

November 2015 Parish News

Old Town Surgery

This important provision affects everyone and needs to be fit for purpose. G.P.'s are in increasingly short supply. Constant changes to their contracts and significantly better paid opportunities in other countries, and more attractive openings elsewhere in this country should concern us all.

Being able to recruit and retain G.P.'s is a matter for careful consideration. In over 25 years the pressures on G.P.'s in the Old Town has grown significantly. The current number cannot keep up with patient demand when challenges like a flu epidemic arise.

Dr Craig Namvar is very committed to the Old Town. He has brought forward a set of proposals which would bring worthwhile gains. But the current building is not adequate. The plans involve a move to the Ice House in Rock a Nore. For those living near Roebuck it would involve a longer walk. Many patients live further away and come by car. Often they find no available parking in the High Street or Bourne Car Park. For this group of patients there is an immediate gain with Rock a Nore car park.

Better facilities based at the Ice House could include 23 clinical rooms, a gym, a healthy eating restaurant, a dentist, an optician, a pharmacy plus room for Health visitors.

Come to our open meeting on Friday 6th November at 7.00 in Stade Hall to hear from Dr Namvar and raise your concerns.

Hastings Council Licensing Policy Review

This Government requirement has had little publicity. Initially HOTRA was not consulted. The document is nearly 70 pages and not the most fun filled read. HOTRA is deeply concerned about the impact of the withdrawal of the Police patrols on Fridays or Saturdays. There is growing uncontrolled anti-social behaviour, especially in George Street. Fights and street brawling involving up to 30 people are more frequent. Those bars which are the focal point for bad behaviour are being run by managers on short term contracts.

The impact on the lives of residents in George Street and West Street especially is unacceptable. Hastings Council have a Duty of Care. They are the licensing authority and are responsible for promoting the 4 key licensing objectives. This is not being done.

Of course like all councils Hastings has much less money to spend on dealing with the issues. HOTRA have made one key proposal which will not cost any money but could be very effective.

HOTRA is asking that at 9.00 pm all outside drinking should cease. Customers should go inside. Premises supervisors would need to exert their influence.

HOTRA's submission is available on our website www.hotra.org.uk