



# Hastings Old Town Residents Association.

Notes from the HOTRA Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, 4pm, Clive Morris Room, St Clements Church, Croft Road, Hastings. TN34 3HR.

1. Acting Chair, Mary Phillips, welcomed attendees, thanked them for observing Covid safety measures and introduced herself as a resident of the West Hill for over 40 years and representative of the West Hill Community Centre which is on the Old Hastings boundary on Croft Road.
2. Attendance: PCSO Maria Barraclough, Dick Edwards, John Reynolds, Ann Novotny, Raquel Lebron, Cllr Dany Louise, Cllr James Bacon, Phil White, Mary Phillips.  
Apologies: Jill Bradley, Shirley Hawley, Hazel Lloyd, James Thomas.
3. Guest Speaker: PCSO, Maria Barraclough, introduced herself as being part of a team of police and PCSOs for the area and being in post for 11 months which started during the pandemic. She had a meeting with Mary and discussed issues raised by HOTRA including, Swan Gardens, The Church Yard, congregating groups, Halloween, Fireworks, graffiti etc and reported that the team were now a regular presence in the area. She said that, to build up 'Community Intelligence' residents and traders should report any none urgent problems by email or phone to 101 and emergencies to 999. Residents can inform her verbally while on duty but she cannot make arrests or instigate jobs.  
Raquel and John talked about the problem of drug taking around Swan Gardens and the Church Yard. Dick informed her of the antisocial use of fireworks in some alley ways.  
James Bacon thanked Maria and her team for being a much-appreciated presence in the Old Town area. Maria stayed for the whole meeting and will attend future meetings if she can.  
(Mary will inform Jill of contact details) **ACTION MP**
4. Minutes of the last Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> October and Matters Arising. (All discussed as Chair's Report.)
5. Chair's Report: i) PCSO- meeting: 19/10/20 achieved.  
ii) Electric Palace: Director Rebecca Marshall: They are Covid-safe and can accept up to 15 people. School bubbles can be catered for. They are taking each request individually. Becoming a 'Friend of EP' and donations would be helpful but mainly she wants the space used, even if it is at a loss for a while. She is hoping for Christmas & party events. A piece in our next Newsletter, welcomed.  
iii) Pot Holes: Report potholes via ESCC website- take a picture or assess the size of the hole. The more reports they get, the more likely a repair is. There are a lot of gas works going on at the moment where the surface is not properly replaced. Cllr Bacon forwarded the contact details of the Highway Steward to Mary. **ACTION MP**  
iv) Seafront barriers have gone.  
v) Correspondence from: James Bacon re Old Town Traders Committee Rep. **ACTION Raquel.** St Mary's In the Castle Crowdfunding from Christopher Cormack HOTRA to send acknowledgement & support. **ACTION MP** Nick Chitty re Roebuck Surgery Planning. HOTRA to send acknowledgement & support. **ACTION MP** Scaffolding in George Street is being modified. **ACTION Jill Bradley** to continue liaising with Ian Miller of Luxury Leisure.) Flamingo Park walkway- Kevin Boorman: There is no reported action on this but Kevin & Cllr Callaghan are dealing with it. **ACTION: Phil.** HOTRA to keep on the agenda.

vi) Virtual Meetings: Not possible at the moment. We need to be inclusive and any training can't happen under the present restrictions. (Discussed later in the meeting under AOB.)

vii) HOTRA Website. Needs to be kept up to date. **ACTION: MP** to contact Richard Platt.

viii) Thanks, especially to Jill, Dick, Phil and Ann for their help and support.

Vice Chair's Report: Dick Edwards: Re Isobel Blackman Centre: Dick reported that delegates had met with ESCC. To deal with renovation and kitchen replacement the organisation will need massive additional funding. But there is a 'strong determination' to keep the Centre, and the flat above, for community use. There is a chance of acquiring an interest free loan. Danny Louise suggested getting a prominent dignitary involved to give 'weight' to this important project. **ACTION: Dick** to contact, Cllr Trevor Webb the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and Kim Forward, Hastings' Mayor.

6. Treasurer's Report. Phil White: Reported no additional activity. Membership remains at £15 per person per annum, due in January. There are 144 registered HOTRA members to date. Raquel said that social media could help with recruiting more members.

7. Secretary's Report. Jill Bradley: The Mayor has accepted HOTRA's invitation to become its president in perpetuity. Cllr Danny Louise to be asked for an update on Hendy's scaffolding. **ACTION: Dany** is going to contact Kevin Boorman.

8. Planning Matters: John Reynolds: mentioned above. There was a question about who is responsible for damaged kerb stones. **ACTION: MP** refer to Highways Steward.

9. Members Concerns: Ann: Asked for a list of HOTRA's achievements to encourage new members. **ACTION: Dick** to co-ordinate. John to talk to appropriate residents about plastic barriers left at the end of The Croft. Phil reported a long-standing smell of gas in Exmouth Place. **ACTION: Phil** to contact the Gas Board again.

10. Parish News: There was discussion about putting a HOTRA piece. **ACTION: Next Agenda.**

11. AOB:1) Chairperson for next month will be Phil White. 2) Age Friendly Communities: Dick reported that this will be becoming National Policy so HBC will be expected to sign up to it. 3) The meeting agreed to make a £100 donation to the church for allowing us to use the meeting room.

4) Virtual Meetings: After some discussion, the meeting decided to arrange a meeting with James Thomas to explore the feasibility of incorporating an element of technology into our meetings to enable HOTRA members to join in remotely. This to be arranged before the next meeting if possible. **ACTION: MP**

5) Social Media development for HOTRA. James Thomas to speak at next meeting. **ACTION: Phil** to put on the next agenda.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. 4pm in the Morris Room, St Clements Church.

Meeting to Closed at 5.02pm

MP 09/12/2020 amended 10/12/20