200, agreed.

Agenda item requested on what wider projects HOTRA takes on as a resident's association.

HOTRA's Year Plan to be agreed after AGM at May Committee.