



## **Annual General Meeting 26th May 2011**

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. Committee Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Appointment of Committee for Coming Year
8. Motion to Members
9. Open Discussion
10. AOB

Meeting Ends

## **Committee Report for the Year 2010/2011**

The most important issue for Sovereign Harbour over the past year has been the publication by Eastbourne Borough Council of the draft Local Development Framework (LDF), its vision for the development of the town from 2012 to 2027. Also known as 'The Eastbourne Plan' this strategy replaces the current Borough Plan.

June 2010 saw the publication of the 'Local Development Framework: Core Spatial Development Strategy' report which analysed the data collected from a series of public events held across the town during November 2009. It became obvious throughout the process that visitors to the public events were being pushed towards 'option 2', which recommended further housing on Sovereign Harbour as the preferred option.

The SHRA committee had very serious concerns about the way the consultation events were organised and the validity of the evidence used to support the report's recommendations. Planning policy PPS12 which is quoted frequently in support of the report's recommendations states 'Spatial planning underpins the wider corporate strategy of the council and Local Strategic Partnership in that it ensures that strategies can be based on the communities views and obtain community buy-in'. But then the report completely ignores the views of Sovereign Harbour Residents.

One example is the statement 'Discounting the responses received at the 'Neighbourhood 14' - Sovereign consultation event significantly reduces the level of opposition to option 2, making it the most supported and least opposed option by the rest of the borough', which makes nonsense of PPS12. The report fails to show that one other ward was allowed a second consultation because attendance at the initial event failed to return the expected result.

This was a blatant manipulation of the results of the consultation to ensure the council's preferred option was accepted.

Although our then Borough Ward Councillors declined to support the SHRA's request to oppose the findings, our Ward County Councillor David Elkin did respond to our request and opposed the acceptance at Cabinet. However, his arguments were ignored and the process passed to the next stage.

22nd January 2011 will be a date to remember. Four hundred and sixty residents turned up at the Haven School to make their comments on Eastbourne Borough Council's public consultation on the draft Local Development Framework. The largest attendance at any of the other events was nineteen.

The Chief Executive of Eastbourne Borough Council Robert Cottrill, together with planning officers, dealt very professionally and courteously with large numbers of very angry residents, the majority of whom were in opposition to the councils continued support for Carillion's plans to further erode the fragile sustainability of the harbour community.

The consultation was to showcase the council's strategy for Neighbourhood 14, Sovereign Harbour. The first problem that jumped out was that, unlike the earlier consultation event in November 2009, the area now included Kingsmere and Kings Park. By including these areas within Neighbourhood 14, the community facilities, play/sports areas and Community Centres that residents of these areas enjoy, were being used to artificially raise the sustainability index of Sovereign Harbour. Even so, the harbour was still second to bottom of the list, a shameful indication of the council's past failings. The plan also included 150 additional dwellings for the area.

Significantly, a very large number of residents felt they would rather forego the social infrastructure than accept additional residential development. Although when asked by residents where the 150 properties suggested would go, the planning officers said it had not been decided. However, it seems too much of

a coincidence that the 'External Review of Sites with Residential and Employment Potential' on the EBC website identifies the sites with the potential to deliver exactly 150 new homes; 149 of which were one and two bedroom flats.

This is contrary to the motion of 'No further residential development' carried by the full council in 2007, which spawned the now defunct 'Master Plan'.

Following on from the consultation event at the Haven School, the SHRA submitted its comments to the council, accompanied by a petition containing 1,550 signatures which said, "*We, the undersigned, believe that there are no grounds for further residential development at Sovereign Harbour, and that any such development would be unsustainable. Further we believe that the remaining development land at Sovereign Harbour should be used to provide the facilities necessary to create a sustainable community.*

*We call on Eastbourne Borough Council to amend the Local Development Framework to exclude the 150 further homes recommended for Sovereign Harbour."*

The Association's comments and the petition were presented by Jan Weeks and Rick Runalls to Carolyn Heaps, Mayor of Eastbourne, who received it on behalf of the council.

Although it is now too late to read them, many interesting comments made by other stakeholders were submitted on line, some of which seemed to contradict information we had received from senior officers at the borough council.

Since submitting our comments members of the SHRA committee attended a meeting, chaired by Stephen Lloyd MP, with Council leader Cllr. Tutt, Opposition Group leader Cllr. Elkin, EBC Chief Executive Robert Cottrill and Senior head of Planning Jefferson Collard. Although our concerns remain, it was felt there was sufficient common ground for further discussions in the near future, and further meetings are planned.

This was all reported in full in Waterlines and the website.

The other major activity concerned the Marina Rent Charge, which continues to be a cause of extreme frustration for many residents. It remains our view that the contract under which we pay the charge is null and void, as the deed under which it is collected was never disclosed to signatories of the Deed and Grant of Covenant. However, mounting a legal challenge would be prohibitively expensive, and all of the organisations with a vested interest in its continuation have much deeper pockets than we do.

