

Waterlines

The newsletter of the
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



Issue 10

www.shra.co.uk

March 2006



As the current membership year draws to a close, we look back on an incredibly successful year for the SHRA. Membership has increased, from a very low base, to about 500, and is still growing. However, if the work of the SHRA is to continue, your continued support is vital, and we would ask all of you who gave your support in 2005/6 to renew your membership for 2006/7.

Although the membership year does not close until 31st March, it would be very helpful if members could renew early, in order to avoid the end of year rush. Existing members should, by now, have received a 'Renewal Notice'. Please complete the form and return it, with the membership fee, to the address on the form. If you are unsure of your membership number, it is printed on the address label

Also, if you have an e-mail address and would like to receive information and updates by this medium, let us know. Also, don't forget to check the website www.shra.co.uk for news.

Not only is it absolutely vital that existing members renew their membership, it is also essential that we increase our influence by attracting new members. Sad to say, only about 17% of those who receive this newsletter actually contribute to it's production.

When the current committee was elected, our number one priority was to ensure that the SHRA was an inclusive organisation, which is why Waterlines came into existence, and why we made the decision to distribute it to members and non-members alike. All the time that we are able to attract external funding, through sponsorship, we will continue with this policy. However, should this sponsorship dry up, it would be irresponsible to allow our funds to be depleted in order to subsidise

non-members. In this case we would be forced to restrict distribution to members only.

People sometimes ask, "why should I join the SHRA"; well, why should you?

Were you opposed to the B&Q planning application? Are you aware that they still have over two months in which to appeal?

Are you happy to continue paying 'Marina Rent' to the Sovereign Harbour Trust, with no idea of how your money is being spent, and with no representation on the board of trustees?

Are you prepared to sit back and let Commercial Sites one and two be turned into a retail park, with all of the disruption and huge reductions in property values that will cause?

Do you want to see even more high density housing built on the five remaining development sites, resulting in even more empty properties?

Do you think it right that the harbour's medical practice has to operate from a residential property?

Are you happy to pay your Council Tax, knowing that no residential development East of Atlantic Drive has yet been adopted by the EBC?

Do you feel that a development, which is the size of a small town, should have a community centre, a playing field, children's play areas, a library, local shops, and communal open space?

Do you want your views presented to your elected representatives?

All of these issues are preventing us all from enjoying the quality of life to which we all signed-up when we moved to the harbour. Not everybody has the time, or the opportunity, to get involved in fighting for their resolution.

Keeping you informed, through newsletters, the website and meetings costs money. Some of the issues which need to be addressed could involve us in costly legal proceedings, or be the subject of public enquiries.

If you think that £10.00 per year, less than 0.20p per week is a reasonable price for a household to pay for all this, and a dedicated team of volunteers to battle on your behalf, fill in the form on the back of this newsletter and send it, with your cheque to the address on the form. By joining now, your membership will last until 31st March 2007.

Come on, help us to develop a harbour community of which we can all be proud.

Do you want more residential development?

As you will have seen from the special edition of Waterlines, Sovereign Harbour Ltd have submitted planning applications for the further residential development on two of the five remaining sites on the harbour. Once again, and unsurprisingly, this application includes no community facilities.

Sovereign Harbour has grown from its original concept to a community the size of a small town. However, unlike most small towns, it is completely lacking in the infrastructure to support it.

The reason that the supporting infrastructure was not provided is due to the completely inappropriate outline consent that was granted, the appalling greed of the land owners and developers and the inability of the EBC to exercise any control over the developers' failure to keep within the bounds of the consent that was given.

Sovereign Harbour Marina Ltd are applying for this consent under the *original* outline consent for the harbour. It is the view of the SHRA that, as more dwellings than this consent actually permitted have been built, no further residential development should be permitted. The decision to build more densely on only a part of the available land was a commercial decision and they must not be allowed to get away with any further residential development on the remaining land.

These applications will almost certainly not be the end of the matter, it is very likely that applications will be submitted for the other sites. And, the deadline for SHL and B&Q to appeal against the refusal of their application is also on the horizon, so that could also be on the cards.

