

Waterlines

The newsletter of the
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



Issue 29

www.shra.co.uk

October, 2007

Whatever happened to our medical centre?

When the SHRA consulted residents on their priorities for inclusion into the 'New Master Plan' for the completion of the Sovereign Harbour development, the number one request, by far, was for a Medical Centre. The consultants working for Carillion were advised of this requirement, and have indicated that such a facility will be included in the plan.

However, by including a medical centre in the plan, it would seem to infer that Carillion are in some way donating it to the harbour, and would be seeking some concession from residents in return. This is not the case.

Our understanding is that negotiations for the *purchase* the land are in progress and that the *PCT* will be expected to finance the construction. It is therefore completely inappropriate for this issue to be part of the master plan, especially as delivery of the plan has been delayed, and implementation will be further delayed until the consultation process has been completed.

By this time, the temporary planning consent granted to Dr. Adoki to practise from a residential dwelling in Barrier Reef Way will be close to expiry. When this consent was granted, there was serious opposition from some members of the planning committee and members of the public. It was argued that granting consent would remove pressure from the PCT which would take advantage of the situation, and thus delay the provision of the medical centre even further.

Sadly, it seems that they were correct in their assumption and it is possible that an application to further extend the temporary consent could be challenged again. Should a successful challenge to the extension of this consent be successful, the consequences for health care on the harbour would be too serious to contemplate.

There is an very easy solution to this problem: the PCT must act decisively and commit to the construction of this long-promised and absolutely essential facility - NOW!

No more flats - here we go again!

The serious overdevelopment of the harbour has created a huge over-supply of two-bedroom apartments. Prices have consequently suffered and developers are struggling to reach their anticipated profit targets. Their solution to the problem, build even more two bedroom apartments on the same footprint.

This is exactly what Jones Homes have done on the North Harbour. One of the

blocks, soon to be started, was to contain twelve two-bedroom apartments and six duplex apartments. In February, Jones applied for a variation of this consent that would allow them to omit the duplexes and replace them with an additional twelve two-bedroom apartments.

This application was opposed by the SHRA and consent was refused by the Planning Committee. (over)

(cont)

In August, Jones submitted a further application to vary this consent, this time to omit four of the duplexes and replace them with eight two-bedroom apartments.

This application was also opposed by residents and also unanimously rejected by the Planning Committee.

Jones Homes has ignored the wishes of residents and the Borough Council, and failed to take into account the social consequences of their greed and the impact it will have on the sustainability of the harbour community. Both refusals have been appealed.

Following the refusal of the 'Five Sites' applications, the Borough Council gave full cross-party support for a motion that there should be no further residential development on the harbour. The leader of the council and the leader of the opposition both publicly stated that this effectively became council policy.

If these appeals are successful, the line in the sand that was drawn by this motion will be erased and the floodgates to even more residential development will be opened.

In submitting their appeal, Jones Homes opted for the decision to be taken by 'written representation', which would mean that residents and their representatives would be prevented from putting their objections to the inspector face-to-face.

We feel this would be unfair and have asked that the decision should be taken at an informal hearing or formal enquiry. If we are to achieve this, we need your support to convince the inspector that there is sufficient opposition to this plan to make that change.

Please help us by making a representation to the Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6PN

Mark your letters for the attention of the Case Officer, Roger Tucker.

Be sure to quote the reference:
APP/T1410/A/07/2054975.

Deadline for representations is 2nd November

Alternatively, representations may be made online by visiting the 'News' Page of the SHRA website for 1st October, and following the link to the Planning Inspectorate website.

In your representation, you must give appropriate reasons for objection and you might like to consider the following:

i. The proposed development would constitute an overdevelopment of the site to the detriment of the general character of the area.

ii. The proposed development would result in increased activity to the detriment of neighbouring residential amenity and adding to the demand for on-street car parking in the vicinity, contrary to Policies UHT1, HO20 and TR11 of the Eastbourne Borough Plan 2001 - 2011.

iii. The proposed development is contrary to council policy as created by the motion of 20th September 2006.

iv. Sovereign Harbour has been massively overdeveloped and the supply of two-bedroom apartments already greatly exceeds the demand. The proposed development would exacerbate the overdevelopment and add to the social problems it has caused.

v. The proposed development would be detrimental to the sustainability of the community in Sovereign Harbour

You might also like to express the opinion that the residents of Eastbourne would be better represented if this appeal was decided at a hearing or enquiry rather than by written representation.