The almost seamless transition from the Sovereign Harbour Trust to the Sovereign Harbour Beaches (Sea Defences) Community Interest Company (CIC) as the collection agency for the Marina Rent Charge was endorsed by the CIC Regulator, despite a robust challenge by the SHRA. The Regulator's findings seem to indicate that anybody can set up a Community Interest Company and, as long as its Community Interest Statement says something about communities, there's no problem, even if it isn't true and there is no benefit to the community.

The Trust/CIC is, in the final analysis, just a rent collection agency, albeit a very expensive rent collection agency. The SHRA has been in discussions with the Environment Agency (EA), which receives the lion's share of our money, to discuss finding a better and fairer way to collect the charges.

The past year has not been all negative and there have been many examples that show the harbour community is developing despite the lack of support from the Borough Council.

**May.** On 26th May 2010 at the Eastbourne Winter Garden, Ian Weeks, SHRA Communication Officer, was the winner of the Eastbourne Herald Achievers Award for 'Good Neighbour/Unsung Hero' for the work he had done within the wider Eastbourne Community as well as Sovereign Harbour.

**(Continued on page 6)**

SOVEREIGN HARBOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

REVENUE ACCOUNT for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 (12 months)

	10/11	09/10	08/09	07/08
<b>INCOME</b>				
Subscriptions	£ 4,920.00	£ 6,870.00	£ 3,485.00	£ 4,349.00
Advertising Income	£ 3,000.00	£ 2,575.00	£ 2,145.00	£ 3,975.00
Donations/Contributions	£ 2.07	£ 592.40	£ -	£ -
Bank Interest	£ 3.99	£ 6.94	£ 126.67	£ 224.62
The Crumbles Story	£ 263.67	£ 377.54	£ -	£ 384.71
Other Income			£ 400.00	£ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 8,189.73</b>	<b>£ 10,421.88</b>	<b>£ 6,156.67</b>	<b>£ 8,933.33</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Waterlines & Printing	£ 2,462.54	£ 3,143.00	£ 5,617.00	£ 3,709.00
Stationery & Office Supplies	£ 154.30	£ 626.23	£ 495.00	£ 277.12
Internet Hosting	£ 126.31	£ 124.95	£ 105.63	£ 126.76
Membership Cards		£ 1,661.04		£ 248.59
Hall Hire & Events	£ 300.00	£ 275.00	£ 213.62	£ 85.00
PO Box	£ 97.56	£ 62.39	£ 59.77	£ 48.20
Postage	£ 27.25	£ 61.68	£ 21.00	£ 66.18
Insurance (Public Liability)	£ 270.68	£ 292.61	£ 267.01	£ 99.75
Travel & Subsistence	£ 66.60			
Misc/Sundries	£ 37.99	£ 202.70		£ 129.15
Telephone	£ 40.00	£ 213.31	£ 147.49	£ 93.69
PayPal Fees	£ 93.42	£ 79.38		
Computer Software, Peripherals & Consumables	£ 66.54	£ 1,014.89		
Bank Charges	£ -	£ 70.00		
Depreciation	£ 559.85	£ 648.56	£ 279.39	£ 111.48
Donations (Charity and Prizes)	£ 333.74	£ 92.28	£ 500.00	
The Crumbles Story	£ 296.01	£ 345.20		£ 384.71
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 4,932.79</b>	<b>£ 8,913.22</b>	<b>£ 7,705.91</b>	<b>£ 5,379.63</b>
<b>Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure for the year</b>	<b>£ 3,256.94</b>	<b>£ 1,508.66</b>	<b>£ -1,549.24</b>	<b>£ 3,553.70</b>
Balance b/f at beginning of year	£ 6,224.93	£ 4,716.27	£ 6,265.51	£ 2,711.81
Balance c/f at the end of year	£ 9,481.87	£ 6,224.93	£ 4,716.27	£ 6,265.51

Certified that I have laid before the auditor all of the books and financial affairs for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011

Signed  16th May 2011  
Peter Thomas (Treasurer)

