

Notes of the Annual General Meeting
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association
21st May 2015

Prior to meeting Committee Member Angelo Errigo pointed out the emergency exits to those present.

1. Welcome to Members

Jan Weeks (Chairman) welcomed members to the meeting. She drew members' attention to a booklet that had been distributed around the hall, which included the Agenda, the Chairman's Report and the Treasurer's Report and is attached to these notes.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been offered from:-

CLLr David Elkin, CLLr David Tutt, PC Ed Faulkner, Tim Whelan (Neighbourhood First Manager), Neighbourhood First Advisors, Lisa Rawlinson (EBC), and SHRA members, Stuart Bannerman, Sandra and Alan Grusd, Lynn and Michael Chiswick and Robert Stanborough.

3. Welcome and Introduction of Guests

A warm welcome was offered to all invited guests including our new MP, Caroline Ansell and former MP, Stephen Lloyd, Councillor, Alan Shuttleworth (representing Councillor David Tutt), and our newly elected Ward Councillors; Gordon Jenkins, Ray Blakebrough and Penny Di Cara. Sgt Julian Williams and PCSO Martin Hylands represented the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

4. Introduction of Committee

Those Committee members who had served over 2014-15 period were introduced. These were Jan Weeks (Chairman), Chris Mephram (Deputy Chairman), Rick Runalls, Angelo Errigo, Peter Thomas (Treasurer), Ian Weeks (Communications Officer), Anton Levy, Ray Blakebrough, Des Davis, Dilys Iverson and Shirley Davis (Secretary).

5. Committee Report

JW explained that the Committee Report covered a breadth of issues that had been targeted over the year. Rather than present a blow-by-blow review of the report she invited members to read it at their leisure, but picked out some notable and current issues.

Planning Application in respect of Site Eight had been deferred, awaiting further plans in respect of the public area.

Planning application for the long awaited Community Centre has now been submitted. Legal advice has been obtained on the payments of the Marina Rent Charge through the Sovereign Harbour Trust.

The brass plaque at the entrance to North Harbour had been stolen but thanks to Councillors funding from devolved ward budget this had now been replaced. Further funds had also been received from the devolved ward budget towards the plaque for the SS Barnhill. JW encouraged those who had not yet seen the plaque to go along and have a look.

Further details on what has happened during the year were in the Committee Report attached to these notes, in Waterlines and on the SHRA website.

JW concluded by thanking SHRA members for their ongoing support over the past year.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurers Report was presented by Peter Thomas (PT) in summary. PT invited members to review the accounts at their leisure and contact him via email if they had any questions. The bank account remains healthy, although we no longer receive revenue from sponsorship, which had previously funded the printed version of Waterlines.

7. Appointment of Committee for Coming Year

JW reported that there had been no new expressions of interest in joining the Committee from the membership in the run-up to the AGM. In these circumstances the existing Committee had agreed to serve for another year and constitutionally they would be automatically re-elected unless there were any objections from the membership.

As a consequence by a show of hands it was confirmed that the SHRA Committee entering the 2014-2015 year would comprise Jan Weeks, Rick Runalls, Ian Weeks, Peter Thomas, Chris Mephram, Anton Levy, Angelo Errigo, Des Davis, Dilys Iverson, Ray Blakebrough and Shirley Davis.

8. Stephen Lloyd

JW on behalf of the Committee and all residents of Sovereign Harbour thanked Stephen Lloyd for all his support over the last ten years and his chairmanship of the team which worked on the Sovereign Harbour SPD, which was the basis of the finalised Masterplan.

Stephen thanked Jan for her kind words and added that this was not just about himself but a team effort.

SL advised he had put a lot of effort into the Harbour over the past few years in particular the SDP and the water feature. These were nearly fixed and everyone now understood that everyone has to work together to get things finalised. The water feature had been very long and protracted, but the residents were now taking control. SL added that he would still work alongside Cllr Gordon Jenkins and attend meetings to see this project through.

There was now a light at the end of the tunnel with regard to the long awaited Community Centre. He added that he looked forward to being there when Caroline Ansell MP cut the ribbon.

SL said he had loved every minute of his time working with everyone and seeing great progress in such a beautiful part of Eastbourne. It had been a pleasure.