Please don't rely on others; do it now. If these appeals are successful the potential damage to the harbour community could be devastating.

Thank you for your support.

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Adoption is a reality - but only for some

Our front page article on adoption of harbour developments in the September issue seems to have galvanised the Borough Council into action and we are able, at long last, to give you some good news on the subject. The full extent of the progress that has been made can be found on the 'News' Page of the SHRA website for 1st October.

We were recently informed that the following areas have now been formally adopted:

- St. Lucia Walk
- Antigua Close
- Madeira Way
- Havana Court
- Canary Quay
- Kingston Quay
- Daytona Quay
- Inner Harbour walkways
- West Harbour walkways

We have also been informed that most North Harbour developments should be adopted by the end of 2007 or early in 2008.

The news for other South Harbour residents is not so good, especially in the areas previously owned by Westbury. For many of these areas, there is still no Section 38 agreement in place, although we have been assured that every effort is being made to address this issue and progress is expected. This is of course very welcome but, considering that the original outline consent for these development was granted over twenty years ago, it is a disgrace that owners of property in these areas can still not be

certain that their developments will ever be adopted.

The good news contained in the notification we received from EBC was tempered by the warning that "*All the above time estimations on adoptions are dependent on the developers commitments to complete any remedial works and to finalise all the associated paperwork required for the final adoption.*"

We have been working closely with the EBC officers involved in the adoption process, believe that they are doing all they can to keep the momentum going, but it is a sad fact that, however hard they try, the developers are still in the driving seat and will remain there.

Rock cairns on the beach (by Ian Thomas - Pevensey coastal Defences)

I appreciate residents' concerns regarding the small cairns of rock (Waterlines 27, page 5) running along the beach. These were placed so as to demark the area that should be used by sea defence vehicles when maintaining the defences. As much as we can we try to use only the seaward 10m of beach thereby allowing the remainder of the crest to recover the natural vegetation that would have existed on the original Crumbles. Without some form of delineation it is likely that dumper and road trucks would gradually start to widen the area they use. If anyone has a better solution for defining this line please let me know and we will certainly consider it.

Social Clubs and Groups

For more information on any of these groups, call the number given, or visit the 'Social Activities' page of the SHRA website (www.shra.co.uk).

Sovereign Harbour Art Group

The Sovereign Harbour Art Group meets on Thursday mornings, from 10:00am to 1:00pm, in the Hall of Christ The King Church (off the Langney roundabout).

An additional class is proposed for Tuesdays, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht club.

Phone Angela on 07914-884378 or e-mail acrylic.art@amserve.com

Sovereign Harbour Investors Club

The Sovereign Harbour Investors Club meets once a month. Membership is limited to twenty members.

Dates of meetings will be posted on the SHRA website.

To join the club, e-mail membership.inquiries@shiclub.co.uk or visit their website: www.shiclub.co.uk

Next meeting, Tuesday 30th of October at 7:00pm, in the Harvester Lounge

Sovereign Harbour Luncheon Club

The Sovereign Harbour Luncheon Club meets every Wednesday, starting at 12:30 at the Harvester on Sovereign Harbour Waterfront

There is no annual or joining fees but an administration fee of 50p will be levied at each attendance.

Advanced booking is required, call Sam Sweiry on 01323-479111.

Each meeting will have a guest speaker. See the SHRA website for details.

Strollers and Toners

The Strollers and Toners group meets on Mondays from 2:30 until 3:30 and Thursdays from 9:15 until 10:15, outside Fitness first in the Crumbles Retail Park.

The cost is £2.50 per session.

Everyone is welcome and the sessions usually run on afterwards with drinks and a chat on the harbour.