SOVEREIGN HARBOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/3/11

	10/11	09/10	08/09	07/08
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash in Natwest Current a/c	£ 5,594.06	£ 1,441.31	£ 1,345.79	£ 3,997.62
Cash in Natwest Reserve a/c	£ 9,970.25	£ 9,966.26	£ 9,809.32	£ 9,682.65
Cash in PayPal a/c	£ 1,112.30	£ 1,111.10	£ -	£ -
Prepayments	£ 300.06	£ 211.33	£ 233.67	£ 209.14
Equipment Assets				
asset b/f	£ 974.56			
plus: purchases	£ -			£ 364.84
less: depreciation	£ 559.85			£ 111.48
asset c/f	£ 414.71	£ 974.55	£ 1,109.97	£ 253.36
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>£ 17,391.38</b>	<b>£13,704.55</b>	<b>£ 12,498.75</b>	<b>£ 14,142.77</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Prepaid Subscriptions	£ 324.10	£ 268.12	£ -	£ 1,880.00
Cheques Issued not Cashed			£ 63.38	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>£ 324.10</b>	<b>£ 268.12</b>	<b>£ 63.38</b>	<b>£ 1,880.00</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS Held for Revenue A/c</b>	<b>£ 17,067.28</b>	<b>£13,436.43</b>	<b>£ 12,435.37</b>	<b>£ 12,262.77</b>
<b>REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCE at end of Year</b>	<b>£ 17,067.28</b>	<b>£13,436.43</b>	<b>£ 12,435.37</b>	<b>£ 12,262.77</b>

Certified that I have laid before the auditor all of the books and financial affairs for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011

Signed  16th May 2011  
 Peter Thomas (Treasurer)

### ***(Continued from page 3)***

**June.** In June we received the sad news of the death of one of the harbours' more colourful characters Linus Gunning. Members who have been around for some time will remember Linus as founder of the 'Sovereign Harbour Racing Club' and passionate supporter of the SHRA. Although at times we didn't always agree on aims and objectives, his dedication to the community and input at AGM's will be missed.

The Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour was chartered at an inaugural meeting on 8th June. The club had passed the required membership of twenty in under twelve months.

**July.** Sovereign Harbour hosted the 'Swamp Aid' Cajun music Festival on 4th July in aid of Gulf Coast Oil Spill Appeal. Support was given by The Waterfront Traders, The Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour, ErrigoSafety Consultants, and the SHRA.

Thanks were given to Cllr. Neil Stanley, the lead member for tourism, for 'oiling the wheels' - it was a great event and fun was had by all. The event was attended by Councillor Carolyn Heaps the new Mayor of Eastbourne, who threw abandon to the wind, as well as her shoes, and had an impromptu Cajun dancing lesson. Our MP Stephen Lloyd also joined in the fun and was encouraged to become an 'Honorary Cajun'.

The whole day was deemed to be a resounding success and was a demonstration of the need for a 'Village Square' area for use in community activities.

July also saw the Harbour Medical Centre at last start to become a reality, with the detailed designs accepted by the council and 'Preferred Contractors' chosen for the erection of the centre and landscaping.

It had been our intention to hold an open meeting to discuss the implications of transferring the 'rent charge' collection from the Sovereign Harbour Trust to the Sovereign Harbour (Sea Defences) Community Interest Company (CIC).

To present a balanced view, all interested parties had been invited; SHT Trustees, Environment Agency, CEO of Premier Marinas, the Development Director of Sovereign Harbour, and Stephen Lloyd MP. Unfortunately, the majority of those invited were unable to attend and the decision was made to cancel the meeting.

This was particularly disappointing as all efforts had been made to accommodate those invited by holding the meeting on a Saturday and avoiding the school holiday period. The full story can be found in August 2010 edition of Waterlines. As we reported at the last AGM, we thought that closer links would be forged; unfortunately, this has not happened and although representations were requested from the trust for resident Directors we have not been informed of any being appointed.

At the Haven School Year Six Leavers Service on 22nd July the SHRA Community Award was presented to the pupil who, in the opinion of the school, had done most in support of the local community. The award will now be presented on an annual basis.

July also saw the establishment of the Harbour Community Association; its objective to identify the social requirements of harbour residents, and enable provision of venues in which the activities can take place. Its longer term aim is to secure the establishment of a Community Centre in co-operation with other interested parties. The HCA was initially funded from the Ward Councillors Devolved Ward Budget.

**August.** In August we said goodbye and good luck to Martin Keenan the Haven Methodist Church Minister. Martin had been involved in planting the church at the Haven School and had been a full time minister since 2005. As well as running a youth club there was also a Parent and Toddler Group every week during term time.

**September.** Tim Smith the Assistant County Ecologist was joined by SHRA members to see the Shingle Habitation

Interpretation Board installed near the Martello Tower on the North Harbour Beaches, with the objective of raising awareness of this rare and beautiful environment.

Shingle Beaches are important in that they are home to many endangered species of plants, birds and insects. The shingle beach project encourages protection and enhancement of shingle habitats across the county, and is funded by the EU.

On 9th September an event to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Pevensy Bay Sea Defence Public Private Partnership (PPP) scheme was held at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. This event was attended by representatives of the engineering companies involved and representatives of East Sussex County Council, local councils and local resident's organisations including SHRA.

**October.** October saw the announcement of a Public consultation to be held in November on the expansion of the Haven School to two form entry. As a first step, in order to accommodate the additional pupils, two temporary classrooms were installed. It is hoped that this will give children living on the North Harbour a greater opportunity of getting a place at this excellent school.

