

NOTES of Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group AGM Meeting held on Tuesday, 12th November 2013 @ 1800hrs.

Present:

Laurence Bell, White Rock & America Ground Business Group
Kevin Boorman, HBC Head of Marketing & Communications
Christine Boulton-Lane, West of Haven Beach Users Association
Jill Bradley, HOTRA
Alan Care, Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Di Cooke, Hastings Lifeguards
Jennifer Elliott, East Hastings Angling Association
Virginia Gilbert, HBC Head of Amenities, Resorts & Leisure Services
Tim Godwin, HUB
Cllr Mike Howard, HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Simon Hubbard, HBC Director of Regeneration
Cherry Longley, HBC
Yasmin Ornsby, Stade Partnership
Andre Palfrey-Martin, Nautical Heritage Assoc/Gensing & Central St. Leo Forum
Steve Peak, Friends of Hastings Country Park
Chris Richards, Hastings Adventure Golf
Keith Sadler, Hastings Pier Charity
Nick Sangster, HBC Resort Services Manager
Anne Scott, Old Hastings Preservation Society (*part left 1907hrs*)
Cllr Trevor Webb, HBC (Central St. Leonards Ward)
Councillor Emily Westley, HBC (Chair)

1. APOLOGIES

Fiona Bell, Sussex Coast College
Alison Brennan-Wright, Hastings Sea Cadets
Paul Carter, East Hastings Angling Association
Richard Homewood, HBC Director of Environmental Services
Simon Opie, Hastings Pier Trust
Jan Sellers, Hastings Fishermen's Museum

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Chair and Vice Chair were selected by nomination and agreed by a show of hands. The Chair and Vice Chair positions will be held by Cllr. Emily Westley and Paul Carter respectively for a further year.

Cllr. EW's nomination was proposed by Cllr. MH and seconded by Cllr. TW.
PC's nomination was proposed by YO and seconded by Cllr. TW.

3. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

3.1 Bathing Water Quality Update

This year's results have been published and the situation remains unchanged in that Hastings beach is predicted to fail the new EU standard. However work continues to attempt to rectify this. Investigations are taking place at Alexandra Park stream and the outfall at Pelham beach. Meetings have been held with Southern Water, Environment Agency and Amber Rudd MP.

An Action Plan is in progress with works planned for the winters of 2013/14 and 2014/15. Funding is in place via SW/EA and HBC. A programme of de-silting the stream and culvert and further investigation of misconnections and the sewer network are planned.

If we are able to demonstrate an improvement of approx. 30-40% the EA can discount past years monitoring results and we will pass the new standard.

A new group has been set up (Cllr. Jeremy Birch, Amber Rudd MP, SW, EA, HBC officers) which will oversee this work.

3.2 Groyne No. 1, Rock-a-Nore

NS/SP/Cllr EW/Cllr John Hodges met recently to discuss scope and improvements for the eastern end of Rock-a-Nore car park and in relation to the Country Park. The condition survey of beach railings is complete and it was agreed in principle to replace the railings here. A potential design is being considered as this location is not a conservation area.

The meeting agreed to include improvements to access (vehicle & pedestrian) at the eastern end of Rock-a-Nore Car Park through to the Hastings Motor Boat & Yacht Club (HMB&YC) and linked into these will be enhanced seating, Country Park interpretation and perhaps a refreshment facility. The Foreshore Trust is a major contributor to the current cost of £50k but options are being explored to reduce this to circa £40k.

Seasonal access to the beach at this location is also being investigated. SP commented that this is an important access route to the Groyne and must accommodate prams and disability chairs etc.

AS asked if, by providing access, the beach would come under the EU Bathing Water Quality monitoring process. NS confirmed that it is not a DEFRA designated bathing beach so will not be monitored.

A large-scale plan is being drawn up to plot the locations in order to commence an informal consultation, which will include HBC Parking Services, HMB&YC etc. A draft report will be prepared to include specific costs and brought back to this Group at the March meeting.

Action NS

Cllr EW declared a personal interest as a member of the HMB&YC.

4. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

4.1 Commercial Sites on Foreshore Trust Land

This updated report previously presented to a CUG meeting, lists proposals regarding commercial activities on Foreshore Trust and HBC land in response to a large number of proposal enquiries.

NS commented on each of the 18 No. sites listed. Additional comments as follows:

- Site 1 Any proposal would be subject to a 12 month agreement.
- Site 2 Land is on grassed area south of existing kiosks and within the Adventure Golf lease. The Group expressed its concern regarding any development at this location preferring the area to remain an open physical and visual access to the beach.
- Site 3 A general concern was raised about a proliferation of kiosks because, out of season, their appearance deteriorates considerably. CR questioned whether enough demand exists.
- Site 4 HBC is currently investigating whether it can operate the facilities for the FST and the appropriateness of doing that.
- Site 9 Date to be amended to read '2014'.
- Site 7 On hold until next year pending outcome of discussions with ESCC regarding the creation of parking spaces which will be critical to the viability of any Bottle Alley development scheme.
- Site 11 Noted that the beach decking will not be built on the beach. Potentially this will be opposite the beach office and incorporated into the top of the concrete groyne.
- Site 14 A query arose regarding conflicting advice of the terms of the FST and the Hastings Act and the FST being able to operate a commercial activity itself.