Sovereign Harbour WI

The Sovereign Harbour branch of the WI meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 3:00pm, in the Harvester on Sovereign Harbour Waterfront

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Mrs. Hyrapiet on: 01323-416263.

Vet's Football

The Vet's football team meets on Sunday mornings for a 'kick about'. Players can be 32- 102!!! and the purpose of the team is to meet like minded lads who live on the harbour for exercise and a bit of fun (nothing too serious!!) All abilities and fitness levels welcome. Social events are held for players and partners and more are planned for the future.

For more information, contact Frank Milmo on 07771-610158
frankmilmo@btinternet.com

Sovereign Harbour Racing Club

The Sovereign Harbour Racing Club meets on a number of occasions through the year for excursions to local racecourses.

For more information, or to join the club, contact Linus Gunning on 01323-470757.

Harbour Friends

Harbour Friends is a social group for residents of Sovereign Harbour **ONLY**. The group meets on Sunday evenings from 7:15pm in the first floor bar in the Yacht Club.

New members are welcome on the LAST Sunday of the month.

More details can be found on their website: www.harbourfriends.co.uk

Call Bev on 479797, or e-mail Bev at bev@harbourfriends.co.uk

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SHIFT_expectations

Community Police Update (by PC Ed Faulkner)

Everyone is well aware of the parking issues that exist in the harbour, especially when it comes to business vehicles and vans. In recent months the problems seem to have got progressively worse, so much so that I am now beginning to write to the registered keepers of vans parked in dangerous or inappropriate locations asking them to find a better place to park. The problem seems to be greatest at the third roundabout in the north harbour. Vans that are parked here are too close to the roundabout obscuring a clear view of oncoming traffic and also not allowing buses to get round. I would like to ask that if these vans are connected to you that you find an alternative place to park. It is an offence to park close to that junction and I will issue £30 fixed penalty notices in future if the problem continues.

Also, I have now been given the go-ahead to begin speed checks in both Atlantic and Pacific Drives and these will have started by the time you read this. The speeding problems in those roads is very dangerous and I hope to send speeding motorists the message that this will not be tolerated. Please slow down or risk getting 3 points on your licence and a £60 fine. The speed limit is 30mph, stick to it.

Interested in live music?

Following the hugely successful weekly open mic nights at the Smugglers, Pevensey, a few of the regular 'quieter' musicians are organizing an acoustic music night.

This will take place on the third or fourth Tuesday of each month. The inaugural night is Tuesday the 23rd. October and all are welcome.

Admission is FREE and the evening will start at 8.00 and finish at 10.30.

The night will consist of a number of featured artists from the local area covering a wide range of music and suitable for all age groups. There will also be an 'open mic session', open to all.

Many of the regular musicians live in the Harbour and meet up at the Smugglers, the centre of local music.

If you have any queries please call Mike Bostock, a resident of North Harbour,.
Tel: 01323 472604.

Parish Council update

In the September issue of Waterlines, we told you that the SHRA would be petitioning the Secretary of State for Communities for the formation of a Parish Council for Sovereign Harbour.

The process has started, and the response has exceeded our wildest expectations. Even though we have so far only canvassed a few developments, we have already almost reached the 10% target that is the minimum requirement of the petition. Most encouraging is that of all those asked, only a handful have chosen not to sign.

We will be getting round to all developments as soon as we can, but we are light on the ground. If you would like to help by canvassing the development in which you live, we would very much appreciate your help.

QuaySide Dentists Expand their Cutting Edge Practice

After its fourth successful year, the QuaySide Dental Practice, upstairs next to Madissons at the Waterfront shops, has taken on a new lady dentist to join the existing team of Dr. Rob Endicott and Dr. Robert Webster.

They will now be able to offer a comprehensive range of dental treatments including:

- Permanent replacements for missing teeth
- Stable "Drop Dead Gorgeous" Dentures that stay in when eating and talking and look great!
- Gum treatments – we have a special interest in Gum Health and take referrals from other practices in East Sussex
- The latest CEREC One visit Crowns (Caps), Fillings and Veneers, made while you wait on a computerised scanning machine. No need for impressions or temporaries! Easier to have than fillings!
- Cosmetic Dental Work, making your smile great forever.
- Professional Deep Tooth Whitening that lasts for years and years and gives WOW results.
- Facial Cosmetic Centre to reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles and Restylane Lip enhancement PAIN FREE!