The members expressed their appreciation in the usual way.

9. Caroline Ansell MP

Caroline Ansell said it was only today that she had sworn allegiance to the Queen, so her appointment was only now official. She said she had not seen this coming, and for much of the night of the election thought she had lost. It was an incredible privilege to be our MP.

Caroline went on to pay tribute to Stephen Lloyd and promised that all the good work he had started would continue. She gave thanks to Stephen Lloyd for the journey thus far.

Caroline had earlier in the year visited the Harbour with a Government Cabinet Member Oliver Letwin, who had said that Sovereign Harbour was “a revelation”. She was pleased to advise that Liz Truss had been re-elected as Secretary of State for DEFRA, and she was going to take our case relating to sea defences forward to the Environment Agency. She was also looking at possible funding sources for the fishermen’s planned development on Site Three; possibly from the EU.

Caroline Ansell MP thanked members for their warm welcome and looked forward to meeting again.

10. County Councillor David Elkin

Cllr Elkin had been unable to attend the meeting but had sent a report to Jan Weeks, and asked her to read it out to those present in her best Essex accent. The report was in response to questions raised by Jan on behalf of Sovereign Harbour Residents.

Q. Can you comment on the Master Plan and the current status

“Firstly it’s been a long time coming, it’s been a long journey, which at times seemed like we were stuck on a roundabout going round and round in circles.

However working as a TEAM with the SHRA, both Borough and County Councillors, and our past MP, supported by Council officers, we soon how found our way off the roundabout and onto the home straight, and in my opinion got the best deal possible. Did we get all we wanted! No, there were compromises to be made because actually we never had all the aces in the pack, but we did play the cards we held to the best possible effect.

I would like to give particular thanks to Jan Ian Rick and Chris for the dedication and determination over many years to make the master plan happen, it’s important to remember they are volunteers, us politicians’ have different motivations.

What did we achieve?

Max 150 units, great proportion of which are not flats, but family homes

Substantial green open space

Protected land for Jobs

Community Centre, will return to that later.

And most importantly an opportunity to complete the harbour and see the back of Carillion/SHL who, it has to be said, after a shaky start appear now fully engaged with the SHRA and look to be delivering to plan."

Q. What's happening with bus lane?

"Another year goes by and we are still talking, we have a scheme, we have the money.

What we do not have, is a deal with M&G to use their land, we have a verbal commitment from them but it's all dependant on the outcome of the much awaited second planning application for their site.

It's reported they waited to get the local elections out of the way before they come forward with their plan. Which I'm advised is not too controversial.

I should add Carillion/SHL and Premier Marinas are fully supportive."

Q. Will the Community Centre happen?

"Yes and again Many thanks to the SHRA team, and Des and Shirley,

There is still lots to do but;

We have a clear site.

We have a planning application

We have a project manger

We have a builder

And the finance

Watch this space."

Q. Any News on Fishermans Quay?

"A truly outstanding ambitious project that ESCC are still trying desperately to find grant funding for, maybe from Europe."

Q. Any thoughts on Pacific House?

"Another outstanding example of TEAM work, this time between ESCC, Eastbourne Borough Council and central Government, via the SELEP.

The Mall will bring real jobs to the Harbour, and your doorstep, something else that's been a long time coming.

That TEAM work has also brought further funding to enable the required infrastructure for the site to be put in place ready for the next phase.

I would like to acknowledge the important role Cllr Tutt has played in the success of this project."

Q. Roads?

"Jan has been pestering the life out of me regarding the required repairs to the cobbled pinch points on Pacific Drive I promise you with her biting at my heels I'm on the case."

11. Marina Rent Charge

Rick Runalls advised that the rent charge covered both flood defences and marina maintenance. We are the only area in the UK that has to pay this additional charge for sea defences. We also pay towards Premier Marina running their company. Everyone thought it was unjust.

There have been nine years of researching and SHRA have now taken legal advice. At the last AGM we asked members if we could pay to get a Barrister to get his opinion. This we did. The Barrister believes there is a case to be made. We wrote to Sovereign Harbour Trust/CIC and said that we believed the Trust had no authority to demand payments under the Deed and Grant of Covenant, that property owners were obliged to sign. They in turn sent the letter to the Environment Agency. Nothing has been heard since.