**November.** The first firework display organised by the PTFA for 5th November was a huge and spectacular success. The event was attended by nearly 1,800 people from all over the town who paid to watch from a safe fenced area. After all expenses had been paid the PTFA raised a very welcome £1,900 for their funds. Thanks to the generous support given by Bright Ideas at the Waterfront and Newsrack in Beatty Road over 800 tickets were sold in advance. Angelo Errigo of ErrigoSafety Consultants, provided his services free of charge, and Mark Orriss gave permission for the event to take place on land owned by Carillion. This was a great example of the community working together.

**December.** Instead of the usual Christmas Fair, the PTFA invited residents

to join them in tea and cakes. It was a great success.

December also saw the completion of the land sale, and PCT funding being agreed for the building of the long awaited Medical Centre.

It was hoped that work would commence before Christmas. The building work is expected to last for ten or eleven months, followed by indoor completion.

**January.** On 17th January, after many years of campaigning, work finally started on the much needed Medical Centre. The large mounds of shingle and gravel were cleared to make way for the ground workers. Since then work has progressed at a pace. The ground work complete, the building has started, and we now see that the brick work has almost reached the first floor; scaffolding is already in place for the next part.

Hopefully in the not too distant future the Medical Centre will be open for business.

Following talks in mid-January between all the interested parties, the long awaited bus-gate seemed closer to reality. All parties concerned recognised the benefits it will deliver. However, in a letter to SHRA from Stagecoach it was made clear that if the bus gate is not completed and if there is a decline in bus revenues they cannot guarantee the continued operation of the existing services.

As the funding for this scheme has been available for many years and planning permission has been granted twice, we feel it is about time ESCC realised the urgency of the situation and raised the priority of this desperately needed facility.

**April.** On Sunday 17th April we saw, what we hope will become an annual event, the Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour sponsored walk around the harbour. This year the chosen charity was Help for Heroes. The Mayor of Eastbourne, Councillor Carolyn Heaps joined at the finish, after having a wonderful morning on the lifeboat.

Although not as well attended as hoped, those walking raised nearly £3,000 for this very worthwhile cause.

**Other news.** At the May Borough Elections three new councillors were voted in for Sovereign Ward. We hope to have as good a working relationship with them as we have with our County Councillor David Elkin. Congratulations to all three.

Harbour Friends (HF) met at the Yacht Club, to celebrate its sixth birthday in typical HF fashion with entertainment from 'The Teenage Crooner' – now no longer a teenager! New prospective members are welcome on the last Sunday of the month.

The Harbour WI goes from strength to strength, and is fully subscribed. A second group, the Haven WI, has been formed and is in the early stages of development.

The Harbour Community Association has facilitated a very successful Friday Zumba Class. There are plans for more activities in the near future.

The Sovereign Harbour Neighbourhood Panel is now meeting quarterly. All the harbour stakeholders attend the meetings; Waterfront Traders, Premier Marinas, RNLI, Ward Councillors and EBC environmental team. Crime on the Harbour is low, in spite of what you see on the Police UK website. However stay vigilant, and report anything you feel is wrong. Our Neighbourhood Policing Team are always around or you can contact them on their mobiles.

See: [www.shnp.org](http://www.shnp.org) for more details.

### **The Coming Year**

The coming year will determine whether Sovereign Harbour has any chance of becoming a sustainable community.

The most pressing issues for the rest of the year will be planning, and the final draft of the LDF: Core Spatial Strategy.

A further meeting has been scheduled with EBC, to discuss the SHRA members' hopes and aspirations, and their vision

for the future of this great development.

There will be another round of consultations before the LDF is submitted to the Department for Communities. We hope that the Borough Council will listen to the views of Sovereign Harbour residents and put their interests before those of the land owner.

The inclusion of the Kingsmere and Kings Park developments in Neighbourhood 14 mid way through the process was always a nonsense, and was patently designed to mask the unsustainable nature of the Sovereign Harbour community. The SHRA will continue to press for their removal.

It also seems likely that, whatever goes into the LDF will be challenged by the land owner, and we can expect some contentious planning applications in the near future.

We hope that the Borough Council will devote as much resource to defending the aspirations of harbour residents as they did to those of the residents of Kings Drive.

We will also continue to press for the removal of the rent charge or, at least, for reforms to the process to make it more transparent, less expensive to administer, and fairer to residents.

Our campaigns for improvements to the harbour infrastructure, especially the provision of a community centre, and protection of environment in which we live will continue.

It is you, the members, who are the backbone of the SHRA, and your continued support and confidence is vital. I think I speak for the whole committee, when I say "Thank you for the trust you have put in us".



**Jan Weeks**  
**Chairman**  
**SHRA**