

June 2018 Parish News

Congratulations

In the recent Borough Council elections the 2 Old Town Ward councillors elected were:

- Cllr James Bacon - email to cllr.James.Bacon@hastings.gov.uk
- Cllr Danny Louise - email to cllr.Danny.Louise@hastings.gov.uk

HOTRA agm 11th May report.

The meeting unanimously recorded a vote of thanks to Sir Quentin Blake. He has created and donated a large mural to the newly refurbished Hastings Children's Library. It features a scene of Hastings beach and is stunning.

After the usual Accounts and Reports had been dealt with the Guest Speaker Emily Williams, Director, told us about Hastings Opportunity Area.

Emily explained that there is a national campaign about Social Mobility running in 12 areas including other seaside areas and places like Burnley and west Somerset.

The initial budget for Hastings is £6m. This will be spent on teacher and school improvement. A local partnership board has been established which has agreed core priorities. The intention is to improve Key foundations for Hastings young people. The focus is :-

1] Literacy: 2] Numeracy: 3] Mental health: 4] Building individuals resilience and broadening horizons.

ALSO attention is to be given to the recruitment, training and retention of teachers + improving pupil attendance.

A Hastings wide Literacy campaign will focus on early speech and language skills.

+ good phonics teaching + supporting reading at home.

For Numeracy the main effort will be on training and recruiting more specialist Maths teachers.

Mental Health is an interesting priority. In schools the SEN coordinators will be given further training and support. Hastings iRock service will be expanded to a 5 day week drop- in service for 14 - 25 year olds. Within schools a campaign will be aimed at parents saying '*Its all right to ask for help with your child*'.

The Careers service and links to local businesses will be enhanced.

The Broadening Horizons aspect is to be developed by 2 newly recruited coordinators. Hastings wide activities will be arranged through an Enrichment Day for years 10 and 11 offering new experiences. A team of Youth Ambassadors will be recruited.

Questions raised by the audience included :-

- the loss of sure Start provision;
- the need for specially trained Speech and Language specialist teachers;
- existing services need more support;
- how sustainable will this work be after August 2020 when the project ends;
- what will be the measures of success ?