



## EBC pledges support for Sovereign Harbour

At the 19<sup>th</sup> September meeting of Eastbourne Borough Council, the following motion was put to the council, jointly, by the council leader, Ian Lucas, and the leader of the opposition, David Tutt, and unanimously supported by all members eligible to vote.

*"Following the refusal of the recent applications for the remaining five development sites in Sovereign Harbour, this council recognises that the Humberts report has now been superseded. The Council therefore requests a high level meeting with the landowner, council members, planning officers, and representatives of local residents, to develop a strategy for the remaining development sites.*

*Such a strategy should acknowledge Sovereign Harbour Ltd's commercial demands, but shouldn't include further residential development. The strategy should address much needed community facilities, such as open space, play areas, a community centre, a medical centre, schools, facilities for the boating community and potential business opportunities, in keeping with the area, including a quality hotel.*

*The council recognises that the available land for development is limited and should be considered as a whole to effectively provide for a sustainable community."*

Once again, the ludicrous rules laid down by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; prevented members of the planning committee from voicing their support, or adding their weight to the vote.

Members of the SHRA committee and others urged the council to accept this motion and stressed that they should now begin an aggressive campaign to persuade Carillion to take part in discussions with all interested parties.

It should, however, be recognised that passing this motion represents a huge step forward by our elected representatives, in that they now publicly accept that mistakes have been made in the past. It also recognised that action must be taken to ensure that the final stages of the harbour development provide the infrastructure and facilities that are necessary to deliver the 'Marina Village' that was the goal of the original planning consent. In so doing, they will also create a truly sustainable community, and a leisure facility that will expand Eastbourne's attraction to tourists and be a magnet to much needed high-quality employment.

We accept that, considering the past intransigence of the land owners, it will not be an easy task, but the members of the Borough Council, both elected and non-elected, have a moral obligation to the residents of Sovereign Harbour to put these issues very high on their agenda, whatever the difficulties. In so doing, they can be assured that they will have the full cooperation and active support of the SHRA committee.

The coming months are vital to the future of the harbour. It is also, unfortunately, the start of the run-up to the May elections, and the newspaper letter pages seem to indicate that the 'silly season' has already begun. We therefore urge representatives of all political parties to unite on these issues, and to refrain from trying to use the situation in Sovereign Harbour to their own political advantage.

### Comments from the party leaders

#### Ian Lucas, leader of the Council

'When the developers have gone, we will still be here!' This was the sentiment expressed when the council were debating the recent motion.

It's now vital that we all work together to do the right thing for Sovereign Harbour. Residents, Developers and the Council need to take a strategic approach to ensure the remaining sites comprise of the much needed facilities the Harbour wants, needs and deserves.

But this can only happen if some serious work and thought goes into how the remaining sites are eventually developed. The Council's position is now very clear, and we will do what we can to ensure shops, restaurants, schools, a medical centre, a hotel, play areas for young people - and more besides, are incorporated into future plans.

#### David Tutt, leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

I am delighted that the September meeting of the Borough Council unanimously approved a motion submitted jointly by Cllr Lucas and myself seeking to support the wishes of the residents of Sovereign Harbour and calling for a high level meeting of all interested parties to develop a fresh strategy for the remaining sites.

I believe that this strategy must include vitally needed local amenities such as: open space, play areas, community and medical facilities, a school and improved facilities for the boating community. I am also firmly of the view that any further commercial facilities must be in keeping with the area.

In moving this agenda forward the SHRA will have the support of both political parties on the Council in seeking improvements for the Harbour community.

# Don't let anti-social behaviour spoil our harbour

Sovereign Harbour is a lovely place to live and, given there are now over 3500 homes, 8000 residents and very limited community facilities, we are fortunate not to have many social problems. But, every so often something horrible happens, and a small and nasty minority spoil things for the rest of us.

We have seen graffiti appearing around the harbour, and a number of residents have experienced nuisance behaviour with door-bell ringing, or loud and offensive shouting.