We urge you all to write to the EBC, at the address given in the special edition of Waterlines and ask to speak at the planning committee meeting. It is essential that our elected representatives are in no doubt that harbour residents have had enough.

Fancy a flutter, or just a nice day out?

South Harbour resident Linus Gunning contacted Waterlines as he thought there must be many others on the harbour who share his love of horse racing.

Linus enjoys going to the races and would like to set up the 'Sovereign Harbour Racing Club' with the initial objective of organising days out at race courses.

However, if there are enough interested members, Linus hopes that the club might eventually form a syndicate to purchase its own race horse, which would certainly add interest to the proceedings.

As Linus will be away on holiday when this issue of Waterlines is distributed, anybody interested in joining the club, or who would like more information, should contact Waterlines.

We will publish more information in a subsequent issue, when Linus has returned.

Refuse collection and recycling

Recycling of waste is important. Not only does it earn revenue for the Borough Council, it also helps to meet targets set by central government. Both of which help to keep your council tax bill down.

If *any* general rubbish is put into the recycling bins, even a cigarette end, the whole lot is contaminated and becomes unusable. Unfortunately, we have been

told, Sovereign Harbour residents are amongst the worst offenders in this respect.

We appreciate that in many developments the facilities for disposal of rubbish leave a great deal to be desired, but in our own interests, it is worth making the effort.

New for 2006 - Marina mums

Living on the North Harbour, Sam Skull describes herself as 'a new mum to my gorgeous 8½ month son'. She contacted Waterlines to say that although she would like to get involved in SHRA activities, having a young baby made this very difficult. However, she felt that there were a number of other mums on the harbour who shared her desire to have an influence on the environment in which they were bringing up their children and felt she had the energy to bring them together for their mutual benefit and for the benefit of the harbour in general.

Sam has set up '**Marina Mums**' to provide a social network for mums and 'mums to be' and their babies, toddlers and children. She plans, initially, to hold meetings on a monthly basis to create a social network, and provide an opportunity to get together, to chat, provide mutual support and to discuss local issues and concerns.

The first meeting will be held on **Monday 27th March, from 2:45 until 3:35, in Simply Italian** on the Waterfront. The only cost will be for refreshments, if desired.

If you would like to go along, or would be interested in future events, please contact Sam directly.

Phone or text: 07949-687996

E-mail: marinamums@yahoo.co.uk

Harbour Friends

Harbour Friends will meet on 29th March in Simply Italian on the Waterfront, from 7:30pm onwards.

We have been asked to emphasise that this group is *not* a singles club, *nor* a 'speed-dating' club as some rumours have it. The only objective of the group is for harbour residents to meet others, establish friendships, and share social activities.

However, the growth of this very worthwhile group is being threatened by the lack of a suitable venue at which they can meet. As the weather improves, and the lighter evenings come round, Simply Italian will need the space for their core business. This really reinforces the need to protect the 'Five Sites' and to get a community centre for the harbour.

Harbour Friends approached the Yacht Club, which Carillion asserts is our community centre. However, this is a private member's club and asked for a 'corporate club fee' of £535 per year to use the facilities on Sunday evenings.

The dreadful 'Humbert Leisure Report' concluded that the harbour didn't need a community centre "because there is no community". How on earth are we to develop a community if there is no infrastructure to support it.

New sponsors

Our thanks to two new sponsors, Property Rentals and Electrotec.

Members' surgeries.

Don't forget the monthly members' surgeries at Simply Italian on the Waterfront.

Next surgery from 10:30 to 11:30 on:

Saturday 1st April

'Reliable Tradesmen'

Below are additions to our list of tradesmen recommended by our members. Although we are happy to publish the names, the SHRA is unable to endorse the recommendations, nor can we accept self-recommendations. We urge our readers to make their own checks.

We would appreciate your comments, good or bad, on the service you receive or, if you feel you would like to add a service to the list, please write to us at:

Waterlines
PO Box 124
Eastbourne
BN24 9AW

Or, e-mail waterlines@shra.co.uk

Addition are listed below, the full list can be found on the website.

