

**Notes of the Annual General Meeting
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association
27 May 2010**

1. Welcome to Members

Jan Weeks (Chairman) welcomed members to the meeting and remarked on the good turnout of approximately 150 members. She directed members to the booklet that had been distributed around the hall. This included the Agenda, the Chairman's Report and the Treasurer's Report and is attached to these notes.

2. Apologies

All current and prospective SHRA Committee members were present. Jan Weeks (JW) highlighted that elected representatives, members of our local Police team and our new MP, Stephen Lloyd had been invited to the meeting. Cllr. Salsbury had offered her apologies earlier in the day and SHRA had been informed that Cllr. Bloom's medical condition had precluded him accepting the invitation. Cllr. Tarrant (previously Cllr. Morris) sent late apologies, received after the meeting, and Stephen Lloyd had accepted and would join the meeting at about 20:15 hours.

3. Welcome and Introduction of Guests

JW welcomed Cllr. David Elkin, who is the County Councillor for Sovereign Ward, Police Sergeant Ed Ripley, Police Constable Ed Faulkner and Police Community Support Officer Martin Hyland.

4. Introduction of Committee

The Committee who had served over 2009 – 10 were introduced. This comprised Jan Weeks (Chairman), Rick Runalls (Deputy Chairman), Ian Weeks (Communications Officer), Peter Thomas (Treasurer), Tony Smith (Web Manager), Christine Runalls (Secretary), John Teasdale (Membership Secretary), Adrienne Brecher and Carol Teasdale.

5. Chairman's Report

JW explained that the Chairman's Report covered a breadth of issues including a background / history of the SHRA. Rather than present a blow-by-blow review of the report she invited members to read it at their leisure, but picked out some notable and current issues. Of particular significance for members and other Harbour residents is that having successfully fought off applications by developers to build a B&Q super store and more flats on the remaining Harbour development sites, EBC themselves are now intent on putting more residential development on the Harbour. This heralds the start of a challenging year for SHRA and once again highlights the need for the support of its members and indeed all residents who care about the Harbour community.

JW explained that members should expect an Open Meeting to be called on the Harbour in the near future to mark the movement of responsibility for the collection from residents of the Harbour Charge, from Sovereign Harbour Trust to a new Community Interest Company that has recently been formed.

JW thanked members for their support over the past year.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Peter Thomas (PT) in summary. He drew the meeting's attention to the introduction of Paypal as a convenient way of members paying subscriptions on the internet. Income from subscriptions had increased in the accounts, but PT highlighted that late and early payments contributed to this so it could not automatically be translated to the current number of members which totalled approximately 400 homes. Waterlines continues to be distributed to every home on the Harbour and once again revenue from advertising income, which had risen again after the impact of the recession, was significantly offsetting the cost of this 'inclusion' policy to SHRA members. A net income of £1508.66 was reported for 2009 – 10 and an increase in net current assets to £13,436.43. PT invited members to read the Treasurer's report at their leisure and to let him know if they required clarification of any issues.

PT introduced and thanked Jon Martin who had once again audited the SHRA accounts.

7. Appointment of Committee for Coming Year

JW reported that there had been no new expressions of interest in joining the Committee from the membership. In these circumstances the existing Committee had agreed to serve for another year and constitutionally they could be automatically re-elected. However, JW asked for a show of hands to indicate whether members present supported this. The resulting show indicated a nearly unanimous expression of support for re-election of the Committee and there were no objections.

As a consequence the meeting confirmed that the SHRA Committee entering the 2010 – 2011 year would comprise Jan Weeks, Rick Runalls, Ian Weeks, Peter Thomas, Tony Smith, Christine Runalls, John Teasdale, Adrienne Brecher and Carol Teasdale.