Agreed that legal clarification will be sought and reported to the next meeting.

Action NS/Christine Barkshire-Jones

Site 19 Bathing Pool to be amended to read Bathing Pool.

Noted that HBC will require information regarding experience, suitable insurance etc. for any proposal/sport requiring training (e.g. kayaking).

This Group supported the proposals with the exception of Site 2 – which the Group feels should be removed and voted thus:

To remove site 2 from the listing - 10 votes

To retain site 2 on the listing – 1 vote

Abstentions – 4 votes.

The report to go forward to Charity Committee meeting 9th December.

Action VG/NS

4.2 White Rock Baths – Update

The Community Hub work is on schedule and Hastings Pier Charity should be able to access it pre Christmas.

The under-promenade level of the building has been subject of three proposals. One short-term art installation has been discussed but will not be taken forward. Another, by Picturehouse, a film production/distribution company, also will not proceed as the company would require to change the building considerably. However HBC is seeking to develop its general relationship with that company.

A third proposal from The Source BMX (a local business proposing a skateboarding and BMX facility) is considered to be viable. The company has undertaken substantial work to prepare its case. Work will need to be carried out to the building and to that end a feasibility study on the appropriateness of this has been commissioned for completion by mid December. A report will be forwarded to CUG and the Charity Committee at that time on whether the proposal be recommended to proceed or not.

The Group welcomed and supported the plans as outlined above.

The report to go forward to Charity Committee meeting 9th December.

Action SH

5. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hastings Pier: The community share issue has a target of £500k; invested so far is £127,560 which represents approx. 26% of the target. KS urged further promotion of this investment. Closing date 4th January 2014.

Seafood & Wine Festival & Herring Fair: Noted that, despite inclement weather on both occasions, both festivals were well received.

BBC Productions: APM advised that he has been working with the BBC on two productions which will promote Hastings & St. Leonards namely BBC Inside Out 'Visionary' a programme regarding Sidney Little. The other programme will feature Hastings Pier history/background. APM offered to circulate more information in due course.

Cycle Track: NS is meeting ESCC this week to discuss when the works will be carried out to reopen the track. Noted that day to day maintenance falls to HBC with major repairs being carried out by ESCC.

Beach Zoning: CBL reported some problems with the canoe club and fishermen's competitions on the beach at West of Haven which restrict access and are potentially dangerous to other users. This issue will be discussed at the next Beach Zoning meeting

20th November.

West of Haven Chalets – Dogs: CBL again commented on the problem of excessive dog fouling at this site.

Constitution & Terms of Reference and Membership of the Group: VG confirmed that both the Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) and CUG Constitutions are to be reviewed and updated by HBC Legal, Christine Barkshire-Jones. CR raised concern again regarding the Conflict of Interest section (page 2 of the document) and this too will be addressed. Revised Constitution to be reported to 4th March meeting. **Action Virginia Gilbert/Christine Barkshire-Jones**

Coastal Communities – Presentation by Sussex Coast College: Apologies were received and this has been offered for the March 2014.

6. NOTES OF LAST MEETING (10TH SEPTEMBER 2013) AND MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Notes were agreed with the following exceptions:-

6.1.1 **Stade Amusements Proposals:** AS requested a response to a question raised at the 10th September meeting. Cllr. EW read out the question/response.

Question to Amy Terry from Anne Scott re the advertised proposal to dispose of the strip of land along the boating lake: Anne Scott requested the footpath established as of right, be protected in the lease.

Response: A Letter from Anne Scott was responded to by HBC Legal (Christine Barkshire-Jones) and confirmed this would be the case. Amy Terry also confirmed that it has been agreed to protect all footpaths on the site and solicitors have been instructed that this should appear in the lease.

6.1.2 **Attendance not recorded:** Lawrence Bell advised that he was present at the last meeting.

6.2 **Seafront Play and Exercise Equipment:** VG confirmed that additional provision for older children will be progressed.

7. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2014 / 2015

10th June 2014
9th September 2014
18th November 2014 (also AGM)
3rd March 2015
9th June 2015
All Tuesdays, 6pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Queens Road, Hastings.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 4th March 2014 @ 1800hrs Council Chamber, Town Hall

Meeting Closed: 1925hrs.

Distribution:

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users' Group
Charity Committee

CML 141113
VG 271113
Chair Approved 29th November 2013