RR advised that he now has a seat on the SH Trust Board. The hope is that we may be able to get somewhere from the inside as it were. However, when the letter was discussed RR was excluded.

To take the case forward to the High Court would be very expensive. We would, at this stage, like to engage the Barrister again at a cost of about £600. RR stated that he was asking those present to agree to us taking this forward. There was a unanimous show of hands. RR thanks all for their response and added that it was difficult to see where this will go but by going back to the law we will see where it takes us.

Brian Drewitt asked if the business companies in the Harbour paid this charge. RR advised that they did not. Whilst this is totally unfair we had all signed the agreements when we purchased our properties whereas the businesses are only leasing from the Trust.

A resident said there appeared to be a considerable amount of money owed to the Trust in uncollected Marina Charges. RR advised that the Trust were now working very hard to recover these monies. Three years ago the Admin charge for collection of the Marina Charge was about £30K it then went up to £100K+. The Trust are now under pressure to reduce the admin fees but this was work in progress. RR advised that a lot of owners do not live in the Harbour and it has been very difficult to track them down. He also added that some owners who live off Atlantic Drive do not pay the harbour part of the charge. This was something to do with when the Harbour was first developed.

The large jump in the maintenance charges were to do with the work on the lock gate hydraulics. The locks let Premier Marinas operate their business, so again this is unfair on residents, and is not truly to do with sea defences.

12. Sovereign Harbour Community Association

Des Davis advised all present where we were at with the Community Centre. Planning Permission had been submitted. Final day for objections/comments was the 20th May. It was anticipated that the Application would now go the Planning Committee in June.

SeaChange Sussex has been appointed to oversee the project to ensure it comes in on time and in budget. A Project Manager has been appointed and she is hopefully that builders will be appointed shortly and work, subject to Planning Approval, will commence in August/September this year with completion Spring 2016.

Rental prices for the Centre have not yet been fixed but the aim is to keep them affordable and in line with other Centres in Eastbourne. Once constructed the Centre will be the largest in Eastbourne and it is hoped to be the best.

There is still a long way to go. We have yet to see the Heads of Terms of the Lease and whilst a business plan has been drawn up this will have to be amended once we see the Lease.

We will, however, still have to raise funds towards purchase of tables, chairs, cutlery and crockery etc so the Association will be looking to residents to help with fundraising in the coming months. The Association will be making funding bids to outside organisations to try to get as much as we can from them towards the monies required. At this stage it is anticipated that we will need a minimum of £30K but again now the Planning has gone in we will be able to do a final budget to get exact amounts required.

Brian Drewett asked SHRA if they could make a donation to the Association towards fund raising. Des Davis said this would be a good idea and would let Jan Weeks answer this.

Charles Herrod asked where the money was coming from for the building. DD advised that the project was £1.6 million and that £800,000 was coming from Carillion/SHL, £400,000 from EBC and £400,000 from ESCC.

A question was raised as to who would own the building. Des Davis advised that no Association would want to become the owners but that in this instance the owners would remain EBC and the Association would lease the premises from them.

RR added that the Centre must be run as a business and that whilst we had not seen the Lease yet it had been intimated that we would be responsible for the maintenance of the building.

Des Davis finished by saying that he was very excited with the progress and that he hoped everyone present was as well.

Jan Weeks thanked Des Davis.

13. Open Discussion

JW started discussion by answering Brian Drewett's request for funds for the Community Association by asking those present for a mandate to give an initial £500 plus to the Community Association towards funding for the Centre. By a show of hands this was agreed. JW thanked all residents present.

JW advised that the Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour was holding its annual Harbour Walk on the 7th June. The walk would commence at midday. Monies raised this year are for Canine Partners. She encouraged people to take part in this worthy cause.

Contact with residents has always been a priority for SHRA. Waterlines is now on line. After ten years of volunteering to do Waterlines in hard copy we just cannot keep it up.

