

Waterlines

The newsletter of the
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



Issue 44

www.shra.co.uk

April, 2009

Lively Debate at the SHRA AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 12th March are up on the SHRA web site, but for those without internet access in particular, it was felt that a summary of proceedings would be useful.

This year's AGM was particularly important to the Committee who had served through 2008-9 and also to the direction taken by the incoming Committee for the coming year. The rejection of the Parish Council in the referendum and what feels like a continuous battle with our ward councillors caused us to question whether we were continuing to deliver what was wanted by our members, and hopefully Harbour residents in general. This is why this year's AGM was brought forward.

To meet an action placed by members at last year's AGM, our Ward and County Councillors were invited to the meeting. In addition representatives of Police were also invited. The Chairman welcomed County Councillor David Elkin, Borough Councillors Susan Morris and Margaret Salisbury, PC Ed Faulkner and Sergeant Ed Ripley. Cllr. Morris apologised on behalf of Cllr. Michael Bloom who is making a good recovery since his stroke last year, but is not yet able to attend all meetings.

The main business of the evening began with a review of highlights from the Chairman's Report, which in hard copy had presented progress and results in all the work areas that had been addressed through the year. Inevitably the disappointment of the Parish Council came up in Rick's presentation and it was pointed out that, if residents felt in

two years time that expectations were not being delivered by their elected Borough Councillors, a further petition was possible.

The frustration over the lack of progress in the provision of community facilities was addressed and in particular the ongoing delays in the siting and building of our Health Centre. Particular reference was made to two positive developments.

Firstly, after years of trying, an invitation had been received for a harbour resident to attend a meeting of Sovereign Harbour Trust later this month. The change of ownership of the marina business from Carillion to Premier Marinas had enabled a better dialogue and an invitation was made by the MD of Premier for a member of SHRA to attend meetings of the Board of Trustees, as an observer. This dialogue was initiated by Rod Gochin, who recently resigned from the SHRA Committee. Rod, however, has agreed to continue acting on our behalf. It is not the seat on the Board of Trustees we were hoping for, but it is a beginning and should give us a better insight into the Estate Rent Charge we all pay and an opportunity to discuss this with Board members directly.

Secondly, we are starting to see significant progress on the adoption of Harbour roads and walkways now previous barriers have been unlocked by the completion of major developments. SHRA has met regularly with ESCC Highways representatives who have been keeping us up to date. There is still inspection and repair work going on, but the hand-over process is now seeing

real movement.

The Treasurer's Report confirmed a healthy financial position at the end of this year, in which 793 households held SHRA membership. This amounts to over 20% of homes on the Harbour, which although a good number for a residents association was disappointing given the need to fight for the improvements we need. The new membership year is about to start and we will be urging more residents to show their support by joining SHRA.

Rick thanked the Committee for the support they had given him over the past year and particular thanks were offered to Ian Weeks and Rod Gochin who had resigned from the Committee in December 2008, and Jane Gochin who would not be standing for the Committee in the coming year.

At this point Rick announced that twelve SHRA members had expressed a wish to stand for the 2009-10 Committee. Under the Constitution this meant that they would automatically become the new Committee, without the need for a ballot. Members not previously having served on the Committee introduced themselves to the meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was turned over to an open discussion of issues, but Rick asked that first on this list should be the strategy that the outgoing SHRA Committee had adopted over the last year and what direction the new Committee should take. In view of the decision against the Parish Council and the attitude of our ward councillors he asked the members what they wanted.

One member was concerned that the Committee had been too political and another was concerned that by talking about the Harbour's problems, we were 'talking it down' even though it was a good place to live. However, there was general recognition from the meeting that the absolute need for adequate community facilities and the attitude of ward councillors towards the SHRA and what they were trying to achieve was inappropriate. Several members were of

the view that "without the SHRA, nobody would hold meetings like this, and the Open Meetings that had been arranged to discuss issues of importance to the Harbour?" Others felt very strongly that the campaign against the Parish Council by elected representatives was unacceptable and the personal attacks made against Ian Weeks had been "wicked". The general feeling was that there weren't grounds for changing the challenging approach that SHRA had adopted towards the Council and Carillion. A member described it as needing 'more of the same'.

The general discussion session was then opened up, and developed into a lively debate in which Cllr. Morris and Rick Runalls responded to concerns and complaints from members. The discussions can be summarised as follows.

