

**HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING 8 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Apologies:** Cllr. Dawn Poole, Elizabeth Stevens

**Attendees:** Dick Edwards, Jill Bradley, Phil White, Shirley Hawley, Bruce Nicol, Ann Novotny, Richard Stevens, Satu Pitkanen (observer).

**Roebuck Surgery Move?**

Welcome to Dr Craig Namvar who had kindly agreed at short notice to come and outline the proposed plans for the surgery move to the Ice House (currently earmarked for a hotel with parking) and to be the point of contact. The contract at the Roebuck Surgery is held by Doctors Parker and Namvar, and part of Craig's brief at the surgery is to encourage recruitment to the area. At the moment there are four surgeries, the building is becoming run-down, and the fire exit is inadequate. ES Better Together promotes community hubs which include a dentist and doctor. The Ice House has space for 23 clinical rooms, gym, healthy eating restaurant, dentist, optician, pharmacy, health visitor, etc. and also offers better parking in Rock-a-Nore Road. Lloyds Pharmacy would have first refusal for the pharmacy there, and opening hours would include weekends. DE will include a brief resume of these plans for inclusion in October's Parish News, and Craig was asked to come and give a presentation at a public meeting at Stade Hall in October/November. *(Post-meeting note: this has been arranged for 6 November at 7 p.m.)*

Patient questionnaires are being sent out, and obviously planning permission for the Ice House is needed. JH suggested speaking to HBC Marketing who will argue there is a lack of hotel space, but it has been marketed as a hotel with no takers so far, therefore there is a stronger argument for a health centre there, and the Roebuck premises could be used as a hotel. The GP surgery would be up and running first after planning permission has been granted. We all agreed these proposals will be of great benefit to the community and gave our support. Thanks to Craig for his attendance.

**Minutes of 15 July Committee Meeting** agreed.

**Reports:** owing to a conflict of meeting dates, JB was unable to attend the Coastal Users Group, so the updated Seafront Strategy Report is included with these minutes as is the updated HOTRA Committee Email List.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bank balance is £1,272.04, with £20 subscriptions to be paid in, and £235.80 to be paid to Fastprint. Membership stands at 171, with 35 being new/returning/lapsed. SP volunteered to take on printing of membership cards formerly handled by David Woolf.

**Website:** Richard Platt who has moved to the High Street is keen to take this on, he will be a co-opted Committee Member joining us late September.

**FLAG:** RS attended a meeting, there is an under spend of between £30,000 and £40,000, and RS commented all partners should have input as to how the money is spent but without success. His "wish list" drawn up by DE included new projects such as defibrillator for the Fishermen's Museum (FM), but Executive said no new projects. Their "wish list" includes training, extending post of administrator, safety etc. at FM, Cookery School Co-ordinator for Classroom on the Coast, and money towards the Herring Festival. Why can't new projects be considered? Steve Manwaring from HVA to write to DE with ideas of alternative funding.

**Chairman's Report**

*West Street:* DE to write to HBC.

*Old Town Hall Museum:* open forum on Thursday 10 September 4pm – 6 pm at the History House.

*Ecclesbourne Glen Right of Way:* no decisions yet, more movement due to heavy rain.

*Brewery Yard:* scrap yard owner plans to redevelop whole compound for social housing. Considered a brownfield site so not subject to usual planning regulations. Jobs would be lost and also valuable local assets. Parking would be a problem and so would change of use.

DE to write to new ESC Councillor Tania Charman.

DE and RS visited Isobel Blackman Centre to meet new management who seem to want to provide as broad a service as they can and welcome any new ideas.

## **Planning**

*2 Love Lane:* planning permission lapsed earlier this year. Covenant says if only one person objects then Certificate of Lawfulness will not be issued.

*34a The Croft:* JH reported enough objection letters and a lead petitioner to go before Planning. DP will be speaking against it. Lots of distressed people contacted DE: after much discussion all agreed HOTRA should register our objections as follows:

At the meeting of the Management Committee held 8<sup>th</sup> September it was agreed that we are opposed to the proposed plans for the land beside 34 The Croft.

The reasons that brought us to this conclusion are

- significant change in the character of The Croft
- housing density in Hastings Old Town already exceeds guidelines
- the Georgian terrace in the High Street will be overlooked for the first time in over 250 years
- the negative impact on the character and setting amongst nearby houses
- the loss of privacy for at least 8 houses, especially with the balcony
- it will set a precedent for other small plots to apply for development
- the bulk of the building within such a small plot
- the impact on the views from both the East Hill and The Stade
- significant access issues for the delivery of building materials
- the metal roof and red cladding are not matched by any nearby property
- the impact on the wildlife in particular foxes, badgers, slow worms, newts, frogs and toads.

Green spaces within the Old Town are precious and need to be recognised for the diversity and visual worth that they give.

## **Members Concerns**

- Many properties look much better thanks to the “Grotbusters” scheme.
- Recent cleaning of drains in Old Town: parking caused problems in Tackleway.
- Potholes
- Ever-present unpleasant smell in George Street.
- Large vehicles parking overnight in George Street (parking bays lost in Marine Parade due to works), and traffic using the street after 10 a.m.
- Cyclists up **and** down All Saints Street.
- Continued presence of bench outside Duke of Wellington and rowdy behaviour.
- Why is household rubbish and garden waste from brown bins collected together? Why then do we pay for brown bins? JH to contact ESCC.
- Crumbling pavements in Croft Road and Wellesley Court.
- Large number of “cold calls”.

## **Future Programme:**

Tuesday 6 October at Satu’s, 34 The Croft.

Tuesday 10 November at Dick’s, 13 Tackleway

Tuesday 8 December at Bruce’s, Sinnock Cottage

**Items for Parish News:** Roebuck Surgery move, “Grotbusters”.

Meeting finished at 8.40 p.m. Thanks to Ann for her hospitality.