

## HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Committee meeting 8 July 2014

**Attendees:** Dick Edwards, Elizabeth Stevens, Bruce Nicol, Richard Stevens, Cllr John Hodges, Kate Francis, Shirley Hawley.

**Apologies:** Cllr Dawn Poole, Harris Woodcock, Jill Bradley, Ann Novotny, Phil White.

#### **Minutes of 9 June** Committee Meeting and any Matters Arising

Minutes agreed.

- Coastal users group minutes were tabled;
- Treasurer's report (previously emailed) advised we have 194 paid up members; Dick has replaced the printer £99 and spent £20 on inks.
- Illustration festival progresses well. It is hoped to involve the college students on the Saturday. Quentin Blake has appeared in the County Magazine talking up Hastings and praising the Storytelling Festival.
- Pirate day is progressing well. Harris has managed to get the stables theatre involved this year.
- Jack in the Green: Letter received thanking HOTRA for supporting the event in a positive way. Appreciation was expressed for the long-term contribution of Keith Leech MBE and Ian porter BEM to this community event.

#### **Ecclesbourne Glen**

The planning committee unanimously rejected the retrospective application (to which there is no right of appeal). Council officers have made a site visit and confirmed that the building is half a meter higher than the original permission. Jeremy Birch has met with the campaigning group who gave him a detailed list of their evidence on the many breaches about which they are objecting. The County/Borough officers are discussing the options for an alternative route for walkers.

HOTRA asked Cllr. John Hodges to request from Jeremy Birch the timeline for resolving some of the issues: How long before counsel's legal opinion will be received; making a decision on alternative route; replacing the trees.

#### **Fire Service**

Following the recent serious fire in the Old Town residents have express disquiet about how it was dealt with.

Dick will write to Cllr. Phil Scott to request for us a copy of the incident report. Potentially we could arrange a meeting for all to discuss this incident, the particular problems of the Old Town and the general emergency response by the statutory agencies. The Phoenix fund has demonstrated yet again the wonderful community spirit. It has raised approximately £10k.

## **Bus services**

The County Council is consulting on proposed cuts to off-peak services to save £1.8million. This does not appear to be organised on evidence- based needs and impact. For example getting to the Conquest will be affected. For details of the proposed cuts please see Jeremy Birch's county report <http://www.hastingsandryelabour.org.uk/old-hastings-tressell-county-council-report-from-cllr-birch-2/>

The cuts disproportionately affect Hastings. The committee agreed to promote the petition against the cuts: <http://www.sarahowen.org.uk/buscuts/> . This also contains a link to the consultation, rather complicated, which ends 28 September. David Woolf to put on to our website please.

## **Refuse and recycling**

On-going issue for Cllr. John Hodges. There are still problems: sacks are left out for days; unavailable pink sacks; roads strewn with rubbish. The promised review never happened. Concern is that the contract may have been cheap, (fewer workers) but the quality could make it poor value and has increased the work of the street cleaner.

Commercial waste: the multi- coloured bins which are emptied by different contractors at various times, present a poor picture to residents and visitors. It is believed that traders would welcome a scheme that was consistent.

## **Planning**

Custom House now has permission to cook; the proposed building application at the end of Rock a Nore has been withdrawn.

## **Trees**

John Hodges is investigating some unauthorised felling of trees in Croft Rd and The Croft.

## **Social Event**

It was proposed that a 'meet the neighbours' event could take place late autumn in Stade Hall. Dick to ponder.

## **Forthcoming events**

10/8 Opening of Winkle Island; 30/8 Bruce's linco lingo 7pm at the Fishermen's Institute

Many thanks to Bruce and Agnes for their hospitality.

## **Date of next meeting**

12/8? If necessary; 9/9 Ann Novotny