8. Open Discussion

- a) A member remarked on the last issue of Waterlines and the article about the new Harbour Community Association and why the Council has given them £2500. JW explained that the decision by councillors to award this money to the Community Association had led to confusion over its role, particularly in relation to SHRA. However, the SHRA Committee has now had a chance to meet with two members of the Community Association committee and the situation has been clarified. An update will be provided in a future edition of Waterlines.
- b) A South Harbour resident asked about the situation regarding the delayed road adoption programme in his area of the Harbour. Rick Runalls (RR) explained that he also lives in the area in question and ran through the history of this development, which was predominantly constructed by Westbury Homes. Unlike other areas on the Harbour the developer decided not to offer its roads up for adoption and consequently no Section 38 agreements were put in place. However, the area was subsequently taken over by Persimmon, who wanted the roads adopted by ESCC. The County Council were sympathetic to this and in the absence of Section 38 agreements they agreed to adopt under a 'Deed of Dedication'. Work is currently going on to rectify defects on roads, footpaths and drains in advance of adoption, which RR anticipates will take place later in this calendar year.
- c) The reference to more residential development on the Harbour during the discussion of the Chairman's Report opened up into a more detailed exchange led by JW, Ian Weeks (IW) and RR, who had all been involved in discussions with the CEO of EBC, Robert Cottrill, and key planning

officers. It was described that the proposal for more residential development on the Harbour had arisen from a series of public consultation meetings, one of which was held on the Harbour and advertised by SHRA. This had led to a report being issued entitled 'Local Development Framework: Core Spatial Development Strategy (20.05.10)'. This recommended that to meet a requirement of the outgoing Labour Government in their South East Development Plan a total of 4800 homes are to be built in Eastbourne between 2006 – 2026. There has already been a substantial contribution to this target from Sovereign Harbour and now the latest report recommends a further 150 homes on the Harbour.

Key points are:

- The report makes no mention of the Council cross-party motion and Policy that no more homes were to be built on the Harbour.
- It makes no comment on the current level housing density and the problems that have arisen.
- It makes no commitments to conditions which demand that the missing community facilities (Community Centre, Health Centre, recreation area and play areas) are all completed before any further housing development is started.
- It makes no reference to the Master Plan that the current Council administration was supposed to be ensuring would result in provision of the missing social infrastructure.
- It makes no reference to the Planning Document PPS 25 which demands that in flood risk zones such as Sovereign Harbour a 'sequential test' should be applied which would preclude further residential development if Eastbourne has sites available in lower risk areas, which it does.
- In using the results of the public consultation to justify the conclusion that Sovereign Harbour is a preferred solution as far as the Eastbourne public are concerned, it has discounted the objections from residents at the Sovereign Harbour consultation event.
- The report was skewed not only by discounting the views of Harbour residents, but also by allowing another area of Eastbourne two opportunities to get their views in. Old Town's public consultation event had a pitiful turnout. Consequently EBC leafleted every home in that area and arranged a second event for them, presumably to ensure it got the preferred result.
- There is no discussion as to why the housing plans of the last Government are forming the basis of future housing development in Eastbourne without first consulting the new Government.

The SHRA Committee wrote to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee (PC), our ward Cllr. Salsbury, with their concerns asking her to represent them to the PC when the report came up for discussion on 20 May, and urged that the Planning Committee reject the report in its current form. She declined to do this and the PC, which also includes another of our ward councillors, endorsed the report, which then went to the Council Cabinet.

At the Cabinet Cllr. Elkin argued the objections on behalf of SHRA, but without success and once again the report was endorsed.

After the hard work to get recognition of the needs of Harbour residents, the production of this report and the attitude of the Council feel like a betrayal and a return to the policies that originally produced a totally non-sustainable development.

JW highlighted that the process under which the recommendations in this report become policy is still continuing and will once again come under scrutiny in 3 months time. So, a period of 12 weeks exists in which residents and the SHRA can continue to object. Members were urged to write to

EBC expressing their views. IW said a link would be provided on the SHRA web site to enable members to access the LDF report and he would provide a hard copy if members without internet access required it.

The discussion that followed was characterised by anger from SHRA members, but also determination to back the SHRA Committee in continuing the fight to ensure that residents' interests are given priority in the final stage of Harbour development. The need for a return to the direct action that had been effective in previous campaigns was stressed and it was proposed that SHRA form an action group to arrange demonstrations to publicise the residents' case.

At this point Stephen Lloyd MP arrived at the meeting and was welcomed by JW. He addressed the meeting and reflected on his first days at Westminster and the trials and excitement of taking up his post. He stressed that he was not a career politician and had 20 years of experience working in business. Stephen congratulated IW on receiving the 'Good Neighbour' award at the previous night's Eastbourne Achievers Award ceremony at the Winter Garden. Sovereign Harbour had been an interest of Stephen for several years and he had worked with residents in resisting the B&Q planning application. He stressed that he recognised that the Council and developers had not protected residents' interests when the Harbour was planned and built, and that he would make Sovereign Harbour one of his priorities. He commented that he would work against any more residential development on the Harbour.

