

March 2019 Parish News

Isabel Blackman Centre

On 17th January 8 different organisations working across Hastings with an interest in working with Vulnerable Adults met. The group included funders, service providers and community bodies. They all agreed that :

1] It is impossible for any organisation to take over the running of the Centre. The main reason is the liability for redundancy and pension costs. At the end of March these are estimated to total over £220,000.

2] There is no affordable alternative so the existing provision will close 31st March. ESCC have said that they do not have enough cash to continue funding. *[In fact ESCC have approved a further cut of £720,000 for the coming financial year]*

3] The various organisations are committed to trying to find a viable model to operate the IBC going forward. This will take several months.

4] HOTRA agreed to take the lead on registering the building as a Community Asset with help from Hastings Voluntary Action. This decision rests with Hastings Council. Once registered there will be a 6 month moratorium preventing ESCC from selling or leasing the building. During that time a Business Plan, policies and procedures will need to be agreed.

5] HVA together with East Sussex Community Development Association will approach ESCC Estates Department to seek detailed information.

6] A further meeting takes place 14th February to report back and agree actions.

Amber Rudd MP Recent News Update

Many households will have received a blue glossy flyer. This invited people to 'raise an issue of concern'. At the HOTRA February meeting it was agreed to encourage members to write / email about the closure of Isabel Blackman Centre email office@amberrudd.co.uk OR Swallow House, Theaklin Drive TN38 9AZ

An email will be sent to all HOTRA members urging them to respond.

Rock a Nore Surgery Some good news at last

The builders started working at the beginning of February and hopefully by July they will finish. Then all that will be needed is for ESCC Highways to sort out the pavements to make them pedestrian friendly.