Sadly, that's not enough for some nasty people, and at least one swan has been stoned and badly injured. The perpetrators are usually young kids, and we believe at least some of them live at the harbour. We must nip this in the bud and ensure the harbour remains a clean, safe and pleasant place to live. We now have a dedicated Police Community Support Officer, PCSO Martin Hylands. He is a limited resource, but he does want to hear about every occurrence of nuisance behaviour so he can target his patrols, build the full picture, and maybe even get additional support.

We don't want any vigilantes at the harbour, but if you do know who is causing the problems and

where they live, please let the police know. They will treat this information in strictest confidence, but they do need our help to target the trouble makers.

If you see or hear of any problems, please call the Sussex Police Non-emergency Helpline on 0845 60 70 999.

Until the Council adopt the harbour, the walls and walkways remain the responsibility of individual developers and their management companies. These companies are not based at the harbour and they need residents' help to report any mess so they can get it cleaned up.

If you see any graffiti or vandalism, let your management company know. Demand their action - remember, you are paying for this service!

And finally, SHRA would like to know about these problems too, as we have frequent discussions with the police and councillors, and it's very helpful to have the full facts.

If you have any information to share with us, please email: [waterlines@shra.co.uk](mailto:waterlines@shra.co.uk), or phone: 07770-621368

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## Jingle bells. . . . .

Doesn't time fly, only 70 days to Christmas. The burning question is, will it be long enough to organise carol singing around the harbour?

We tried to get this organised last year but, unfortunately, we left it too late. However, several of you said you would have been interested had we informed you earlier.

We have already had some interest, so, if you can sing, play something, or just hold a candle, and are prepared to do your bit, contact Carol Teasdale on 470733, or Marj Pratt on 479510.

Alternatively, email: [waterlines@shra.co.uk](mailto:waterlines@shra.co.uk)

## Harbour Friends

Harbour Friends is for all you living on the Harbour that want to make new friends, young, old, single and couples. We will be at The Yacht Club, upstairs in the Bar on Sunday 29th October anytime from 7pm. Come and join us and see what a friendly bunch we are. We have around 60 people now and everyone has made new friends.

In November we will be meeting at the new Garden Bar upstairs at the Waterfront above Pablo's. Date yet to be confirmed, so please, those of you who aren't on the Harbour Friends email list, watch out for next months Waterlines or call Bev.

If you would like more info about Harbour Friends please call Bev on 01323 479797 or email [adams.associates@btconnect.com](mailto:adams.associates@btconnect.com).

Anyone still wanting to go to the Polegate Theatre to see Hobsons Choice on 27th October, last chance please email [Alison.attwood@btinternet.com](mailto:Alison.attwood@btinternet.com) or phone 01323 479429.

## Clocks Back!

Don't forget to put your clocks back on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

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## Marina mums

The next meeting of Marina Mums will be in Simply Italian on the Waterfront, on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October**, from 11:00am – 12:00am..

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

Phone or text: 07949-687996

Or e-mail: [marinamums@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marinamums@yahoo.co.uk)

## Members Surgery

The next members' surgeries will be held at Simply Italian on the Waterfront on:

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November** and  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

from 10:30am until 11:30am.

## 'Vets' Football

Harbour resident Frank Milmo, has started up a Sovereign Harbour 'veterans' (35 plus) football team to play friendly matches.

The group meets every Sunday morning on the fields opposite the Sovereign Centre for a 'kick-about' and informal five-a-side matches between themselves.

This growing 'group of lads' is very informal, and members are not expected to give a commitment to turning up every week; you can just play as much or as little as suits you. The main objective is to have fun, whilst enjoying the exercise in a social gathering of like minded people.

A team is being entered in the Kingsmere six-a-side tournament on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. We will report their performance in the November issue of Waterlines.

New players are always welcome and anybody interested should contact Frank at [frankmilmo@btinternet.com](mailto:frankmilmo@btinternet.com) or, if you don't have e-mail, drop a note to Frank at 47 Madeira Way, BN23 5UL.