The Open Discussion then continued.

- d) Residents asked Stephen Lloyd (SL) why the Sovereign Ward Councillors had turned their back on SHRA once they had been elected and why they had such a low profile in working on behalf of the Harbour?

SL responded that this was not all the Councillors fault, but was also the responsibility of SHRA.

RR responded that SHRA could have done no more to engage with the newly elected councillors who had been invited as guests to SHRA meetings. They subsequently attended once, but acted in a very cool manner and made it clear at the time and since that they did not feel any need to work with SHRA. RR expressed his view that their actions towards SHRA suggested that they considered SHRA a threat to their 'authority', rather than an 'opportunity' to be used in the interests of the ward. It was even more disappointing that the councillors' attitude to the SHRA Committee, which at first seemed ambivalent, hardened into personal attacks on Committee members during the Parish Council debate.

An SHRA member commented that the ward councillors should adopt a more mature approach and stop taking things personally during debates. He argued that evidence of the Sovereign ward councillors' attitude was clear – SHRA had invited them to the AGM to take part in discussions and not one of them had bothered to attend. He asked SL if he could do anything to improve the situation.

SL agreed to work to improve relations with ward councillors, but noted that if the situation did not improve residents had the power to replace the ward councillors at next year's ward election.

- e) A member commented to SL that if Eastbourne were to grow it desperately needed better communications and asked SL if he could do something to get a faster London rail link and to improve the A27 to form a south coast trunk road providing a fast link right through to Dover. SL agreed that a fast road link to Dover would be a benefit and explained that one of his long-term ambitions was to get a London journey time of less than 1hr 5mins. This would make it a viable commuter option attracting a significant influx of people to Eastbourne.
- f) IW suggested that SHRA needed to present the needs of Sovereign Harbour to the new Secretary of State for Communities. SL agreed that if SHRA would formulate the questions they wanted to ask he would get together with them and get these to the right person.
- g) In response to a discussion it was suggested that the way of improving residents' confidence in the elected representatives was to ensure residents actually get what they need on the Harbour. SL agreed and explained that he had already set up a meeting with the CEO of ESCC. David Tutt (Leader of EBC) has already agreed to find money for a community centre and SL said he would be asking ESCC to mirror this. Earlier in the meeting in a similar discussion Cllr. Elkin had suggested that the Section 106 money that had arisen as a result of the construction Sovereign Harbour had not been provided by developers to finance social infrastructure, and could not now be used for this. If this was attempted then the developers could legally require that this money was refunded to them. Cllr. Elkin stressed that it was the residents' right to have this infrastructure and the Council should be demanding that the developers provide it, but it was not clear whether this was based on a 'moral right' with no legal compulsion.
- h) SL stressed that he would work tirelessly to improve the Harbour, but asked that SHRA in return help him transform Eastbourne. He wished SHRA to use its expertise to help achieve what Eastbourne needs. He believed that there is a disconnect between the Harbour and Eastbourne and that the Harbour should 'hold out a hand' to Eastbourne.

IW explained that SHRA has always argued that the Harbour is an integral part of Eastbourne and has argued for initiatives that increase its value to Eastbourne and the value of its community.

RR stressed that although SHRA has always wanted the Harbour to be considered part of Eastbourne it is very difficult to feel close to the Town when every decision the Council has taken disadvantages the Harbour community. IW explained to SL that from the LDF report discussed earlier in the meeting the Council has once again demonstrated an absence of goodwill towards the Harbour's problems. It appears that the goodwill being invited is one-sided. He suggested that given the history it would be more appropriate for the Council to proffer a hand to the Harbour by putting up money for missing facilities, when Harbour residents have contributed so much tax income to the County and Borough over the years.

SL expressed his view that SHRA should produce material to promote the Harbour as a venue for visitors and present these at fêtes / meetings around Eastbourne to 'sell' the Harbour.

RR replied that it would be wonderful to do this, but asked what the SHRA Committee should drop off its work list. The SHRA Committee is a small group working to capacity fighting very significant

issues for the Harbour, so are they to stop resisting the unwanted developments that will finish the community's potential once and for all, while the Council still tries to get more residential development on the Harbour; do we stop the working towards getting the Environment Agency and others to recognise the injustice of the flood defence financing for Sovereign Harbour and the Harbour Charge. He stressed that a small committee, such as that in the SHRA, would not be able to keep this up for ever and certainly has not the capacity to pick up work of lower priority to the Harbour community. RR asked SL why the Sovereign ward councillors were not picking up the work to promote the Harbour they have been elected to represent. He expressed the view that if the Harbour's problems could be sorted out over the next 18 months Harbour residents would be 'over the moon' at promoting the Harbour on behalf of Eastbourne.

