

SHRA

Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



Annual General Meeting

Thursday 11th May 2017

Haven School, Atlantic Drive

**Doors Open 19:00,
Meeting Commences 19:30**

Agenda

1. Welcome to Members
 2. Apologies for Absence
 3. Welcome to and Introduction of Guests
 4. Introduction of Committee
 5. Committee Report
 6. Principle Issues Moving Forward
 7. Treasurer's Report
 8. Appointment of Committee for the Coming Year
 9. Open Discussion
 10. Any other urgent business
- Meeting Ends

Committee Report for the Year 2016/2017

The Year Past.

It is difficult to remember a year with so little positive to report. Having dismally failed to support the Sovereign Harbour SPD, which they advocated, Eastbourne Borough Council planners, with the support of senior executives, have continued to blindly support the land owner's objectives.

All of the 150 new homes allowed within the SPD have been granted consent and construction is underway on all three sites but although consent has now been granted for a community centre, this is the third time consent has been granted and so much money has been wasted that it will be too small and too ill-equipped to meet the requirements of the approved business plan.

The saving grace is that, in response to members' very strong opposition to re-locating the community centre to Site Seven, space has been allocated on Site Six. Although planning consent has now been granted, it is conditional on additional consent being given for an access road, and the successful conclusion a S.106 agreement. Past experience has shown that granting planning consent before the S.106 agreement has been concluded inevitably results in planning officers making further concessions to the land owners.

The continuing failure of East Sussex County Council to provide the cross harbour bus link is still making bus travel to the Town Centre much more difficult and time consuming than it should be. The project was a condition of the original harbour planning consent, and the funds have been sitting in ESCC's coffers for 25 years. Three planning applications have been approved, but all consent has now expired. The only obstacle to progress is the purchase of a small strip of land, which the land owner will not make available. The use of compulsory purchase to advance the Town Centre redevelopment was not a problem, so why should this not be used to improve the sustainability of the Sovereign Harbour neighbourhood.

Despite the lack of community facilities, and the difficulties in finding venues, harbour clubs and groups continue to thrive.

The year has also seen many changes within the SHRA, with several long-standing committee members having resigned, or signalled their intention to resign after the AGM. Fortunately, a number of members have expressed interest in joining the committee.

In preparation for the inevitable changes, the SHRA surveyed members to test its understanding of their priorities. The results make for interesting reading, and will be very helpful to the committee in planning for the future; they have also provided some great new ideas for further consideration.

SOVEREIGN HARBOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st March 2017

	16/17	15/16	14/15
Current Assets			
Cash in Natwest Current a/c	£8,108.57	£1,073.24	£ 2,282.07
Cash in Natwest Reserve a/c	£3.55	£7,521.03	£ 9,017.51
Cash in PayPal a/c	£38.54	£84.53	£ 134.21
Cash in Metro Current a/c	£0.00		
Prepayments & Overpayments	£550.49	£622.26	£ 681.07
Equipment Assets			
asset b/f	£ 616.30		
plus: purchases	£ 284.99		
less: depreciation	£ 345.23		
asset c/f	£ 556.06	£616.30	£ 641.62
Total Current Assets	£9,257.21	£9,917.36	£ 12,756.48
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	£0.00	£330.00	£330.00
Total Current Liabilities	£0.00	£330.00	£ 330.00
NET CURRENT ASSETS Held for Revenue A/c	£9,257.21	£9,587.36	£ 12,426.48
REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCE at end of the Year	£9,257.21	£9,587.36	£ 12,426.48

REVENUE ACCOUNT for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 (12 months)