You can also call Frank on 07771-610158.

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## The Sovereign Harbour Trust

Over the course of the past several months, the SHRA committee have been asking Sovereign Harbour Trust trustees to provide more detailed information on the running and finances of the trust. As usual, our requests are met with refusal and prevarication.

SHRA Committee members have also had discussions with officers of the Environment Agency, at which the EA was urged to take up the three vacant places on the board of trustees which were allocated to them. It was requested that one of these places should be given to a representative of harbour residents.

In the event, after a long delay, the EA has finally appointed its three trustees. They are Roger Thomas, an East Sussex County Councillor, Peter Doran, a member of the Southern Regional Flood Defence Committee and Carole Clark, Chairman of Pevensey Bay Parish Council and an Eastbourne magistrate.

We are very disappointed that, once again, those in control of the Trust have ignored the wishes and interests of those who provide 100% of their income. However, we hope that the new trustees will be more open and available than has been the case with the existing Carillion appointed trustees. We hope to meet them in the near future to discuss residents' concerns and to express the anger and frustration that we all feel at the Trust's lack of transparency.

## Don't take your eye off the ball

Our victory over Sovereign Harbour Ltd in getting the applications for residential development on four of the 'Five Sites' refused was just one battle in the war over the future of the harbour.

The B&Q appeal is still live, despite B&Q's withdrawal from it. Also, SHL will almost inevitably appeal against the refusal of their 'Five Sites' applications, so there is still a huge amount of work ahead.

Don't be fooled by the lack of activity; SHL will even now be planning their next attack, and we will be trying to anticipate their strategy and preparing to counter it. As always, the planning laws are stacked in their favour, so it is very important that we have the full, all party, support of the Borough Council.

So, please be ready to respond when we need your support. If you have internet access, please visit the website frequently to see if the news page has been updated. Share your views with other residents through the letters page, let us know how you think we can be even more effective. If you agree with us, join us. The greater our membership, the louder our voice.

## Don't let them fool you

As we said on the front page, all out elections are due in May, and the 'silly season' already seems to be underway. As always, we can expect people who have been conspicuous by their absence, to reappear from the woodwork, claiming to have been responsible for any successes in the harbour, pledging unswerving loyalty to the residents, and promising to solve all of our problems if elected. Unfortunately, they will probably be the same people who appear at every election, and disappear back into the woodwork as soon as the count is over. Don't be surprised when they come knocking at your door if you have never seen or heard of them before.

The fact is that all of the progress that has been made over the past 18 months has been as a result of the dedication and hard work of those few individuals who form the committee of the SHRA, and the growing band of committed supporters who help them. And, if that sounds as if we're blowing our own trumpet, then we make no apologies. Ask yourself:

Who was responsible for mobilising almost 400 people to attend the 'B&Q' planning application at the Winter Gardens, and providing their transport? Who was responsible for getting the B&Q application refused?

Mainly, the SHRA, our friends in 'No to B&Q' and the residents who supported us.

Who has been given equal status with the Borough Council and Sovereign Harbour Ltd at the B&Q appeal Public Enquiry?

The SHRA, and nobody else.

Who was responsible for mobilising almost 300 people to attend the 'Five Sites' planning application at the Town Hall, and providing their transport? Who was responsible for getting the 'Five Sites' applications refused?

Mainly, the SHRA, and the residents who supported us.

Who has been challenging the Sovereign Harbour Trust and pressing them to make their finances and operation more transparent? Who has been pressing the Environment Agency to take up their places on the Trust?

The SHRA, and the residents who supported us. Nobody else.

Why did the Borough Council unite to pass the motion on page one?

Because of the work done by the SHRA to engage our elected representatives and convince them of the justice of our case.

And don't forget all the other issues still in progress: adoption, dog fouling, weeds, graffiti, anti-social behaviour, the list goes on.

# Temple Bird

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