14. Any Other Business

Concern was expressed about the road in and out of North Harbour especially once Pacific House is opened and the additional vehicles that will be coming in and out of the Harbour. Residents felt that another entrance was needed. SHRA have raised this on numerous occasions. Cllr. Alan Shuttleworth advised that the best person to put this to would be Cllr David Elkin. He added that there are numerous schemes in and around Eastbourne but it all comes down to resources. If there is a road safety concern then this would normally take priority. It would be best to write to Sussex Highways Department expressing your concerns over safety etc. It was suggested that Pacific Drive should have double yellow lines along it. Again this is a Highways problem.

There are signs up stating that there was no parking for commercial vehicles overnight but nobody seems to be taking any notice. A commercial vehicle is a vehicle over 6 tons. A white van is not included in the definition of a commercial vehicle even with a company name on it. Sgt Williams advised that they cannot enforce this, and that if a vehicle is taxed it is legally entitled to park on adopted bye-ways. If a vehicle is parked in a dangerous position then it can be reported. The Police can enforce speeding along Pacific Drive.

Concern was expressed over cycling in the Harbour. Some residents have had very close calls with cyclists riding too fast and almost being knocked over. Cycle paths are designated in certain parts of the Harbour but cyclists seem to cycle anywhere.

For avoidance of doubt, we have been advised that East Sussex County Council do not endorse the new Bespoke Cycle map. Marina footpaths are not shared space. However, 'Cyclists have no right, but would not currently commit an offence'. Although this is technically correct, ESCC consider that the map fails to support the Local Plan, Sovereign Harbour SPD, or the current and proposed network identified with in the Eastbourne Cycle Strategy.

A resident asked about cutting down the trees along the main road and entrance to the North Harbour. JW advised that five of the trees are covered by a TPO and that nothing would happen until the planning application for the remainder of the site is submitted.

Dog Fouling. This is a problem that is raised year after year. JW advised that there are now 30 dog bins in and around the Harbour. Nothing can be done unless people are actually caught not clearing up their dog mess. If you can get a picture of the offenders then this would help. You should also report it to Customer First at the Council. It was asked why Premier Marinas did not do something about it. RR stated that this issue goes on and on and there is very little that we can do. It is not just Harbour Residents dogs causing problems but visitors as well. The Police advised that it was not a police enforcement issue and warned people that they should make a risk assessment as to whether they tackled an owner or not.

It was asked if dogs could not be banned from the beach as it is in some parts of Eastbourne. JW advised that the Dog Control Act of 2008 does not cover the Harbour but SHRA have asked them if it can be extended.

Concern expressed with regard to CineWorld moving out of the Crumbles. It is very successful in the Harbour and one of the attractions is obviously free parking. Resident asked if there would be free parking in town for people to go to the Cinema. Stephen Lloyd said this was most unlikely. It was a business decision that they are moving. He hoped that they might, in time, give some form of help to people, but again it was

their business and not something that we have any control over. The other concern is that buses into the Harbour finish early in the evening and this would stop residents being able to use the bus to and from town to go to the cinema. Stephen Lloyd said that maybe this was something that we should fight for. SL added that he knew that CineWorld had offered to pay the owners of the Crumbles top dollar to stay a little longer but the owners declined so it is thought that they already have something going in there.

Now that Waterlines is online how are new people going to know about it. Ian Weeks said by word of mouth. Cllr Gordon Jenkins suggested that perhaps information could go to Estate Agents so that when they sold or let a property in the harbour the new owners/tenants could be given the information.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

. JW thanked all members for attending.



Annual General Meeting Thursday 21st May 2015

Haven School Sovereign Harbour
Doors Open 19:00, Meeting Commences 19:30

Agenda

1. Welcome to Members
2. Apologies
3. Welcome to and Introduction of Guests
Caroline Ansell MP
Stephen Lloyd
Cllr David Tutt - Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council
Cllr Ray Blakebrough - Sovereign Ward Councillor
Cllr Penny di Cara - Sovereign Ward Councillor
Cllr Gordon Jenkins - Sovereign Ward Councillor
Members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team
Members of EBC Customer First Team
4. Introduction of Committee
5. Committee Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Appointment of Committee for Coming Year
8. Stephen Lloyd
9. Caroline Ansell M.P.
10. Marina Rent Charge
11. Sovereign Harbour Community Association
12. Open Discussion
13. AOB
Meeting Ends

Committee Report for the Year 2014/2015

The Year Past.

