

# December 2015 Parish News

## Old Town Surgery - the future

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November over 60 people attended an Open meeting in Stade Hall. Dr Craig Namvar set out the reasons why a move to the former Ice House in Rock a Nore was the way forward. The current Roebuck building is simply not adequate. A fresh start in a purpose designed space would help create a Health Centre. There are few alternative buildings available locally. Most crucially a new centre would help attract G.P.'s during this current national shortage.

The new building would have the potential to house at least 4 doctors together with a dentist, an optician, and Health visitors. Draft plans include a healthy eating restaurant and a gym. Provision could be made for other specialist services like a Minor surgery outpatients, a dermatology clinic and blood testing.

The only concerns raised related to the condition of the pavements, car parking and Disabled parking. In fact the car park behind the Fishermen's Museum is closer than the Bourne car park is to Roebuck Surgery.

Dr Namvar was warmly thanked for his strong commitment to the Old Town. The only question remaining is when the new premises will be open - 9 months maybe

## Car Parking

Have you noticed how much pressure there is for On-street parking ? The loss of about 10 spaces during the rebuilding of the Marine Parade properties has made the problem acute. Our new County Councillor Tania Charmin was asked to talk to ESCC Parking. Amongst the details to emerge is that there are 276 'notional' spaces. A strange formula is applied to this number because people usually park very close together. The formula is  $1.5 \times \text{the notional spaces} = 414$ . This gives the maximum number of permits that should be issued. Currently there are 380 issued which means that the upper limit is nearly reached.

The alternative provision is at Pay and Display bays. By the Bourne car park on the main road there are currently 2 lots of Pay and Display spaces.

HOTRA asks that these be converted to residents bays as a matter of urgency.

Also there are 3 bus lay-byes at the bottom of Old London Road and Harold Road. We have previously asked that these be used for residents parking. Stagecoach blocked that idea.

HOTRA asks that the 2 bus lay-byes at the start of Harold Road be converted into residents parking as soon as possible.

Urbanisation Award won by Hastings Old Town as Best Small Town in the country.