	16/17	15/16	14/15
INCOME			
Subscriptions	£680.00	£750.00	£ 1,250.00
Advertising Income	£575.00	£500.00	£ 4,300.00
Donations/Contributions	£414.99	£0.00	£ 699.95
Bank Interest	£2.52	£3.52	£ 4.39
The Crumbles Story	£15.98	£127.84	£ 7.99
Other Income	£0.00	£14.00	
Total Income	£1,688.49	£1,395.36	£ 6,262.33
EXPENDITURE			
Waterlines & Printing	£73.80	£41.00	£ 3,526.00
Stationery & Office Supplies	£58.06	£69.71	£ 121.34
Internet Hosting	£289.18	£233.75	£ 242.72
Hall Hire & Events	£0.00	£60.00	£ 120.00
PO Box	£252.00	£251.98	£ 251.14
Postage	£0.00	£17.45	£ 30.00
Insurance (Public Liability)	£300.05	£287.32	£ 277.44
Travel & Subsistence	£62.30	£66.25	£100.65
Misc/Sundries	£0.00	£34.00	£ 80.00
Telephone	£52.50	£40.00	£ 20.00
PayPal Fees	£31.32	£32.88	£ 51.89
Computer Software, Peripherals & Consumables	£478.06	£746.80	£ 250.02
Professional Fees	£30.00	£1,560.00	£ 4,620.00
Depreciation	£345.23	£337.32	£ 190.33
Donations (Charity and Prizes)	£0.00	£600.00	£ 399.00
The Crumbles Story	£68.05	£71.81	£ -
Total Expenditure	£2,040.55	£4,450.26	£ 10,280.53
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure for the year	-£352.06	-£3,054.90	-£ 4,018.20
Balance b/f at beginning of year	£2,078.67	£5,133.57	£ 9,151.77
Balance c/f at the end of year	£1,726.61	£2,078.67	£ 5,133.57

However, some of the issues raised in the responses could be dealt with by residents themselves. It is particularly important that in the first instance residents complain to the relevant authority or body to properly register a complaint, and that whenever possible, they should do so in writing, email or text as a paper-trail can be extremely helpful when taking a matter further.

That said, SHRA will continue to press all the appropriate bodies to tackle more effectively the issues for which they are responsible, and that are so clearly annoying SHRA members, and negatively affecting the already fragile sustainability of the Sovereign Harbour neighbourhood.

October saw the resignation of Ray Blakebrough as a Sovereign Ward councillor, and the resulting by-election in November saw harbour resident, Paul Metcalfe, elected in his place.

On the morning of Boxing Day 2016, SHRA committee member, Angelo Errigo, passed peacefully away, surrounded by his loving family, after a long struggle against cancer. Angelo was a true pillar of the community; he was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was, without doubt, one of a kind and irreplaceable.

Having decided to stand down at the 2017 AGM, SHRA Chairman, Jan Weeks, felt her continued influence on the committee was not conducive to ensuring continuity so, at the end of February, she resigned with immediate effect.

Sovereign Harbour Community Association (SHCA)

Although the SHCA works closely with the SHRA, the SHCA is an autonomous charity with its own constitution and board of trustees. SHCA was specifically formed to be the focal point for the community centre project, and to operate the centre when it was handed over. As you will be aware, following the failure of the Borough Council to secure the preferred site and the progressive reduction in the size of the proposed facility, the SHCA and SHRA withdrew from the project. The SHCA trustees are now re-evaluating the association's position.

Thanks

Our thanks to Caroline Ansell MP and Cllrs. Elkin, di Cara, Jenkins and Metcalfe for all their help.

The fight against the marina rent charge has made little progress, but work is still proceeding. Our thanks to harbour resident, and retired solicitor, Paul Webb for his continued help and invaluable advice, and to Stuart Bannerman who has joined the team and brought some interesting new insight into the case.

Our thanks to Jon Martin, who has again audited the accounts.

Our Neighbourhood Advisors, Andrew Tilney, Paul Boyce and Natalia Grabowska do their best to keep the harbour clean and free of weeds and dog fouling. Thanks to them and team leader, Holly King, for their support.

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. Tony Smith, who was a previous website manager, has again taken up the reins and started with an exciting redesign of the site.

After twelve years of producing Waterlines, Ian Weeks has resigned as editor, and from the SHRA committee. The survey of members has shown very strongly that Waterlines is widely respected and still considered to be relevant. The committee has, therefore, committed to continue publication, and a new editor has been appointed.

