

October 2019 Parish News

Isabel Blackman Centre PETITION

Please sign the petition. The closing date is Friday 4th October. We hope that it will be considered at the East Sussex County Council on 6th October. You can sign on - line. Simply type on eastsussexcountycouncil then type in petitions and you will see the current list of petitions. If you cannot access the internet then there is a paper copy at Penbuckles in the High Street.

Open meeting 12th September

Nearly 70 people attended. There was disappointment that Dr Namvar was unable to be there. Instead Steve - the group business manager - reported on progress. It is likely that building work will continue into November with a potential opening in December. There are still a number of issues waiting to be resolved. Perhaps the biggest question is whether a pharmacy will be included in the new surgery. A clear view was expressed that this was essential. This seems to be phase 1 of the work with some of the facilities promised originally put back for decisions and budget to be taken in the future.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue

The meeting went on to hear from Julie King, Borough Commander. Julie set out very clearly the issues facing the service. On the key question for the Old Town around the provision of a smaller size fire appliance the answer was less clear. Currently there is another review taking place. This will look at whether the challenge of the Old Town's narrow streets and twittens could be still met by the existing large appliance. HOTRA has asked whether there will be any consultation with the wider community. Members are aware that this issue was first raised in 2003. East Sussex is the only county between Kent and Cornwall that does not have any smaller appliances available [except for an adapted but elderly Land Rover]. Julie was asked to take back our thanks to the fire crews.

Climate Change

At the September meeting of the HOTRA committee we decided to ask Hastings Council to consider 2 issues as part of its response to this challenge.

1] Can they press Stagecoach for the aged single decker buses to be replaced as soon as possible by buses powered either by batteries or by oxygen. These buses already exist and are in use in other places. Perhaps there could be some air quality monitoring at busy places like the lower end of Havelock Road. The existing buses will need to be replaced soon so perhaps Hastings could be given a higher priority.

2] Ice Cream vans - some of these are even older than the buses. Have you noticed how the engine is never fully off. When an ice cream is prepared for sale the engine automatically engages. Most people near ice cream vans are children and they are breathing polluted air.