The winter of 2013/14 was the most severe in terms of storms and beach erosion to hit southern England for a very long time.

Analysis showed Pevensey Bay experienced twenty-nine defined weather events in four months, when we could reasonably expect five or six in a whole year. Within those were two 1:50 year events, a 1:20, two of 1:10 and a 1:5; it is likely that the winter as a whole would qualify as a 1:100 year winter.

The net result was beach erosion on a scale not seen since the harbour was constructed in 1993. In fact erosion along the entire nine kilometres of the Pevensey Bay frontage was excessive, but Sovereign Harbour saw the worst by far.

During the winter over 26,000m³ of beach was added either by recycling, bypassing or from the stockpile, yet on 3rd March – the date of the second 1:50 year storm – there had been a net loss at the harbour of 40,000m³. This means that well over 60,000m³ of beach drifted from this area, which, to put it in context, is three times the volume normally delivered by dredger Sospan Dau every summer.

Although we are unhappy that we must pay for the sea defence work, we are very pleased that it is in the hands of Ian Thomas of Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd. Our congratulations to Ian and PCDL in being awarded a “Considerate Constructors Gold Award” for the past two years.

In April 2014, after a well attended public pre-consultation event, the Master Plan for the completion of the Sovereign Harbour development was given outline planning consent, subject to the completion of S106 agreement within six weeks; in the event, this dragged on for several months. The final agreement was less robust than had been promised, and was signed without

the promised agreement of our ward councillors.

On 4th March 2014, the EBC Planning Committee gave the go ahead for the £6 million investment of an Innovation Centre on Site Six in Sovereign Harbour. Construction of the three storey employment centre began in April 2014 and it is expected that work will be completed in June 2015.

The building will give small and start-up businesses the space to grow and establish themselves, it will also bring the opportunity for larger, already established businesses, to move to a new state of the art building.

Funding has been obtained for the infrastructure for the rest of the site and it is anticipated that two further blocks will be constructed in due course.

The legal action taken by Town Centre developers, Legal and General (L&G), to remove the District Centre status of the Waterfront and Retail Park was unsuccessful, as was the appeal to the High Court. However, the action was successful in causing so much delay that the retail park operator, M&G, has postponed its plans for the regeneration of the Sovereign Harbour Retail Park.

There was also huge disappointment that planners approved an application for a multi- screen cinema in the Arndale Centre extension. Cineworld, who will be operating the facility will be closing the very successful Sovereign Harbour cinema.

Another disappointing side-affect of the L&G legal action was that the delay caused yet another postponement of the provision of the cross-harbour bus link.

On 31st July 2014, the Eastbourne Lifeboat, based at Sovereign Harbour, was heavily involved in fighting the devastating fire that seriously damaged Eastbourne’s pier. It was

widely acknowledge that, but for the courage and expertise of the crew, the damage would have been much more severe. Following the fire, debris from the pier was washed up on the harbour beaches.

In August 2014, the large, "Sovereign Harbour" brass plaque at the entrance to the North Harbour was stolen. Despite it having been seen abandoned in the West Harbour, it was never recovered.

In May 2015, a replacement plaque was installed, jointly funded by SHL and the Sovereign Ward councillors through their devolved ward budget.

In November, the fact that Sovereign Harbour is an entry point into the UK was brought to the fore when a large number of illegal immigrants were seen disembarking from a boat in the locks. Police were called, and it is believed that all of the immigrants were taken into custody.

In March 2015, a new interpretation board was erected on the North Harbour beach to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the sinking, off Eastbourne, of the "SS Barn Hill" by a German aircraft in 1940.

The board was placed near Macquarie Quay, adjacent to the wreck, which is visible at low tide.

The project was initiated by aviation historian, Andy Saunders and supported by the RNLI and the SHRA and jointly funded by a number of local companies.

In March 2015, Peter Pring was appointed as Marina Manager at Sovereign Harbour. Peter has worked at a number of marinas in a variety of roles, and had spent the previous year as Duty Manager at Sovereign Harbour.

Sovereign Harbour Community Association (SHCA)

Having produced the business plan for the Sovereign Harbour Community Centre, the SHCA Trustees have been working with EBC and ESCC to ensure its delivery

and operation.