Thanks to our sponsors, Sanders Property Management, Ginger and Sanders, The Travel Concept, Great Hairdressing, Silver Car Service and Inner Beauty for their valuable support, which has allowed us to operate the SHRA and Waterlines websites at no cost to members.

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.

The Coming Year

We had hoped that in 2016/17 we would finally be able to take advantage of the community benefits that were promised from the final stages of the harbour development, but the continuing failure of Eastbourne Borough Council to fulfil its commitments have put paid to those hopes.

As we said last year, many of the current committee have been involved in the struggle to improve the harbour community for up to ten years, putting enormous strain on their private lives and time. Although several had indicated that they would be standing down at the 2016 AGM, because of their intimate knowledge of current issues, they agreed to stand for a further year. That year is now up, and Rick Runalls, Ray Blakebrough, Peter Thomas Anton Levy and Des and Shirley Davis, will not be seeking re-election.

The consent granted for the additional residential development was conditional on the provision of much needed community facilities, a major component of which was the provision of a community centre. As we have seen, planning officers and the Planning Committee have allowed the land owners to ride roughshod over this and, unfortunately, we can have little confidence that the other conditions will be honoured or enforced.

It will be imperative that our Ward Councillors keep their eyes firmly on this ball and ensure that the community facilities are provided at the agreed stage of development. Experience has shown that, if developers are permitted to ignore conditions, the prospect of retrospective enforcement is zero.

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

The 2016/2017 accounts are enclosed. Although there is still cash in the bank, the need for professional help in the fight against the rent charge is very expensive.

We did ask members if they would be willing to contribute to the fund and, although there were many generous offers, it was felt that, unless there was more comprehensive support, it would be unfair to expect those members to subsidise the others. We will re-examine this in the coming year.

SHRA Membership

Finally, SHRA membership continues to grow and now stands at about 1,600. Thank you all for your continued support.

**Chris Mephram, Acting Chairman,
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association**

www.shra.co.uk

**Police Report for
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association AGM
Thursday 11th May 2017
[Added after the event]**

“We are now some way down the line since Sussex Police changed the way in which the Neighbourhood Team works, with a more flexible team focussing on where the greatest need is.

The Eastbourne Neighbourhood Team has around 15 PCSO's and 8 Officers available to deal with issues, and resolve incidents giving priority to those high risk victims, in addition to officers that respond to 999 calls, and specialist investigators.

Whilst some may have formed the impression that the Harbour is receiving less Policing than previously, we are still focussed on keeping the area safe and dealing with incidents when they are reported, and ensuring that the right officers deal with whatever the incident is. The Harbour remains a low crime area, and we maintain good links with the community.

It is our aim to continue this into the future especially during the busier months in the summer dealing with the anti-social behaviour that sometimes effects the Harbour. It is important also to note that whilst the position of Eastbourne Neighbourhood Policing Team is secure into the future, the role of the neighbourhood PC's and Sgt is under review. Sussex Police commitment to keeping Eastbourne safe remains resolute however.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the SHRA as well as the Sovereign Harbour Neighbourhood Panel for their help and support. We are very thankful for the close working relationship that we have, and there is no doubt that this relationship enhances our ability to keep the area safe. The partnership between the Community and the Police means that Eastbourne is a great place to live, work and visit, especially Sovereign Harbour.”

Notes of the Annual General Meeting
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association
12th May 2016

Prior to meeting Chris Mepham pointed out fire exits to those present.

1. Welcome to Members

Chris Mepham (Acting Chairman) CM, welcomed members to the meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies had been offered from:-

Members: Rasil Dattani, Lyne and Michael Chiswick, Mike and Elaine Greaves, Alan and Sally Coole, Barbara Burgess, Stuart Bannaman, Keith Forbes, Roger Green, Leonie Toal, Lesley and Robin Ward, Andrew and Susan Grinnall, Paul and Anne Webb, Jan Mortlock, David Lewis, Joan Brady and Sue Mepham

Committee Member: Penny di Cara

3. Welcome and Introduction of Guests

A warm welcome was offered to all invited guests including Caroline Ansell MP, Cllr David Elkin, Cllr Gordon Jenkins and Cllr Paul Metcalfe.