A fairly acrimonious exchange took place between Cllr. Morris and several members in respect of the siting of the proposed Health Centre. Cllr. Morris confirmed she was not in favour of Site Seven and that she wanted co-location of the Health Centre with a Community Centre. She went on to say that, as Dr. Adoki would profit from the Health Centre, she had tried to get a section 106 agreement with Dr. Adoki and the PCT to fund a Community Centre as part of the Health Centre project. Cllr. Morris said she had been unable to secure an agreement and inferred that it would be Dr. Adoki's responsibility if Harbour residents did not get a Community Centre. This was perceived as an attack against Dr. Adoki, who is well respected on the Harbour, and drew an angry response from a number of members.

Cllr. Morris said that if a Health Centre was built on Site Seven then it would constitute a change of land use from the current B1 and would open it up to residential development. She challenged SHRA, asking if this was what they wanted. Rick replied that since the days of 'B&Q' SHRA had fought against change of land use and he had specifically asked questions about the impact of the Health

Centre on this. The feedback he had been given was that the Health Centre would be treated as an exception, since it would operate as a small business and consequently would not undermine B1 use. On this basis, Rick confirmed that SHRA supports the planning application. He said that what SHRA and residents in general wanted was for the Health Centre to be given priority and not to suffer further delays.

Cllr. Morris was asked by a member where she intended to place the Community Centre and was told that this would be on Site One (between the Martello Tower and the sewage works) in her Master Plan. It was also reported that her plan included eight 'eco-houses' on this site. The wish to build houses on this development land was questioned, since it was in contravention of the cross-party 'no more residential development' motion that had been passed in 2006, following the 'Five Sites' Planning Committee refusal of Carillion's plans. Cllr. Morris replied that the motion had been against further development of flats, and not residential in general. Rick said this was incorrect and produced a letter he had received from Peter Finnis (Assistant Director – Strategy & Democracy) on 17/10/06, which made it clear that the motion was against any further residential development and was not limited to flats.

A member queried references to a questionnaire from Cllr. Morris relating to her Master Plan. She confirmed her statement in the Eastbourne Herald that this had gone out to 3300 homes on the Harbour. The member said he had not received it and a show of hands was requested to check the circulation of the questionnaire. Well over half those present confirmed they had not seen it. She suggested that this may have been because so many people lived in flats that could not easily be accessed, also because some residents have 'no leaflets or circulars' stickers on their letter boxes. The question was raised that if she is not providing this to the whole of the Harbour and giving them an opportunity

to respond, how has she been able to come up with a Master Plan that purports to reflect residents' opinions?

One member queried as to whether the Committee had considered putting up independent councillors for election and Rick explained that this had been seriously considered before the last local elections, but a majority decision not to stand was taken by the Committee. At that time it was felt this would weaken the effort that SHRA was able to put in and there was hope that given SHRA's previous successes, elected representatives from either party would work with the Association. He said it was possible that this decision would be reviewed before the next local elections take place.

Cllr. Morris thanked the Committee for the invitation to attend the meeting. She told the members that she had met SHRA committee to introduce herself, but considered they had never wanted to get on with her. Rick refuted this and said that SHRA had wanted to work with the ward councillors but Cllr. Morris had made it clear by her actions that she had not wanted to work in partnership. At the time of the meeting, Cllr. Morris was not a member of the council, and despite having lived on the harbour for eight years, was not an SHRA member.

A member asked directly if she and SHRA would 'stop point scoring' and be prepared to meet. Rick said it was for the new Committee, who would meet following the AGM to decide on their strategy and course of action for the coming year, but thought it was extremely likely that a meeting would be arranged.

At the first meeting of the new SHRA committee, Rick Runalls stood down as chairman and Deputy Chairman, Jan Weeks took over the chair until a new permanent Chairman is elected.

One of the highest priorities of the new Chairman, when appointed, will be to contact the Ward Councillors, and other harbour stake-holders to establish lines of communication. We hope to report progress in the next issue of Waterlines.

New Sergeant for Neighbourhood Policing Team

Sgt. Ed Ripley has been with Sussex Police for 10 years. He started his career at Uckfield and Crowborough where he experienced rural policing. He then specialised in Operations, working at Gatwick Airport for a short period of time before transferring to Sussex Police Headquarters at Lewes. Promoted in 2007, he was posted to Eastbourne as a Sergeant on the Neighbourhood Response Team.

