

HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 6 OCTOBER 2015

Apologies: Phil White, Shirley Hawley, Elizabeth Stevens

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Jill Bradley, Bruce Nicol, Ann Novotny (1st part of meeting), Richard Stevens, Richard Platt (1st part of meeting), Satu Pitkanen (observer).

Minutes of 8 September and any Matters Arising not listed below

Minutes were agreed.

Brown bin garden waste collection scheme: JB reported making another phone call to HBC Recycling & Waste Services. Contents of bins are now being collected with household waste, not separately as previously. Dustcart driver said on 28 September that they had been asked to collect both together because of "problems getting down All Saints Street". No response from HBC. Their Garden Waste Scheme clearly states "... the scheme allows your waste to be removed and disposed of in an environmentally friendly way by turning it into compost", and also says the compost "is available to purchase at some Household Waste & Recycling Sites". (Quotes from 2014/2014 leaflet). Is it being separated at the depot This scheme costs £45 per year which JB shares with a neighbour. (*Post-meeting note from JB: a further phone call on 7 October revealed HBC are waiting for Kier to report why this is happening, and Borough Officer is now looking into it and will contact me.*)

Brewery Yard: Government initiative on housing shortage would override objections to closing businesses for social housing. Conceptual drawings already done. Could HOTRA get the whole Yard listed as a Victorian industrial complex to preserve businesses and jobs? DE to write to Ray Crawford at HBC on HOTRA's behalf, and JB to raise this at OHPS CoM on 8 October.

Reports

Secretary's Report - nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Bank balance remains at £1,272.04, with £20 subscriptions to be paid in, and £235.80 to be paid to Fastprint. Membership stands at 176, with 38 being new/returning/lapsed.

Website: RP is "finding his feet". David Woolf has offered help for new items, and SP volunteered her husband to also help. SP is working on Old Town Portal giving what's on, Instagram feed is up, and Facebook has Hastings Appreciation Group. All these could be linked up to help publicise what's on for residents and visitors, and encourage HOTRA membership (updated email list with RP's details is attached).

FLAG: concerns re under spend on budget. DE attended Foreshore Trust AGM and queried why FT money being used to support FLAG if there's an under spend? Answer given was it was a timing matter. DE also submitted list of questions - no promised answers so far.

Chairman's Report

Old Town Surgery: initial reactions to proposed move mixed. If Dr Craig Namvar's proposals are not viable do we lose the Roebuck Surgery? Concerns expressed about overcrowding, long waiting times for appointments causing parking problems. Let's hope for good attendance at 6 November public meeting at Stade Hall. JB and partner Tony requested to organise catering. Patient questionnaires to be sent out prior to meeting.

Review of Licensing Policy: DE sent in submission on HOTRA's behalf. Proposed street drinking outside licensed premises stop at 9pm Fridays/Saturdays to hopefully prevent trouble (especially in George Street as no local Police patrol now, licensees to be more responsible. Affects efforts of West Street clean-up. Local residents organisations must be consulted in these reviews. DE to raise with Cllrs. DP and JH that HOTRA's views are brought to attention of Licensing Committee.

West Street: Grotbusters team at work, Cllrs. DP & JH please urge ESCC Highways to find some money.

Old Town Hall Museum: various suggestions have been made for use, mostly art-focussed, but these MUST be commercially viable, costed, staffed, and of appeal to community. Committee/working group could be set up of interested parties led by OHPS, HOTRA will continue giving support. Would HBC consider trial period of say 18 months?

Local Government Boundary Consultation: RS commented Clive Vale included at last review but West Hill excluded. Could both be included under Old Town? Unitary authority with Rother? (DE will email Committee separately on this).

Planning

Nothing to report.

Members Concerns

Much concern at Polly Gifford's talk at HOTRA AGM re proposals for 950th Battle of Hastings celebrations in 2016. Why in September? Why not join local groups in Hastings Week programme with events? HBC have Arts Council funding, but events should include historical themes too. Anything for children and young people? DE to ask HBC how they will be involving Hastings Week Committee. SP said Medieval Fair in All Saints Street suggested, excellent, involves whole community.

SP reported Croft Road Residents Association looking at setting up limited company to ensure road remains private. Two b&bs may open soon, parking?

Future Programme:

Friday 6 November 7pm meeting at Stade Hall

Tuesday 10 November at Dick's, 13 Tackleway

Tuesday 8 December at Bruce's, Sinnock Cottage

Items for Parish News: 6 November meeting re Roebuck Surgery move, licensing submission, Storytelling Festival.

Meeting finished at 8.30 p.m. Thanks to Satu for her hospitality.