4. Introduction of Committee

Those attending Committee members who had served over 2015-2017 period were introduced. Chris Mepham (Acting Chairman), Des Davis, Shirley Davis (Secretary), Dilys Iverson and Tony Smith (Webmaster).

It was regrettable that during the year Jan Weeks, Ian Weeks , Ray Blakebrough, Peter Thomas and Anton Levy had all resigned. Des and Shirley Davis, along with Rick Runalls would not be standing for re-election.

5. Committee Report

Rick Runalls (RR) drew members' attention to a booklet that had been distributed around the hall, which included the Agenda, the Chairman's Report and Treasurer's Report. He added that he would not read through the whole document as Members could digest this at their leisure. The whole report would also be posted on SHRA website for those who had not had chance to read it through.

Very frustrating year for all concerned with no positive outcomes.

RR gave thanks to Ian Weeks, and added that Ian had been a cornerstone of SHRA and if it had not been for him there would be no website and no Waterlines. Thanks to Jan Weeks whose talent for research was outstanding and who had been Chair of SHRA for the past six years. Also thanks to Des and Shirley Davis who had put so much time and effort into the Community Centre project. To Peter Thomas who had been the Treasurer for a number of years. Anton Levy who had been heavily involved in Columbus Point and the water feature problems. To Paul Webb, a retired Solicitor living on the Harbour who had been working on the Harbour Charge and who had introduced SHRA to the Barrister.

At this point RR said we should remember Angelo Errigo who had brought humanity and commitment to the Harbour but had sadly died last year.

RR added that Steve Bannaman would hopefully be joining the SHRA committee shortly. He has a legal background and would be helping with the Harbour Charge.

Thanks to Caroline Ansell MP who has done good work for the harbour. She had managed to get us a meeting with the Secretary of State on the Harbour Charge.

The EA were still holding us to ransom. They have basically told us to take them to court knowing that SHRA do not have the funds to do this. SHRA are trying to get Jan Weeks and Penny di Cara appointed to the Board of the Trust. If we are successful that will give three residents on the Board and will hopefully give us a better voice. The Trust obviously do not want this so we will have to keep trying.

With reference to the Community Centre, RR stated that Site 6 is owned by the Developer and they could still stop this going ahead if they do not agree with the design etc. He also added that there would have to be a variation of the 106 agreement for everything to go ahead. It is hoped that we will all be surprised and that this time the Centre would be going forward.

6. Principle Issues Moving Forward

SHRA had recently conducted a survey of members and it would be good to know that residents support SHRA. It was now down to the new committee to take the organisation further.

The recreation plans are likely to happen but the village square seems unlikely.

The cross harbour bus link has still not happened.

There are still three roads in the Harbour that have not been adopted.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was in the centre of the Committee Report. If there are any queries please contact Peter Thomas direct via email.

8. Appointment of Committee for the Coming Year

CM advised that seven people had expressed an interest in joining the committee. These are Steve Bannaman, Keith Forbes, Roger Green, Roger Phillips, Jan Mortlock, David Lewis and Joan Brady. Unfortunately none of these were present at the meeting. He asked members if they were in favour of the Committee appointing them at the next committee meeting in accordance with the Constitution. Chris Mephram, Tony Smith, Dilys Iverson and Penny di Cara were appointed for the coming year. All in favour.

9. Open Meeting

Cllr David Elkin (East Sussex County Councillor) stated he was not sure that RR's information was correct with regard to problems for the Community Centre. At the last AGM he, Cllr Tutt and other Councillors present got the message from Residents that they were not happy with the Centre going on Site 7 and that they wanted it situated on Site 6. We have worked very hard to get this to happen. Residents would be getting a substantial building. There would be an update

meeting next week on progress. At the moment the Centre was scheduled for completion in December 2017. He added that the Council want the Centre to be run by the community for the community.