A planning application (150352) has been submitted, and this will be considered by the Planning Committee at the June meeting. The Sovereign Harbour Ltd offices on Site Five, the proposed location for the centre, have been demolished and the site has been cleared ready for construction to start. If all goes to plan, the centre should be open for business by the summer of 2016.

Much credit goes to Des and Shirley Davis and Rick Runalls for bringing this project to the current position.

Although construction of the Community Centre is funded, the SHCA will need to raise funds for the necessary equipment; it is anticipated that a number of fund-raising events will be held in the coming months.

On 21st March 2015, the SHCA and the SHRA joined in the Keep Britain Tidy National Clear-up Day. About forty-five residents set about clearing up three problem areas and collected over forty black bags of rubbish. The event was a great success and it is anticipated that further clear-up will be organised. If you are interested in taking part, e-mail cleanup@sh-ca.org with your contact details.

The Short Mat Bowls Group, which meets at the Haven School on Thursday evenings, has continued to flourish and membership has reached the maximum that can be accommodated at the school.

Marina Rent Charge

As advised at the 2014 AGM, the SHRA has obtained advice of counsel on the legality of the Marina Rent Charge.

That advice, supported by case law, was strongly of the opinion that the 2002 amendment to the Deed and Grant of Covenant was not lawful and the Sovereign Harbour Trust had no authority to demand payment.

The Chairman has twice written to the

Secretary of the Trust, but no satisfactory response has yet been received; the trustees, it seems, feel the ball is in the Environment Agency's (EA) court.

All correspondence has also been copied to the EA, but no response has been received.

In March 2015, the then Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Caroline Ansell, arranged a meeting between Jan and Ian Weeks and the Secretary of State for DEFRA, Liz Truss.

Ms Truss expressed sympathy with our case and committed to take it up with the Head of the EA. However, in the meantime, the small issue of a General Election has intervened. The good news is that Ms Truss has been re-appointed. Caroline Ansell is now our MP, we are hopeful that she will continue to campaign on our behalf to bring an end to this injustice.

Columbus Point Water Feature

The water feature on the Columbus Point development is one of the largest in Europe.

Owners of 369 residential properties in the area are covenanted in their deeds to pay for the management, running and maintenance of the water feature but, for much of its life, the feature was an eyesore, and considered by many to be a white elephant. Operating only intermittently, it frequently broke down and suffered from leaks, poor maintenance and vandalism.

Following a campaign by the Water Feature Action Group, a survey of the feature was carried out in 2012, and the developer (Persimmon/Aria Homes) began improvement work to repair, clean and repaint the structure and its fittings.

Since reaching an agreement in 2014 with the local property owners, work by the developer has continued and the features running has been improved although due to a major leak the feature has been shut down for the last 5 months.

In March 2015 the ownership of the feature and the responsibility for its future management was handed over to the collective control of the local property owners via the Columbus Point (Management Company) Limited (CPMCL), the company set up for the purpose.

Thanks

The past year has been extremely eventful for the SHRA committee, especially those involved in the scrutiny of harbour development plans. Our thanks to: Stephen Lloyd (our former MP); Cllrs. Ede; Elkin; Jenkins; Tutt and Warner, to EBC Chief Executive Rob Cottrell and EBC officers: Jeff Collard; Lisa Rawlinson and Matt Hitchen for all their help.

The fight against the marina rent charge has, at last made progress, although it is far from being resolved. Our thanks to harbour resident, and retired solicitor, Paul Webb for his help and invaluable advice.

Thanks too to our Neighbourhood Police officers, PC Ed Faulkner and PCSO Martin Hylands and Sergeant, Julian Williams. Ed and Martin can often be seen around the harbour and at their regular street meetings. Visit the Sovereign Harbour Neighbourhood Panel website, www.shnp.org for details.

Thanks to our Neighbourhood Advisors, Simon Crouch, Carley Burns and Mirka Kitti, and team manager, Tim Wheelen, for keeping the harbour clean and weed free.

Last, but by no means least, our thanks to our outgoing MP, Stephen Lloyd. Stephen has been a good friend of the SHRA for many years and will be a hard act to follow.