SL responded by saying that if RR continued to present this as an 'us and them' situation it would not improve. RR commented that his point had been missed and that it has nothing to do with 'us and them'. The point is that he believed the Harbour deserved to be treated with respect and the same consideration enjoyed by other areas of Eastbourne, a point that still does not appear to be appreciated. Then the Harbour could be expected to reciprocate.

Once again there were expressions of disappointment from the audience that Sovereign ward councillors had not attended the meeting and were therefore not taking part in this debate.

SL responded by saying that he appreciated the arguments that had been put forward and assured the meeting that he would work on behalf of harbour residents.

The general discussion concluded, and JW and the meeting expressed their appreciation to Stephen Lloyd for taking the time to attend and share his views.

9. AOB

- JW reminded the meeting of the Rotary Club on Sovereign Harbour and directed members with an interest in joining to Don Perman, who was in attendance.
- RR drew the meeting's attention to the unusual absence of Linus Gunning. He explained that Linus is a very active supporter of SHRA and Harbour interests generally, as well as the founder of the racing club on the Harbour. Sadly Linus has become ill and is unable to attend the meeting tonight. However, he asked me to pass on his appreciation for the care he had been given by Help the Aged and St. Wilfred's Hospice and to draw members' attention to these worthy charities. The meeting expressed its best wishes for Linus' recovery and appreciation for the work he has done in support of the community.
- In response to a question from the floor RR gave a brief update on SHRA's work on Sovereign Harbour Trust (SHT) and related issues. RR explained that this was a major area of activity for the Committee which had formed an action team to progress the issues surrounding the Harbour Charge. Although time precluded a detailed report RR explained that meetings had taken place and will continue to take place with the SHT Board of Trustees, Rupert Boissier, the CEO of Premier Marinas Ltd. and the Environment Agency. These were addressing the change from the Harbour Charge being collected by SHT to a Community Interest Company, and the legal agreements and deeds underpinning the flood defence and marina maintenance charges.

RR explained that over the last few months SHRA had been able to make use of the Freedom of Information Legislation to get a fuller picture of the background to the formation of SHT. The Committee of the SHRA are intent on understanding the legal background to the charges, ensuring the transparency of these, and getting resident representation on the bodies administering the charges. Another landmark is a meeting in June with the Environment Agency, where SHRA will discuss the legitimacy of Sovereign Harbour being the only community on the coast of the British Isles to pay twice for flood defence – once through the taxes they pay and again through the Harbour Charge.

An area of improvement has been the relationship with Premier Marinas. This had been a long-term objective of SHRA since Carillion sold the marina business, but it has been a slow job. More recently the CEO of Premier has personally been in discussion with SHRA after it had lodged a complaint with the Charities Commission over the role of the Trust as a 'debt collection agency' and the conduct of the Charities Commission in allowing this to happen. SHRA are looking forward to a continuing improvement in relations that should result in resident representation in the administration of the Harbour Charge.

However, RR pointed out that although SHRA are cautiously optimistic it is important not to forget that, from the numerous organisations who were invited to comment, Premier Marinas and the Berth Holders Association were the only organisations that objected to the proposal to form a Parish Council on the Harbour. This would have been a major step forward for the Harbour Community, but apparently it was seen as a threat to the objectives of the marina business. SHRA has always seen the marina company and berth holders as neighbours within our community, but actions over the years have indicated that they do not see the situation in the same way and consider the interests of the marina business as paramount. Nevertheless SHRA will continue to strive for a better working relationship, which can benefit everyone.

Waterlines will be used to update residents as these issues develop.

The meeting concluded. JW thanked Cllr. Elkin and Police representatives. Members expressed their thanks to the SHRA Committee for their work and JW reciprocated on behalf of the Committee for the support members had shown.