Ed said: "I have recently undertaken the role of Neighbourhood Policing Team Sergeant for the Sovereign Harbour. My role is one of problem solving; to work with other agencies to effectively address community problems and issues that have been identified by local Neighbourhood Panels. I am excited at the prospect of making a real difference in the community and I assure you that, in partnership with other agencies, I will do my best to address issues that are presented to me.

If you have any concerns or issues that you wish to discuss I would encourage you to attend our advertised Street Meetings.

However, should you wish to contact me personally, then please do not hesitate to call me at Hammonds Drive Patrol Centre, Eastbourne on 0845 60 70 999 Ext. 77462.

SHRA acting chairman, Jan Weeks said: "We welcome Ed to his new job and look forward to working with him and his excellent team."

Community Police Update (by PC Ed Faulkner)

The year is racing by, and in the last few weeks we have continued to work hard for the harbour. I am very happy to hear that there are proposals on the parking restrictions for Pacific Drive.

Regular readers will know this is one area I have tried hard to resolve, however the recent proposals from the County Council are a good step forward.

The Neighbourhood Panel have been spearheading efforts to try and reduce the amount of dog fouling there is on the harbour, and our colleagues from the Borough Council have now begun regular patrols to identify offenders, and to clear up after those that they do not catch. I hope you will begin to notice a difference very soon.

Finally PCSO Martin Hylands is working hard with Haven School to increase road safety amongst the children who attend the school. You may see them around Atlantic Drive at various times. Please be patient and considerate if you see the children near by whilst they learn important safety advice.

As ever, please contact me if you have any issues or problems you want us to resolve.

PS. I was on foot patrol when it snowed recently, and I think the Harbour wins the "Best Snowmen" competition!

Award for Harbour Friends Founder

We are delighted to report that harbour resident, Bev Adams, has won the 'Good Neighbour' category in the Eastbourne Herald Achievers Award

Four years ago Bev Adams, new to the harbour and recently divorced, was looking to make new friends and restore her social life. Realising that there must be others in a similar situation, she decided to start up a social group.

She managed to attract a small group of like-minded people but, because of the lack of social infrastructure on the harbour, had great difficulty in spreading the word. Even more frustrating was that a considerable number of potential members saw the group as a 'singles club' and were put off by it. Bev called her group 'Harbour Friends' and, after an article appeared in a local newsletter a number of residents contacted her and the journey began.

Bev and her committee worked tirelessly to grow the group which now, from that small start, has over 250 members

Invitation to ALL Residents of Sovereign Harbour

Hazelvine Ltd., property managing agents will be holding another of their very successful "drop-in" meetings at the **Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club on Saturday 9th May, from 9:00am until 1:30pm.**

Everybody is welcome, not only Hazelvine Clients.

Directors and senior staff will be there to discuss all your property management related issues in an informal atmosphere, over a cup of tea or coffee. So that we may give you all the help you need, it is important that you bring along **all** supporting documentation.

So that we have a better opportunity of resolving your issues, it would be very helpful if you could let us have as much information as possible in advance of the meeting. Please e-mail **info@hazelvine.com** or telephone: 01628-529765.

If you are a resident of a development that we manage, please just drop in to say "Hello" and put faces to the names of our staff members who you have spoken to on the telephone.

Our website coordinator, Ben Lewis, will be on hand to demonstrate the benefits of our website and show you the improvements that are coming in phase two.

The rapid growth of the group's membership was itself a serious problem. Finding a venue to meet was difficult and/or expensive. Fortunately, Bev was able to come to an agreement with the Yacht Club, and Harbour Friends now meets there every Sunday evening.

However, that is just the tip of the iceberg; Harbour Friends has spawned a number of 'special interest' sub groups that meet throughout the month.

Harbour Friends is **the** social group for all residents of the harbour. There is absolutely no reason for anybody to be lonely.

Harbour Friends has become a symbol of the community spirit that has developed in the harbour, and is a credit to Bev and all of those who have worked with her.

The award ceremony is at the Winter Gardens on 7th April.

New Notice Board for residents

We reported in Waterlines that the SHRA notice board, that had been on the wall of the Weathershop on the Waterfront for about four years, was destroyed by

vandals.

