

Waterlines

The newsletter of the
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



Issue 45

www.shra.co.uk

Special issue

Community Travel Open Meeting

**Open Meeting for all
Sovereign Harbour Residents**

at

The Haven School, Atlantic Drive

on

**Thursday 14th May 2009
starting at 7:00pm**

**Presentation by Roger Williams
Head of Transport Operations
East Sussex County Council**

Followed by questions from the audience

**This is your opportunity to discuss local
transport needs with the person with
responsibility for providing them**

Community Transport initiative (by Ian Weeks)

The SHRA was recently invited by the Sovereign Ward County Councillor, David Elkin, to join him at a seminar held at Uckfield by the East Sussex County Council Transport and Environment Department, and the committee asked me to represent the association.

The purpose of the seminar was to examine the transport needs of rural communities and most of the other people attending the seminar were representatives of Parish and Town councils, and I wondered at first what I was doing there.

However, as I listened to the problems being experienced by the other representatives, I realised that the problems of Sovereign Harbour residents were surprisingly similar. Most were about 3-4 miles from a Town Centre, had poor bus and train services and were suffering cuts to already inadequate services.

It was good to hear that the County Council aware of the problems and understands the frustration of communities that feel cut-off from the social and cultural facilities of their local town. The Transport and Environment Department is in the process of evaluating the transport needs of local communities and is examining how best to deploy the funds available to address them.

I was able to discuss the situation at Sovereign Harbour with the Head

of Transport Operations, Roger Williams and he offered to come to the harbour to explain the work in which his department was engaged, as to answer residents' questions.

In response, the SHRA offered to host a meeting and the Haven School has been booked for the evening of Thursday 14th May.

At a time when road fuel is becoming ever more expensive, transport costs are rising and everybody's personal finances are being squeezed, this is a unique opportunity to influence those in control of the County Council budget.

This is your chance to explain your travel problems to the transport planners and let them know what they need to do to make life easier for you.

This is a golden opportunity, please don't let it go to waste; if you're not there, you can't influence the outcome, and there's no point in complaining later that your needs and concerns have not been addressed.

We are aware that others have been working on community transport issues and we hope that they will come to the meeting and give us the benefit of their experience. There is undoubtedly a need for much better community transport for the harbour; let's all pull together to make it a reality.

Good progress on adoption

The SHRA has been working with the East Sussex County Council Highways Department for some considerable time to ensure that residents are kept informed of progress on the

adoption of our spinal highways and residential developments.

It's been a long hard process, made much more difficult by the

failure of the Eastbourne Borough Council planners to keep control of the developers and ensure that the essential infrastructure was completed **before** residential development began. The problems have been made worse because subsequent administrations, on the occasions that they had opportunities to redress the situation, failed to take them. These failures allowed the developers to ride roughshod over the planning process, and through the Borough Plan that was intended to provide all Eastbourne residents with the facilities needed to create sustainable communities.

The latest update from the Highways Manager shows that adoption of residential developments on the North Harbour is substantially complete, with just the two Whiteoak developments (Duke's Quay and Pacific Heights) and the Bellwinch Homes development (Nautica La

Marina) still outstanding. All of these are being progressed and it is hoped that they will all be adopted soon. It is anticipated that the Jones Homes development will be adopted shortly after completion.

It is also expected that adoption of Pacific Drive is imminent, at which point it becomes subject to all traffic laws. Parking restrictions will be enforced by NCP.

Progress on the South Harbour is also encouraging, especially considering the situation that existed before Persimmon took over.

All in all, it would seem that the hard work of the Highways officers is paying off, despite the severe difficulties put in their way by the failures of the Borough Council. Perhaps by Christmas, the whole harbour will be adopted. However, let's hope that lessons have been learnt, there's still a lot of land left!

Opportunities to renew your membership or join the SHRA

Thanks to all of you who have already renewed your SHRA membership for 2009/2010 and to all of those who have joined us for the first time; your response has been very encouraging.

If you would like to save the cost of postage, we will be happy to take your renewal or joining fee at two events that will be taking place in the next few weeks:

- The Hazelvine "drop-in" meeting at the Yacht Club on Saturday 9th May, which was advertised in the April issue of Waterlines.
- The Community Travel meeting on 14th May, which is advertised on the front of this issue.



Please bring along your completed membership form and your £10 membership fee, preferably a cheque. We look forward to welcoming you to another year of SHRA membership

Sovereign Harbour Residents Association Membership Application/Renewal 2009 - 2010

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Address:

Sovereign Harbour North / South *delete as applicable

Postcode: BN23

Telephone: -

E-mail:

I apply for membership of the Sovereign Harbour Residents Association and understand that the information supplied above will be stored on a computer system. I also understand that this information will not be disclosed to, or shared with, any other person or organisation.

Signature:

This form, with a cheque for £10.00 **per household**, payable to 'SHRA', should be sent to:

The Membership Secretary,
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association
PO Box 124,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN24 9AW

<p>For SHRA use only.</p> <p>Date processed:</p> <p>Membership number: <input type="text"/><input type="text"/><input type="text"/><input type="text"/></p>
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