Annual General Meeting 27th May 2010

Haven School Sovereign Harbour
Doors Open 19:00, Meeting Commences 19:30

Agenda

1. Welcome to Members
2. Apologies
3. Welcome and Introduction of Guests
 - Stephen Lloyd M.P.
 - Sovereign Ward Councillors
 - Neighbourhood Policing Team
4. Introduction of Committee
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Appointment of Committee for Coming Year
8. AOB
9. Introduction of Stephen Lloyd MP

Meeting Ends

Chairman's Report

A brief history of the SHRA

Although many of you will already know the history of the SHRA, for those of you new to the harbour, and by that I mean within the last five years, I have put together a 'Brief History of the Sovereign Harbour Residents Association'.

In 2000 a few residents of the then new Sovereign Harbour development got together and formed the SHRA. Its purpose, the same as now, to stop the landowners from over developing the sites, and to try and influence them and the Borough Council to complete the infrastructure that a development of 1,000 homes required. Even then the landowners had promised, a Medical Centre, a Community Centre and open areas and play areas for children.

By 2002 the number of homes had increased to 1,654, and the membership had grown but, although there was a website, it was not widely advertised or well known. It was at about this time that B&Q submitted a planning application to build a 'Mega-Store' on Commercial Site One (now known as Site Six).

Not all the residents thought that the application was a bad idea; in fact some agreed that it would be good for the harbour by funding for the missing infrastructure. Luckily for us the planning committee helped by objections from residents, turned it down, and so did the Planning Inspector at appeal in 2003. Not deterred, B&Q, supported by Carillion submitted a further planning application late in 2004.

This time the residents were galvanised into action, and the 'No to B&Q' group was formed. At this time the SHRA committee (or some of them) again thought B&Q would solve some of the problems and act as a catalyst for the provision of the missing infrastructure. However, the majority of residents disagreed and at the next SHRA AGM in May 2005 the Committee was replaced.

The SHRA in its present form was born.

Its priorities were to ensure residents were kept fully informed of harbour issues, and to expand membership as widely as possible. It was realised that communication was the key and work began on a revamped website and a newsletter, Waterlines, was born. Although it was initially planned that Waterlines would be delivered to members only, the committee decided that, as its priority was to keep residents fully informed, it would be delivered to all harbour dwellings. To reduce the inevitable drain on funds, sponsorship was sought from local businesses through advertising. This has proved to be very popular and, for the past three years, Waterlines has been virtually self-funding. In fact, in 2008, Waterlines made sufficient profit that the SHRA was able to make a £500 donation to the Save the DGH campaign.

In October 2005, Waterlines was used to great effect to galvanise support against the revised B&Q planning application. Because of the huge number of objections, it was necessary for the Planning Committee to meet in the Winter Gardens and the SHRA hired buses to transport residents to the meeting. People power prevailed and 400 residents cheered as the Planning Committee unanimously rejected the application.

In 2006 the inevitable B&Q appeal was submitted and, at about the same time, another planning application was submitted for the 'Five Sites'. The membership had by now increased from a very small base to over 500 member households. Waterlines was again used to great effect and again over 300 protesters were bussed to the Town Hall to hear all five applications rejected by the planning committee. Waterlines was then used to orchestrate a campaign of residents' protests to the Planning Inspector, and directly to the directors of B&Q and Carillion. December 2006 saw B&Q withdraw its appeal.

In 2007 the SHRA raised a petition for

a referendum to form a Community Council that would have given residents a greater opportunity to be actively involved in the future of the harbour, and greater control over the spending of our Council Tax contributions. Although the required number of signatures for the referendum was easily raised, unfortunately at the vote in 2008 the proposal was rejected by a small majority.

By 2010 the number of homes on the harbour has reached 3,700, and a population of approximately 7,800. Because of the high density of the housing, and the over provision of apartments, the harbour population is more transient than most; at least 1,500 homes are either single occupancy, rented or holiday homes, the remainder being second homes or owner occupied.

The population of the harbour is becoming ever more diverse with a mix ranging from young singles, to families of varying ages to retired professional people. The SHRA exists for the benefit of all residents; the committee is made up of volunteers, who give their time freely to improve the quality of life for all of those harbour residents, whether they are members or not.

The past year's activities

So now to the report for 2009/10 which, although not as eventful as some previous years, has had a couple of significant milestones.

In April 2009, Rick Runalls resigned from the SHRA committee to stand in the County Council elections. Although the committee supported Rick in his endeavours not a penny of members contributions were used in his election campaign. Rick was incredibly successful in a very short campaign, polling over 800 votes, but failed to take the seat, which was retained by Cllr. David Elkin. Following the election Rick was asked to return to the SHRA committee, which he did.

