

Parish News October 2016

Hastings Council Planning process

I have been told by folk that live elsewhere in England that their local Planning office leaves much to be desired. The main reason given is a shortage of qualified personnel. Here in Hastings it is to be hoped that there is adequate oversight of key applications. It was extremely disappointing to learn that the application from Dr Craig Namvar to turn the empty lower 2 floors of the former Ice House in Rock a Nore Road into a significant front line surgery had been turned down. Craig's key reason for making the investment is to help attract more G.P.s. There is a shortage throughout the health service. For instance in Rye almost all provision is made by locums.

The Old Town has a higher than average population of people over the age of 70. Many of these live alone but we also have Old Hastings House with many people dependent on the excellent care there. It also includes the recently opened unit for those suffering from dementia. Roebuck Surgery is past its best and needs to be upgraded. The patients come from all over Hastings and nearby villages. Craig came to 2 HOTRA meetings to explain his plans which were warmly welcomed. The reasons given for refusal can be seen by looking at the Hastings website and typing in HS/FA/16/00416. Briefly their reasons are 1] lack of available parking and poor patient access; 2] loss of existing use as tourist accommodation; 3] not enough provision for waste.

Hastings litter and rubbish collection

The ongoing failure by Hastings Council to get the contractor - Kier - to do their job is not acceptable. Local residents pay their Council Tax with the reasonable expectation that the work will be done. HOTRA have submitted a Freedom of Information request as very few answers have been given. The town hall has powers but they are not being operated effectively.

PS. there is no truth in the rumour that the stench in George Street was first reported to William of Normandy.

Flamingo Park Amusement park

The lease for the park was recently renewed for 25 years, and quickly sold on for several million pounds. The lease did not expire until February 2017. Let us hope that the new owners will significantly upgrade this large part of the seafront.

Environment Agency

£4 million will be spent on 2 new groynes opposite Robertson Street to improve the sea defences. Wouldn't it be lovely if that awful sewer pipe was removed as well?