Now, thanks to the generosity of the town's criminals, a new, bigger, notice board is in place on the wall of Bright Ideas.

Funding for the board was provided by the police from a fund setup with cash recovered from the proceeds of crime. Our thanks to PC Ed Faulkner for his help in obtaining the funding for the return of this invaluable community resource.

The notice board will be used jointly by the SHRA and the Sovereign Harbour Neighbourhood Panel. However, provided space is available, any non-political harbour organisation is welcome to take advantage of the board to advertise its events and activities.

If you would like to make use of this facility, please leave a message on the SHRA hotline: 07770-621368, e-mail: **info@shra.co.uk** or write to:

SHRA
PO Box 124
Eastbourne
East Sussex BN24 9AW

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 in the Christ The King Church Hall, Princes Park on Wednesdays 5:00pm - 8:00pm and Thursdays 9:30am - 12:30pm

Learn to paint with Acrylics, Oils and Pastels with an Experienced Art Tutor in a friendly, relaxed and enjoyable environment.

Phone Angela on 07914-884378 or e-mail acrylicart@hotmail.co.uk

You might also like to visit the Art Group's page in the 'Social Activities' section of the SHRA website.

Sovereign Harbour Investors Club

The Sovereign Harbour Investors Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club, starting at 7:00pm. Membership is limited to twenty members.

Dates of meetings will be posted on the SHRA website.

To join the club, e-mail: chairman@shiclub.co.uk or visit: www.shiclub.co.uk

Strollers and Toners

Get fit, correct post natal posture patterns, tone up.

Mondays at 2.30 - 3.30pm. Cost £2.50

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.15 - 10:15am

Everyone is welcome and the sessions often run on with drinks on the harbour.

Please call Mari-Anne (fully qualified & insured) on 01323 479280 as classes may alter for January and February.

Harbour Friends

Whether you are new to the Harbour or have lived here for sometime, joining Harbour Friends is a great way to meet new people. Harbour Friends is a social group for Harbour residents of all ages, whether single or a couple. The group meets every Sunday at 7:15pm in the first floor bar at the Yacht Club.

If you are interested in joining, as long as you are a Harbour Resident, come along to our New Members evening which is held on the last Sunday of every month.

For more information visit our website at www.harbourfriends.co.uk, ring Bev on 479797 or e-mail Bev at bev@harbourfriends.co.uk

The Harbour Womens' Institute

The Harbour branch of the WI meets on the second Monday of the month at 2:00pm in the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Freda Stalker on: 01323-471798.

Vet's Football

The Vets Football Team has now being running successfully for almost three years, but more players are welcome to join from the ages of 32 to 60 years of age, to play Sunday mornings on a casual basis All abilities and fitness levels welcome. For more information, contact Frank: vetsfooty@hotmail.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.

Sovereign Harbour Social Club

SHSC meets every Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:30am in Seamoors at the Waterfront for coffee.

Each month, there will be one outing, lunch, theatre, places of interest.

All are welcome.

For further details contact Sam Sweiry on 01323 479111

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SHRA welcomes new members (and, of course, existing ones)

If you want to know the truth about how you the residents are being treated by the land owners and Political Parties, and want to share it with others, join us and help us in our efforts to reverse the injustices of the past.

Membership of the SHRA for the year 2009/2010 is now open, and membership is still just £10 per household.



2009/2010 Membership card

Some people, mainly from off the harbour, have said that membership should be given to all harbour residents, free of charge. However, we do not receive the generous government and lottery funding available to other groups, and don't have a Community Centre in which to hold our meetings and events. Therefore, we are forced to rely on income from members and our sponsors to allow us to represent the interests of our members and communicate with residents.

We are constantly being accused of political bias. This is nonsense, we will take to task *anybody* who we feel is acting against the best interests of harbour residents, at any time, 'without fear or favour'. To show that we are impartial, we have decided to provide links to all political parties' websites from the SHRA website.

If you believe that the SHRA committee is moving in the right direction, and you want to help us continue the fight for justice for **all** harbour residents, please complete and return the form overleaf with your cheque for £10.

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

For SHRA use only.

Date processed:

Membership number:

To Sponsor Waterlines

07770-621368 **waterlines@shra.co.uk**