In June we held an open meeting on Community Travel, attended by about 60 interested residents. It became

clear at this meeting that, although the SHRA doesn't have the resources to operate a Community Bus Service without help from interested parties. It would, however, continue to campaign for better transport services for harbour residents, and the SHRA committee will give its full support to any person or group wanting to pursue this cause.

Following the meeting, and after further pressure from the SHRA, it seems that at long last the outstanding issues concerning the 'Bus Gate', which will provide through access between the North and South Harbours, are close to resolution. We hope to see a much improved bus service as a result.

September 2009 saw the long awaited planning application for the Harbour Medical Centre, which we were delighted to see unanimously approved by the EBC Planning Committee. There have been a few hiccups, but work on the centre should start soon.

November gave residents a chance to have their say on how their local neighbourhood community could be developed, through the Local Development Framework consultation event held at the Haven School. The event, organised by EBC and attended by councillors and officers, was to prepare for the delivery of 4,800 homes in Eastbourne by 2026 through the Preferred Strategies Consultation. Initial indications are, unsurprisingly, that the bulk of the new houses will be foisted on the harbour. The SHRA will, with your support, vigorously oppose any further unsustainable residential development.

Throughout the year other issues have been addressed by SHRA.

A small sub-group was formed to continue our campaign for residents to be represented on the board of the Sovereign Harbour Trust and to obtain greater transparency over the disbursement of funds. Although slow, there has been some progress, and we are hopeful that we will be able to report significant changes. The most welcome aspect is that we have, at last,

met the trustees, and have established the basis for ongoing communication. Discussions are also in progress with the two beneficiaries of the Sovereign Harbour Trust; Environment Agency and Premier Marinas.

Progress, albeit slow progress, has been made on the adoption of residential roads in the North Harbour, which is now substantially complete. The spinal highway, Pacific Drive, has at last come under control of the County Council. Very welcome, but too late for this year's snow. Adoption of the remaining South Harbour residential roads is proceeding under a 'Deed of Dedication' and although, as always, progress is slow, it is hoped that this will be completed in the current financial year.

Representations have been made to Premier Marinas concerning the state of the area to the south of the lock gates (Site 11). The company has accepted that this site requires urgent attention and it is investigating possible solutions. Closer links have also been forged with Premier Marinas, after a meeting with its CEO, Rupert Boissier. Mr Boissier suggested that regular meetings between Premier Marinas and SHRA would be mutually beneficial, a proposal with which we are happy to agree.

The Sovereign Harbour Neighbourhood Panel has flourished, and the resulting partnership with the Neighbourhood Policing team has delivered real benefits to the community. The Neighbourhood Policing Inspector, Tony Wakefield moved on to pastures new, and was replaced by Insp. Rachel Barrow. Our Neighbourhood team, PC Ed Faulkner and PCSO Martin Hylands are familiar figures patrolling the area and interfacing with the public.

The past year has seen the formation of a new 'Rotary of Sovereign Harbour'. It has already reached its membership target and should become a fully chartered organisation later this year. We welcome the Rotarians to the harbour, congratulate them on the charitable work already undertaken, and offer our support for the work they will

undertake in the future.

Harbour Friends continues to go from strength to strength, as does Harbour Seniors; both of these groups have become indispensable to the social life of the harbour. We offer our congratulations on their respective fifth and second birthdays.

We also say goodbye, to one of our most passionate sponsors, Rob Endicott of Quayside Dental and Health Centre. Rob has sponsored Waterlines on and off for almost five years, but has had to sell his business and leave the harbour due to ill-health. We hear that Rob is now recovering well, and I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery and the best of luck for the future.

This month committee members met with the new Chief Executive of the Borough Council, to discuss further development of the remaining sites and the provision of the missing social infrastructure.

The SHRA committee met earlier this year with council leader, Cllr. David Tutt and Stephen Lloyd, who was then the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate. We also met opposition leader, Cllr. David Elkin and Nigel Waterson, who was then our MP. Both meetings were meaningful and productive, and paved the way for future cooperation.

The 2010 General Election saw the election of Stephen Lloyd as Eastbourne's MP. We look forward to continuing the excellent relationship we have already established with Stephen, and to working with him in the future. We are very encouraged that Stephen has identified harbour issues as one of his priorities, and that a meeting to discuss them has already taken place.

