

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF
SOVEREIGN HARBOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
Thursday, 11 June 2003

Dave Hitchcock welcomed everyone to the meeting especially newcomers, there were 97 residents plus 9 committee members.

EASTBOURNE BUSES

He went on to introduce Steve Barnett, Managing Director of Eastbourne Buses, who came to explain the plans for future development of Eastbourne buses in and around the Harbour.

- A new network for the buses had been started last October. Bus companies had to provide a service but they also had to be profitable.
- The lay-out of the estates on Sovereign Harbour with the many cul-de-sacs made it extra difficult to provide a route that did not incur going over the same ground twice and that passengers also found acceptable.
- As the number of paying customers in the harbour had not been sufficient on their own the route of No 6 had been diverted to include the Birchmere estate with an increased take-up.
- Later this year when all the legal matters have been dealt with, there is to be a ' bus-gate ' at the far end of Atlantic Drive which will block all traffic, except buses and emergency vehicles, allowing only them to enter the Retail area and therefore extend the bus routes. The ' bus-gate ' is an advanced design guaranteed vandal-proof!
- Dale Foden at the Town Hall (01323 410000) is willing to answer any residents queries.
- For the future it is hoped to have a bus exchange at the DGH so that passengers need not travel into the town to change buses.
- 21 low floor vehicles are used on some routes at present and it is hoped to have them on all routes eventually.

Dave Hitchcock then took the opportunity to thank Clare Donovan, previous Chairman for all the work that she had done. Pressure of time prevented her from continuing in this position but she is willing to continue with the Web site.

Paul Metcalfe and Angela Knight were welcomed as new committee members following a vote by those attending.

More committee members are still needed, as are Development Representatives to replace those who have left and to cover new developments such as Columbus Point in South Harbour and Bellwinch in the North Harbour. Anyone willing to help please contact the Secretary^[1].

A quick survey was done to discover how residents attending had found out about the meeting. The majority had responded to the flyer! Thanks to all who delivered these!

Any new residents who would like to join were invited to sign up at the end of the meeting.

Any residents who were unable to attend are encouraged to join by sending their £10 annual subscription (per household) to the Treasurer^[2].

An information pack is being prepared for residents which will include details of committee members and useful phone numbers plus any other information residents would like included. (Please contact the Secretary¹.)

Building Development Updates.

Redrow are in the process of setting up their Site Office near the Lifeboat Station. There have been certain changes to the plans, for example the road between the blocks of flats which had been planned for ground level will now be underground.

Country Homes who are to build between North Harbour Bridge and Pacific Drive are having problems with the existing ground conditions but are also about to start.

B&Q

We are still waiting for the decision resulting from the public inquiry which could come any day now and would be disappointed if the announcement was not within the next three months.

HEALTH CENTRE

The proposed medical centre for Sovereign Harbour is planned to be built where Carillion have their offices in North Harbour - possibly in 2 years time, and negotiations are still on-going.

A doctor has been added to the Surgery in the Wartling Road (Princes Park), specifically for residents of Sovereign Harbour and he will transfer to the Medical Centre when it is built.

Dr I. Adoki, present at the meeting, has opened a surgery in Barrier Reef Way, North Harbour. www.harbourmedicalpractice.co.uk.

Residents present complained about the parking outside their homes, but as Dr Adoki pointed out there is parking for the surgery which would soon be complete and it is hoped that patients will eventually use it!

Dave Hitchcock has arranged a meeting between residents of Barrier Reef Way and David May of the PCT to iron out any outstanding problems at this new surgery.

TRAFFIC, ROADS etc.

The secretary, Brenda Hilliam said that she had received many emails and phone calls about the state of the roads, paths & walkways, traffic speeding on Pacific and Atlantic Drives, security and dog fouling.

It is important that residents contact their developers first and where they have moved on, the maintenance companies, where they exist.

East Sussex County Council has done a traffic survey and is aware of residents worries about speeding traffic, it is possible more will be done when all roads are adopted by Eastbourne Borough Council.

Where it is a question of Health & Safety contact should be made to the Council Health & Safety Officer^[3] who had proved most helpful.

SHRA will take on board complaints from residents and promised to contact Westbury in particular.

Would residents please keep records of any contact that they make to developers or maintenance companies as these would be very useful 'ammunition' for SHRA.

Patrick Warner^[4], one of our Ward Councillors also asked anyone with specific problems to contact him and he will also contact the council with complaints and queries.

SOVEREIGN HARBOUR TRUST

Several residents are very concerned with the payments made to Sovereign Harbour Trust which seem out of proportion to the number of residents in the Harbour many of whom had been assured that these payments would reduce due to increase in numbers of dwellings.

There was also concern that there was no resident representation on the SHT.

Dave Hitchcock explained that the Environment Agency had not yet appointed their two representatives and that the legal requirements for such appointees made few people willing to take on the task.

Dave is due to meet with Mark Orris (Carillion Director) in the near future and will ask if someone from the Trust would be willing to come and speak at a SHRA meeting.

He also pointed out that as payment of the charges was part of the agreements that all owners signed on purchase anyone not paying the charges would be liable for interest payments on top of the original charge.

A.O.B.

Open spaces

Several residents at the meeting and in emails etc to committee had aired concerns about lack of open spaces for children particularly in South Harbour. This has led to children playing in cul-de-sacs and pathways and in some cases causing noise and disruption. As there are no planned play areas except for two in North Harbour put in by developers it was suggested that all developers should be asked about such provision and also that the council be contacted to see if they could bring pressure to bear over this very worrying situation. Perhaps a petition could be organised?. SHRA will look into inviting a planning officer to attend one of our meetings to explain the difference in why some developments have "play areas" for children and others do not.

Beach Access

In reply to queries about beach access Dave Hitchcock said that all developers will provide access from their developments to the beach and these footways will be adopted by EBC on completion of each development.

Dog Fouling

There then followed a discussion on dog fouling! While many dog owners were responsible and removed dog 'pooh' others did not and there were complaints about lack of doggy bins! The council provide these when they have adopted the roads and with some of these 'orphan' roads around for a long time there are obviously going to be problems. Councillor Patrick Warner repeated that he would speak to the council about better provision. In the meantime perhaps developers could be persuaded to do their bit and provide an odd bin or two?!

Broadband

There was a plea for residents to phone BT on 150 to register an interest in Broadband, it costs nothing and would help those on the Web or hoping to be on the Web. You can also register on the Internet^[5].

There was a query about containers being put on the grass verge outside flats in Daytona Quay-whose responsibility are they and why are they there? Carillion is to be contacted about this.

Molly Burton of 33, Phoenix Drive told residents that they can get a reduction on their Southern Water Bill because surface water from their properties does not enter the public sewerage system. Contact Southern Water^[6] for a claim form.

N.B. The new officer in charge of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme is Trish Piper who can be contacted on 01323 414103.

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Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday October 1st at Haven School at 7.30pm

Any queries to the Secretary or other committee members.

^[1] Brenda Hilliam on 470791 or email brendahilliam@aol.com

^[2] Mr Linus Gunning, 61, Daytona Quay, Sovereign Harbour South

^[3] Tim Bartlett - 01323 415908

^[4] Patrick Warner councillor.warner@eastbourne.gov.uk Phone/Answerphone: 01323 734572

^[5]

http://www.shra.info/Meeting_Notes/www.bt.com/btbroadband/register/ns_register_intro.jsp

^[6] 0845 279 0845

http://www.shra.info/Meeting_Notes/www.southernwater.co.uk/customer_zone/domestic/faqs.asp