The practice's new look website www.awesomesmiles.co.uk has lots of information about all these techniques, and pictures of some recent cases.

For a consultation, please call 01323 472772, or e-mail info@quay.tv

A Rumble from the Crumbles

(An alternative view - by A. Hoy)

I read with interest A W Ash's 'Grumble' in last month's Waterlines and, whilst I agree with many of the issues raised, I thought this painted just one picture of life at the Harbour, so here's an alternative view:

Despite the lack of proper infrastructure, I feel more a part of this community than anywhere that I have lived previously (and I have lived in 12 counties). This sense of friendliness and excitement is shared by many people I know - in Harbour Friends and at the Yacht Club. Quite simply, we would not want to live anywhere else.

Yes, I get annoyed by dog poo, litter, weeds and the ubiquitous shopping trolleys, and I wish every resident would be kind and considerate, but I still feel very safe and secure here. The beach is just 5 minutes walk away, as are the supermarket, post office, gym, cinema,

five restaurants, several bars and a smart new yacht club. I can cycle almost everywhere, and I am delighted that traffic can't move directly between north and south harbours so we have relatively peaceful developments rather than congested rat runs. I get a buzz every time I walk round the marina and look at all the fantastic boats, and I have enjoyed grand times at the regattas, sail pasts and fun weekends. And this is my home!!

I support the fight to put right some of the wrongs and to make the harbour an even better place to live - but let's also take pride in living here and enjoy it.

Hazelvine Open Day

The 'Open Day' at the Yacht Club on 6th October, hosted by Hazelvine Ltd., managing agents for a number of harbour developments was very well attended. Some residents were waiting at the door for the event to start at

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9am and there was a steady stream of visitors right through until the doors were finally closed at 2pm.

Hazelvine's Managing Director, Nigel Burnand, said, "We were very pleased by the number of residents who came along. We found this to be a very worthwhile exercise, and will certainly hold a similar event in the future." He went on to say, "We were able to answer many of the questions on the spot, and there are a number of issues that we will be taking back to the office for further investigation, and will respond on an individual basis as soon as possible."

Nigel told us that Hazelvine has just employed a handyman who will be dedicated to the harbour developments they manage, which he is confident will bring much quicker resolution to local maintenance issues.

It was apparent that, because of the way the harbour was abandoned to the developers by the Borough Council, many residents are not sure who is responsible for providing which services. It is also clear that many residents have not read their purchase contracts and are therefore not aware of what they have agreed to contribute to the maintenance of their developments.

We will be working with Hazelvine and others to produce a guide that will help residents to identify and contact the appropriate service provider for their problems.

Your support is still essential

We are now half way through the 2007/2008 membership year and some members have still not renewed their

subscription. If we are to continue to represent the interests of harbour residents, it is essential that we are able to demonstrate that we have your support.

We continue to attract new members, both existing residents and new arrivals, and it is likely that member number 1,000 will be signed up in the very near future.

£10 per year for the whole household, less than 20p per week, is not a lot to pay to keep the battle for the future of the harbour alive. Membership of the SHRA demonstrates your support for our work, and shows that the future of the harbour is as dear to you as it is to us.

Rudyard Kipling

God gave all men earth to love
But since man's heart is small
Ordains for each one spot shall prove
Beloved over all.

Each to his choice, and I rejoice
The lot has fallen to me
In a fair ground - in a fair ground
Yeah, Sussex by the sea!

Fast A Kip

Carillion gave all men a plot
But since they are so mean
Ordains that each one spot shall slot
Into a crafty scheme.
Each to his fate, at excessive rate,
The cost has fallen on me
Once empty place - there's now no
space
Yeah, Sussex by the Sea.

*Well, if you think you can do better,
let's hear it!!*