Our commiserations to our outgoing MP, Nigel Waterson, and our thanks to him for the past support he has given to the harbour. We wish him well in his future plans.

At the centre of any community is its School, and we are pleased that this

year we have made ever closer ties with the Haven School. As reported in Waterlines, the SHRA has presented an award to the school; 'The Sovereign Harbour Residents Association Community Award'. The award will be presented to the pupil or pupils that the school feel have made a contribution to the community in some small way.

The coming year

The coming year is likely to be crucial to the future of the SHRA. The most pressing issue is likely to be planning.

It is widely expected that very soon Carillion will be submitting Planning Applications for further residential building on the Harbour, which will be vigorously opposed. Carillion will undoubtedly argue that social infrastructure can only be funded by the profits of residential development. Living in the real world, we understand this, but the funding has already been provided by the profits gained from over twenty years of unrestricted development. We call on Carillion, as an act of good faith, and with no preconditions, to donate the land on which we can build a Community Centre. Only then can we look to raise the funds required to build and equip it.

Our ability to contest further development has been greatly compromised by the very flawed consultation on the Local Development Framework and the Central Government requirement for an additional 4,800 homes to be provided in Eastbourne by 2026.

Nobody wants additional housing in their community, and the consultation was cleverly designed to give residents of the other Eastbourne neighbourhoods the opportunity to dump the requirement onto Sovereign Harbour. It also allows the Borough Council to use the additional housing to secure the social infrastructure that is missing without having to challenge the land owners or to provide funding. Although the report allocates just 150 homes to Sovereign Harbour, be under no illusion that this number will expand exponentially once Carillion is allowed to get its foot in the

door. Be under no illusion too that the Borough Council will put the interests of harbour residents before those of 'Old Eastbourne', experience shows the reverse.

The constant struggles against developers and local government over the past five years has, inevitably, taken its toll, and some of the longer standing committee members are feeling the strain.

The SHRA has become an essential participant in all harbour issues and it is essential that this should continue. Some of the committee members have indicated that this could be their last year in office so, if there is to be a seamless continuation of their work, it is essential that new blood must be found soon. If you feel you have the necessary skills, and can guarantee to provide the time, we would be delighted to hear from you. The SHRA has achieved so much and has so much more to do; with your help we will continue to go from strength to strength.

We are all privileged to live in such a great location, even though there are a few problems. The campaign for improvements in the harbour infrastructure and the protection of the environment in which we live will continue, and we will continue to chip away at the barriers that have been put in our way. We are sure that, with perseverance, our aspirations will eventually become realities.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank you all for your past support and look forward to your continued support in the coming year. I'm sure you will all also join me in thanking the volunteers who deliver Waterlines to your door, come rain or come shine



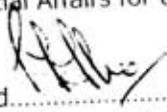
Jan Weeks
Chairman
SHRA

SOVEREIGN HARBOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

| | | 09/10 | 08/09 | 07/08 | 06/07 |
|---|----------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st March 2010 | | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | | |
| Cash in Natwest Current a/c | £ | 1,441.31 | £ 1,345.79 | £ 3,997.62 | £ 3,009.07 |
| Cash in Natwest Reserve a/c | £ | 9,966.26 | £ 9,809.32 | £ 9,682.65 | £ 6,458.03 |
| Cash in PayPal a/c | £ | 1,111.10 | £ - | £ - | £ - |
| Prepayments | £ | 211.33 | £ 233.67 | £ 209.14 | |
| Equipment Assets | | | | | |
| asset b/f | £ | 1,109.97 | | | |
| plus: purchases | £ | 513.14 | | £ 364.84 | |
| less: depreciation | £ | 648.56 | | £ 111.48 | |
| asset c/f | £ | 974.55 | £ 974.55 | £ 1,109.97 | £ 253.36 |
| Total Current Assets | £ | 13,704.55 | £ 12,498.75 | £ 14,142.77 | £ 9,467.10 |
| Current Liabilities | | | | | |
| Prepaid Subscriptions | | | £ - | £ 1,880.00 | £ 3,345.00 |
| Cheques Issued not Cashed | £ | 268.12 | £ 63.38 | | £ 792.00 |
| Total Current Liabilities | £ | 268.12 | £ 63.38 | £ 1,880.00 | £ 4,137.00 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS Held for Revenue A/c | £ | 13,436.43 | £ 12,435.37 | £ 12,262.77 | £ 5,330.10 |
| REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCE at end of the Year | | | £ 12,435.37 | £ 12,262.77 | £ 5,330.10 |