Dress making and alterations

Svetlana
01323-472506

Home improvements, conservatories, etc.

FENSA Registered Company
Instyle
Carl Crowhurst
01323-843267
e-mail instyle@amservice.com

Mobile Car Valeting

Sovereign Mobile Car Valeting Specialists
Any location, use own water and electricity.
Craig Hughes
07712-045952

Window Cleaning

Easyclean Windows
01323-471318
07915-289753

Chairman's footnote

I don't know about everybody else but winter gets me down a bit and in dealing with the constant 'challenges' provided by would be developers, property managers and some residents on the Harbour its easy to feel that its all 'doom and gloom'. However, nothing is further from the truth. Of course as a Residents' Association we are bound to resist threats and stimulate debate and action if we believe it is in the interests of residents, but it is particularly rewarding to recognise the good that arises from the generosity of businesses on the Harbour.

In particular I would like to express thanks to Phill Kendall of the Eastbourne Outboard Centre on the Harbour, who generously donated a 30 HP outboard to Eastbourne Sea Cadets, free of any charge. Additionally Barry Elliston of Elliston Homes Ltd should be recognised for the time he gives in helping to run the sea cadets. As well as his day-to-day support he will be running in the London Marathon to raise funds to buy a new tender. If anyone would like to support Barry through sponsorship then watch the next issue of Waterlines when we will publish the contact points.

With daily headlines publicising the problems of children and teenagers and the disruption they can cause it is easy to lose sight of the fact that these are minority cases. I don't think that children have basically changed 'since my day' – it's society and social norms that have changed and its not surprising that children respond. SHRA are committed to taking every opportunity to achieve better social facilities for all age groups on the Harbour and play areas, and a youth club for children and teenagers must feature strongly in this. It is good to see Barry Elliston and others like him giving his time to the community in supporting young people. It is also good to see traditional organisations like the Sea Cadets and Marine Cadets still providing a focus for youngsters' energy and skills that will serve them well in the future.

It should also be recognised that SHRA directly benefit from the generosity of Simply Italian and Temple Bird on the Waterfront who continue to provide us with venues for our monthly surgeries and routine committee meetings. It's refreshing to note that for all the 'doom and gloom' there are still businesses and residents who want to make a difference and support Sovereign Harbour and Eastbourne more generally.

On a separate issue I wish to briefly update you on our ongoing work regarding Sovereign Harbour Trust. You will recall that I have written to the Trust on the subject of getting residents representation on the Board of Trustees and my 'application' is being tabled at its next meeting. I would like to thank those residents who have also written to the Trust with their concerns over its position and objectives – it is important to keep pressure on. The response so far has not been positive as far as direct resident representation is concerned. Although we will keep pushing this with the Trust Board in general we are also taking action to get the engagement of the Environment Agency who have had seats on the Board, but have not so far taken them up. I am hoping for a meeting between SHRA and the EA in the near future to discuss the issue.

Well, that's it for now. However, I would like to urge existing members of the SHRA to renew their memberships for 2006/7, and if you are not a member already then please join and support our efforts. Your membership contributions and a modest addition from advertising in Waterlines are the only source of funds we have and these are critical to allowing us to continue our work.

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Become an SHRA Sponsor

Waterlines, the newsletter of the Sovereign Harbour Residents Association, is delivered free to every residential property on Sovereign Harbour. We are only able to do this because we have a dedicated group of people who give up their time to distribute the newsletters and a number of sponsors who contribute cash to help us with the cost of production.

Over the past year, we have been very fortunate to have had the help of several local businesses, and we are very grateful for this. However, we produce Waterlines on a monthly basis, and we

need four sponsors every month in order to avoid serious depletion of our funds, so we are always looking for new sponsors.

Apart from our sincere gratitude, our sponsors get an advertisement, similar to those above, in the current issue, and a permanent listing on the home page of our website, with a link to their website.

To become an SHRA sponsor,

e-mail waterlines@shra.co.uk

or call us on: 07770-621368