He expressed his thanks to Jan Weeks, Ian Weeks, Rick Runalls, Des and Shirley Davis for all the work they had put into the Harbour over the past few years and stated that they had given up their time and energy for the Harbour as volunteers and added that he certainly would not have done what they have done as a volunteer and hoped that the Residents appreciated what they had done.

With regard to the bus link this is an ongoing problem. The harbour had been designed so that there was no rat run between North and South Harbours. The piece of land that is holding everything up is owned by Prudential and they will not release it until they are ready. Question asked as to why the Council did not make a compulsory purchase and the answer was that the Council did not have the money.

Cllr Gordon Jenkins stated that they hold surgeries on the first Saturday of each Month in Simply Italian and all residents were welcome to attend if they have any problems or want to discuss anything regarding the Harbour.

Cllr Paul Metcalfe said he had lived in North Harbour for 17 years, had a daughter in South Harbour and had a sister in law who also lived in the Harbour. He had been elected in November and said that he was sure that any problems in the Harbour could be sorted. He added that Cllr Penny di Cara, Cllr Gordon Jenkins and Cllr David Elkin had been working extremely hard on the Community Centre. He was looking forward to December when we could all say "we have done it" and the Centre would be there.

Caroline Ansell MP said that some of her best memories have been with SHRA, including going to Parliament to meet Secretary State and the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, over the Harbour Charge. It has been a privilege to represent Residents. Know there are challenges ahead. Even though there is no community centre yet there is a strong heartbeat and a strong community in the Harbour. SHRA have been a force and it has been a privilege to work alongside them.

10. Any other urgent business.

- (a) *Community Centre not yet built.* RR stated that the SPD was a document that details what goes into an area. Whilst SHRA had not been happy to join the discussions for this they had been persuaded by the then MP to join in. Safeguards had been agreed and compromises made. The key factor was that when the first of the 150 homes agreed was sold the keys to the Community Centre would be handed over. This was written out of the agreement which was subsequently signed off. At a meeting with Councillors it was obvious that the Leader of the Council Cllr. Tutt did not know that this had happened. He was next to Rob Cotterrill (Chief Executive) who leaned across and said he would discuss it with him after the meeting. Unfortunately for them some of us who were sitting opposite lip read what was said. Our safe guard had been removed without our knowledge.
- (b) *There are weeds all along the walkways in North Harbour.* Question asked as to why we had lost the person who used to do this work. Advised that weeding is done three times a year. This is not a SHRA matter and if residents are not happy they should contact the Council. They could also contact SHNP who look at what the Council do and may be able to help on

this matter. There are very useful numbers on the SHRA website for people to contact if they have problems within the harbour such as weeding, dog poo etc.

- (c) *Development on Site 7.* Question asked as to whether there would be another access onto Pevensey Bay Road. At this stage the only information available is that there would not be one other than an emergency exit.
- (d) Shingle Beach. A significant amount of work has been done on what is a conservation area by removing plants and bushes. It is a mess – what is happening. Chris Mepham read out the following which had been issued by one of the Management Committees. *“The Directors have established that all the relevant Councils and Environment Agencies wish to see the beach between the footpath in front of the apartment blocks and the high tide line restored and maintained with the characteristics and look of the original Crumbles. Considering this and the fact that sea views are being lost from ground floor flats, the Board decided to completely remove the non-indigenous shrubs and plants which are overtaking the shingle beach. Urban Jungle will undertake this work at the end of March. The beach will then be seeded with indigenous perennials.”*
- (e) *Double Yellow Lines and white lines.* These seem to have been removed in places in the harbour and commercial vehicles are parking everywhere and blocking people’s views. Advised that this is a matter for the Highways Agency and that people should get in touch with them.

There being no further business the meeting closed. CM thanked all members for attending.