

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

We have been unable to hold our usual AGM, but we have nevertheless produced an annual report. We would be pleased to receive any comments or questions SHRA members might have by email to chair@shra.co.uk or info@shra.co.uk

THE SHRA COMMITTEE

This year we have been joined by five new committee members, Ray Johnson, David Preager, Lindsay Roff, Dave Rogers and Geraldine Scudder, and a new Chair, Susan Kerrison. The current committee is listed on the SHRA website www.shra.co.uk/contacts.html The committee is now actively seeking the involvement of young people.

Chair	Susan Kerrison		
Treasurer	Dilys Iverson	Committee Member	David Preager
Membership Secretary	Tony Smith	Committee Member	Lindsay Roff
Committee Member	Penny di Cara	Committee Member	Dave Rogers
Committee Member	Ray Johnson	Committee Member	Geraldine Scudder
Committee Member	Jan Mortlock	Waterlines & Website	Tony Smith

The Committee would like to thank Tony Smith for his work on the SHRA website and Waterlines, and Dily Iverson for her work as Treasurer. The SHRA accounts for the financial year 2019-20 are attached to this report.

The committee met regularly until the lock down and are now having weekly telephone conferences. We have also set up regular telecons with Premier Marinas and the local councillors.

THE COMMITTEE'S WORK 2019-20

Retail Park

Residents would like another cinema or entertainment facility on the old cinema site, but given the current economic climate, it seems unlikely that this type of tenant will be found. Following communications with M&G, the site owners, we learnt that Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) had imposed quite onerous planning restrictions on the site. For example, shops selling clothes, footwear, food, and toys were not to be allowed. We fear that unless these restrictions are lifted, it will be difficult to find any tenant. The SHRA is currently inviting Premier and the Sovereign Harbour Neighbour Panel to work with us in approaching EBC to arrange a discussion on their planning constraints and the future of the vacant site.

M&G have obtained planning permission for a refurbishment of the retail park, but this has been delayed because of COVID 19.

Premier Marinas

In the last year, we have met the Marina Manager regularly. Discussions have included

- Events. Some events have caused complaints from residents but there are unlikely to be any further events in the near future due to the pandemic.
- Ensuring that the arrangement for new houseboats are satisfactory
- The need for landscaping Eco matting on the south side of the locks. This was promised in the Summer of 2019 but has yet to be installed. Concerns remain about access on the slopes of this area.
- Planning permission for extended car park and boat storage opposite the yacht club. The committee is concerned that unless robust barriers are put in place, there is a risk that a run through from Pevensey Bay Road to Harbour Quay could be created. SHRA has informed EBC of this risk, and we have requested further information about the boat storage plans.

Macauley Place Public Open Space

A previous SHRA committee was fully involved in the development of the Section 106 notice for the Macauley Place development. A condition of that planning consent is that the developer must complete a public open space on Pacific Drive. This needs to be completed prior to occupation of 40% of the units on site.

The present committee has had discussions with the developer and improvements to the plans have been agreed. These include planting more trees and additional seating. Eastbourne Borough Council will liaise with the developer to align the plant species closer with the councils' pollinator policy and will look at wildflower planting in some areas.

In addition, as part of the Section 106 notice, the Council is required to install a pedestrian crossing on Pacific Drive and East Sussex County Council a bus shelter on Pevensey Bay Road.

Rent Charge

SHRA is continuing its work on the annual rent charge. We have recently written to Sovereign Harbour (Sea Defences) Community Interest Company Ltd who collect the rent charge for the Environment Agency and Premier Marinas about the following issues.

- Administration costs – now over 22% of bill
- External scrutiny of Premier Marinas costs
- Transparency of the annual bill. It is extremely difficult to know which proportion of the charges are incurred for sea defences and which proportion of the bill is for Premier Marinas' estate charge
- Availability of the detailed accounts
- Need for an annual meeting between SHRA and the CIC

In our letter, we also point out that the Community Interest Company (CIC) regulations require a CIC to consult its stakeholders (i.e. the residents) about its activities, and to provide high quality information rather than just the required minimum. A copy of our letter to the CIC can be found on the SHRA website. The website also provides a full history and background information on the rent charge. www.shra.co.uk/rentcharge.html

Seating

At the request of several members, SHRA has been working with local councillors to put in place more seating round the harbour. However, there is a problem as the council is required to consult residents within 50m of the proposed seats. In the past, residents who were consulted objected on the grounds that seating would cause rowdy behaviour and so the council did not feel able to support the installation of such seating. However, experience with existing seating, such as that near Midway Quay, suggests that this is not the case.