Certified that I have laid before the Auditor all of the books ar

Financial Affairs for the period 1st March 2009 to 31st March 20

Signed.......... Date.....21.5.2010.....
 Peter T Thomas (Treasurer)

SOVEREIGN HARBOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

REVENUE ACCOUNT for the period 1st March 2009 to 31st March 2010 (13 months)

| | 09/10 | 08/09 | 07/08 | 06/07 |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| Subscriptions | £ 6,870.00 | £ 3,485.00 | £ 4,349.00 | £ 3,765.00 |
| Advertising Income | £ 2,575.00 | £ 2,145.00 | £ 3,975.00 | £ 3,840.00 |
| Donations/Contributions | £ 592.40 | £ - | | £ 90.00 |
| Bank Interest | £ 6.94 | £ 126.67 | £ 224.62 | £ 129.74 |
| The Crumbles Story | £ 377.54 | £ - | £ 384.71 | £ - |
| Other Income | | £ 400.00 | £ - | £ - |
| Total Income | £ 10,421.88 | £ 6,156.67 | £ 8,933.33 | £ 7,824.74 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Printing/Publications | | | | £ 500.28 |
| Waterlines | £ 3,143.00 | £ 5,617.00 | £ 3,709.00 | £ 3,577.68 |
| Stationery & Office Supplies | £ 626.23 | £ 495.00 | £ 277.12 | £ 485.90 |
| Internet Hosting | £ 124.95 | £ 105.63 | £ 126.76 | £ 126.76 |
| Membership Cards | £ 1,661.04 | | £ 248.59 | £ 227.62 |
| Hall Hire & Events | £ 275.00 | £ 213.62 | £ 85.00 | £ 105.00 |
| PO Box | £ 62.39 | £ 59.77 | £ 48.20 | £ 56.15 |
| Postage | £ 61.68 | £ 21.00 | £ 66.18 | £ 2.52 |
| Insurance (Public Liability) | £ 292.61 | £ 267.01 | £ 99.75 | £ 358.05 |
| Transport Hire | | | | £ 445.10 |
| Misc/Sundries | £ 202.70 | | £ 129.15 | £ 40.00 |
| Telephone | £ 213.31 | £ 147.49 | £ 93.69 | £ 227.11 |
| PayPal Fees | £ 79.38 | | | |
| Computer Software & Peripherals | £ 1,014.89 | | | |
| Gazebo, Banner, Software | | | | £ 1,400.74 |
| Bank Correction | | | | £ 0.43 |
| Bank Charges | £ 70.00 | | | |
| Depreciation | £ 648.56 | £ 279.39 | £ 111.48 | |
| Donations (Charity and Prizes) | £ 92.28 | £ 500.00 | | |
| The Crumbles Story | £ 345.20 | | £ 384.71 | |
| Total Expenditure | £ 8,913.22 | £ 7,705.91 | £ 5,379.63 | £ 7,553.34 |
| Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure for the year | £ 1,508.66 | -£ 1,549.24 | £ 3,553.70 | £ 271.40 |
| Balance b/f at beginning of year | £ 4,716.27 | £ 6,265.51 | £ 2,711.81 | £ 2,440.41 |
| Balance c/f at the end of year | £ 6,224.93 | £ 4,716.27 | £ 6,265.51 | £ 2,711.81 |

Why not make more use of the SHRA website
www.shra.co.uk

Visit the 'News' page for up-to-date information of what's happening on the harbour. Why not make the SHRA website your home page?

Did you know that you can download every past issue of Waterlines?

Do you need a reliable trades person?

Do you need a harbour street map?

To receive e-mail notification of website updates

To publicise your social group or event.

To get a link to your website.

or for any other website related enquiry.

E-mail: webmaster@shra.co.uk

Do you have a view that you would like to share or debate?

E-mail: letters@shra.co.uk

Do you have something to sell, or is there something you need?

E-mail: sales@shra.co.uk

or wanted@shra.co.uk

Do you have a harbour related photograph you would like to share?

E-mail: gallery@shra.co.uk

**Remember, it's your website.
Let us know how it could be improved.**

To Sponsor Waterlines

07770-621368

waterlines@shra.co.uk