We wish him well in his new life out of politics.

Harbour Clubs and Associations

Harbour clubs and associations continue to flourish, using a variety of facilities, none of them ideal for the purpose.

Despite this new groups are still being formed and gaining members. After being fully subscribed for so long, the Veterans Football Club is once again open to new members.

The planned opening of the Sovereign harbour Community Centre in 2016 is likely to be the catalyst for an expansion of membership to existing groups and the formation of many new groups. It is also likely that groups from outside the harbour will be attracted to the new facility, giving residents greater choice of leisure activities that has been available so far. Prospective users should e-mail: info@sh-ca.org.

Eastbourne Sunshine Carnival

The Sovereign Harbour Community entry to the 2014 Eastbourne Sunshine carnival was awarded a "Highly Commended" certificate.

Sadly, due to lack of response, there will be no Sovereign Harbour entry in the 2015 event.

Communication with Residents

Communication with harbour residents continues to be our highest priority.

The SHRA website receives an average of about 22,000 page views a month. Members are invited to submit news items and notification of events to webmaster@shra.co.uk. Letters are welcome, but must include a name and address and permission to publish. The "For Sale" and "Wanted" pages are rather under-used; entries are free and can include a photograph.

After eighty issues, over a nine year period, production of the printed issue of Waterlines became just too much work, and it was very reluctantly discontinued.

This was not, however, the end of Waterlines, but a rebirth as a digital publication, available to download from a new dedicated website, www.waterlines.onl.

The digital format of Waterlines makes it considerably cheaper to produce, so there is no need to source advertisers to fund production. We were fortunate to find six local companies who have provided sufficient sponsorship to cover the cost of the website and the software used to compose the newsletters.

Space is, as always, available for local good causes and offers for members, free of charge, at the discretion of the editor; requests and enquiries to waterlines@shra.co.uk.

All of the SHRA IT for the past nine years has been managed on the personal computer of a committee member and, at the end of 2014, it became necessary to replace it. It was agreed that a new computer, dedicated to SHRA use should be purchased, both for convenience and security. The new system was obtained and is now in daily use; we are very grateful to our ward councillors for funding the purchase through their devolved ward budget.

The Coming Year

It seems we say it every year, but 2015/2016 really could be the most important year for the harbour since construction began, and should, hopefully see "the beginning of the end".

Following the May elections, we now have a new Member of Parliament, Caroline Ansell MP. Caroline has been very supportive of the SHRA campaign against the Marina Rent Charge and we look forward to working with her in her new role.

Two of our ward councillors having stood down, we now have two new councillors, Ray Blakebrough and Penny di Cara, supporting Gordon Jenkins who was re-elected. We will continue to work with them in the best interests of harbour residents.

Pacific House will soon be in operation and, hopefully, fully occupied. Funding has been obtained for the infrastructure to support the further development of Site Six. When this is in place, it should be the catalyst for the construction of the two further planned blocks, bringing many clean, well-paid jobs to the town, and to the harbour in particular.

If all goes to plan, the Sovereign Harbour Community Centre will be completed and in operation in late spring. With luck and a fair wind, it could well be the venue for next year's AGM.

The price that had to be paid for the delivery of the community facilities that have been needed for so long, was the construction of 150 new homes, split between sites one, seven and eight.

A planning application has been submitted for the development of eight houses on Site Eight. This will include a large landscaped area of public open space. Thanks to all of you who submitted objections to the initial plans for this area. Revised plans have been submitted and these are now very much closer to the illustrative designs shown on the outline consent. It is expected that this application will be considered by the Planning Committee at the June meeting.

Plans are also under development for Site One, and parts of Site Seven. Both plans provide significant areas of public open space, including a formal park in the centre of Site Seven. Draft plans shown to SHRA committee members are very much in lines with the expectations set at the pre-planning public consultation and, as promised, the majority are houses.

The real disappointment is that, considering that consent for the commercial development on Site Seven was originally granted over twenty years ago, the developers have been given a further ten years to start work on the business park. In the light of the land owners' failure to

market this site, this is outrageous.

We are also hopeful that plans for the regeneration of the Sovereign Harbour Retail Park will be revived, with some interesting additions to the retail offerings.