The SHRA has walked round the harbour with local councillors and is now proposing extra seating in the inner harbour and outer harbour. This will be sited as far as possible from local apartments and houses in the hope that no significant objections will be raised. The committee has also agreed to offer some of its funds to supply two of the seats. However, the social distancing requirements mean that it is difficult to make progress with these plans at the moment.

Eastbourne Borough Council Draft Plan “Eastbourne’s Direction of Travel: Issues and Options”

We responded to EBC over the ‘Change of Use’ for land on development sites 6 and 7a in this new plan. Our preference was for there to be no change of use and that light industry should be allowed only as a last resort.

Community Centre

We were pleased to see that the Community Centre opened in late 2019 and started a programme of regular events. Unfortunately, the pandemic lock-down is now preventing events going ahead and the official opening of the Centre planned for the spring of 2020 had to be postponed.

Landfill Site

Premier Marinas now own the land fill site opposite Pacific House. With help of one of our members who is an expert in this matter, we have requested information from Premier about recent excavations on this site.

SHRA MEMBERSHIP

Nearly 80 new members were signed up in the financial year 2019/20 with a majority claiming an additional membership card for a partner.

Keeping Members Informed

Our news and updates are announced first on the SHRA website. The site is updated twice a week and contains a great deal of information useful to residents of Sovereign Harbour, including the history of the harbour and the annual rent charge. The website was changed to a responsive design in August 2019 to make it more readable on tablets and mobile phones. It receives around 1,500 visitors a month.

For major or urgent announcements, SHRA’s *MailChimp* email distribution list is used to contact members and subscribers. You can subscribe to the list from the SHRA web site www.shra.co.uk/waterlines.html or by sending an email to the membership secretary membership@shra.co.uk.

When appropriate, we have responded to relevant posts that have appeared on the Sovereign Harbour Facebook Groups.

Waterlines

Waterlines, our digital, online newsletter that we produced every second month is on hold for the moment due to a lack of social activity to report on because of the lock-down.

Thanks

We are grateful to our sponsors, Sanders Property Management, Ginger and Sanders, The Travel Concept, AP-it, Sea Training Sussex and First Response Learning for their financial donations that have allowed us to operate the SHRA website and produce Waterlines at little cost to members. And we are grateful for the local businesses who offer a discount to SHRA members (see www.shra.co.uk/join.html)

Finally, I must thank you all for your continued support of the Association. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to become actively involved in the committee or wish to bring any Harbour-related issue to our attention

Susan Kerrison
Chair, SHRA
May 2020
chair@shra.co.uk

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SHRA

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets	2019	2020
Nat West Bank Current Account	2364	2849
Nat West Bank Business Account	7512	7525
Paypal Account	460	238
Equipment Assets	0	0
Prepaid Expenses	0	0
Total Current Assets	10,336	10,612

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2019	2020
Accrued Expenses	160	0
Other	0	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	160	0
NET ASSETS		

REPRESENTD BY:

	2019	2020
Net fund brought forward	9065	10176
Surplus for the year	1111	436
NET FUND C/F	10,176	10,612

Prepared by:
Dilys Iverson

INCOME

	2019		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Advertising	900		900	
Membership Fees	863		758	
Bank Interest	8		13	
TOTAL INCOME		1,771		1,671

EXPENDITURE

	2019		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Insurance	101		101	
Assets written off/donated	0		0	
Website	120		80	
Computer Software	103		252	
Printing	255		85	
Telephone	0		0	
Hall Hire	0		66	
Sundry	0		9	
Stationery	17		50	
Postage	64		40	
Accountant	0		552	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		660		1,235

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	1,111	436
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Prepared by:
Dilys Iverson
May 2020