How Can You Help?

SHRA committee members devote a considerable amount of their time in trying to improve the sustainability of our neighbourhood. This time is given freely and willingly, but there are times when a little help would be appreciated.

If you would like to help, please e-mail your details to: info@shra.co.uk, or leave a message on the SHRA helpline: 07770-621368.

SHRA Finances

Introduction of "Life Membership" is a continuing success and the association's financial position is still sound.

Income from Waterlines Online sponsorship is sufficient to fund the software for its production, the hosting of the SHRA website and some small charitable donations.

This stable situation means that there will be no problem in using part of our reserves to fund legal advice where necessary.

Our thanks to all the companies, large and small, that have supported us so well.

SHRA Membership

Finally, SHRA membership continues to grow and now stands at about 1,360. Thank you all for your continued support.



**Jan Weeks, Chairman,
Sovereign Harbour Residents
Association**

SOVEREIGN HARBOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

REVENUE ACCOUNT for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 (12 months)

	14/15	13/14	12/13
INCOME			
Subscriptions	£1,250.00	£ 897.00	£1,740.00
Advertising Income	£4,300.00	£ 4,300.00	£4,124.00
Donations/Contributions	£699.95	£ 100.00	£0.00
Bank Interest	£4.39	£ 4.84	£4.78
The Crumbles Story	£7.99	£ 65.96	£89.89
Total Income	£6,262.33	£ 5,367.80	£ 5,958.67
EXPENDITURE			
Waterlines & Printing	£3,526.00	£ 3,115.40	£ 3,521.18
Stationery & Office Supplies	£121.34	£ 184.18	£ 265.66
Internet Hosting	£242.72	£ 219.13	£ 201.11
Hall Hire & Events	£120.00	£ 252.50	£ 107.50
PO Box	£251.14	£ 242.35	£ 217.67
Postage	£30.00	£ 21.60	£ 16.42
Insurance (Public Liability)	£277.44	£ 274.11	£ 274.11
Travel & Subsistence	£100.65	£0.00	£ 20.00
Misc/Sundries	£80.00	£ 75.48	£ 60.00
Telephone	£20.00	£ 55.00	£ 40.00
PayPal Fees	£51.89	£ 27.00	£ 35.64
Computer Software, Peripherals & Consumables	£250.02	£ 79.20	£ 854.69
Depreciation	£190.33	£ 198.00	£ 220.78
Donations (Charity and Prizes)	£399.00	£ 344.68	£ 611.29
The Crumbles Story	£0.00	£ 101.31	£ 99.71
Bad Debt Provision	£0.00	£0.00	£ 349.00
Total Expenditure	£5,660.53	£ 5,189.94	£ 6,894.76
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	£601.80	£ 177.86	-£ 936.09
Balance b/f at beginning of year	£9,151.77	£ 8,973.91	£ 9,910.00
Balance c/f at the end of year	£9,753.57	£ 9,151.77	£ 8,973.91

SOVEREIGN HARBOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st March 2015

	14/15	13/14	12/13
Current Assets			
Cash in Natwest Current a/c	£2,282.07	£ 3,882.08	£ 4,323.34
Cash in Natwest Reserve a/c	£9,017.51	£ 12,013.12	£ 12,008.28
Cash in PayPal a/c	£134.21	£ 326.10	£ 201.19
Prepayments & Overpayments	£681.07	£ 218.91	£ 217.06
Equipment Assets			
asset b/f	£ 132.00		
plus: purchases	£ 699.95		
less: depreciation	£ 190.33		
asset c/f	£ 641.62	£ 132.00	£ 330.00
Total Current Assets	£12,756.48	£ 16,572.21	£ 17,079.87
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	£330.00		
Cheques Issued not Cashed	£0.00	£ -	£ 190.40
Total Current Liabilities	£330.00	£ -	£ 190.40
NET CURRENT ASSETS Held for Revenue A/c	£12,426.48	£ 16,572.21	£ 16,889.47
REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCE at end of the	£12,426.48	£ 16,572.21	£ 16,889.47

Certified that I have laid before the Auditors all of the books and financial affairs for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Signer



5th May 2015

Peter Thomas (Treasurer)