

Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



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SHRA and Harbour Area News

This page contains 2011 news. [Click here for the news archives.](#)

[Don't miss the local events announcements - click here](#)

If you have a local news story or issue please [e-mail the web manager](#).

NEW! ▶ 30 Jun - Local Councillor Joins Trust Board -

Newly elected Sovereign Ward EBC councillor, Patrick Warner, has been appointed to the boards of the [Sovereign Harbour Trust](#) and the Sovereign Harbour Sea Defences CIC.



These bodies are responsible for collecting the annual 'Rent Charge' from Sovereign Harbour residents that is used to maintain the marina and carry out flood protection work.

Cllr Warner said, "I know that many residents have had concerns about why we have the Trust and how it operates. Following my appointment to the Trust, I look forward to playing my part in ensuring that the Trust is seen to be more open and accountable in the work it does on residents behalf. I am also keen to see that a further seat on the board is offered to a member of SHRA at the earliest opportunity".

NEW! ▶ 30 Jun - Hello, hello, hello - On 1st July a new way of contacting Sussex Police will come into effect. For non emergency enquiries people can now dial 101 from their phone to speak with the Police contact centre.



Urgent calls should always be made to 999, but this new way will work alongside the existing non-emergency number for Sussex (0845 60 70 999) for the time being.

101 will become the national standard for residents to phone their local Police from November, however Sussex is one of the first forces to go "live" and so now it's even easier to contact Sussex Police. Calls will cost 15p for the entire call.

It is worth remembering however that 101 only contacts the Police and not the other emergency services.

NEW! ▶ 27 Jun - Cormorant Pontoon to be Reinstated - Good News! The Marina Manager has now decided to arrange for the cormorant pontoon to be cleaned and repaired and then to be reinstated.

This follows after a number of residents let Premier know, in no uncertain terms, how much they valued the pontoon.

News feed from...

EASTBOURNE
Herald

Drink-driver almost four times over limit

Cash boost for emergency team

Woman, 70, dies in car fall tragedy

Frustration over apprenticeships and the 'vicious circle' of youth employment

Flare helps save young angler's life in rescue drama



Apparently Premier were unaware of just how much pleasure that it brought to residents, and we are very pleased that they have now decided to invest time, effort and money to clean and replace it - and so, I suspect, are the cormorants!



NEW! ▶ **24 Jun - Notice Served on Southern Water** - Sovereign Ward Councillor Gordon Jenkins has let us know that following his meeting yesterday with Jeff Collard, EBC's Senior head of Service, a 28 day notice has been served on Southern Water regarding the smells that have been emanating from their treatment works at Langney Point.



Southern Water have been given 28 days to ensure that the smells are eliminated. If they do not, then a meeting will be held with local councillors and the relevant EBC portfolio holder to agree that further action, in the courts, should go ahead.

NEW! ▶ **23 Jun - Cormorant Pontoon Removed** - Premier Marinas have removed the pontoon moored near the bridge that was used by the cormorants. According to the Marina Manager it was in a very poor state and considered dangerous.



It is a shame that Premier couldn't have repaired or cleaned the pontoon and so retained this popular local point of interest that was enjoyed by residents and visitors alike - and the cormorants clearly liked it too!

NEW! ▶ **20 Jun - Harbour Childrens' Petition gets MP Support.** On Saturday Stephen Lloyd MP met a group of Sovereign Harbour children to accept their petition, containing almost 600 signatures, asking for open space on which they could play.



Mr Lloyd said he would pass the petition to Council Leader, Cllr David Tutt, and arrange a meeting with Cllr Tutt so that the children could discuss their needs with him in person.

Stephen said, "I'm delighted to receive this petition from these young people who have taken a pro-active step to securing open space in which to play. I have immense admiration for the initiative they have shown and will do all I can to help them in their campaign. If we are to attract families with young children to the town, it is essential that the social infrastructure necessary to support them is in place."

Until the meeting with Cllr Tutt takes place, the children will continue to collect signatures on their petition, especially in the South Harbour. Please keep a look out for them and give your support to their campaign. [Click here for larger photos...](#)

NEW! ▶ **12 Jun - News About The News** - The BBC Trust are holding a consultation about the BBC News Channel and BBC Parliament, and another on Radio 5 Live and Radio 5 Live Sports Extra. Both close in early July. [To take part in either click here...](#)



NEW! ▶ **08 June - Open and Shut Cases** - The Eastbourne Herald



reports that Fitness First is closing down at the end of this month.
[Read more...](#)



Meanwhile, Sports Direct.com have reopened their Sovereign Harbour Retail Park store following its damage by smoke from the fire in Boots last year.



NEW! ▶ 06 June - Harbour Youngsters Start a Petition

- When SHRA committee member, Ian Weeks, answered the door recently, he found a young lady, about eleven years old, standing there with a clipboard in her hand.



His surprise quickly turned to admiration when she introduced herself as Hannah, and explained that she, and her brother and friend, were seeking support for a play area on the land adjacent to Pacific Drive. She explained that they were fed up with having nowhere to play, and fed up with being shouted at for playing on the beach. They were also concerned about the dangers associated with playing on the beach.

Ian had no hesitation in signing Hannah's petition and offering his support. During the half term holiday the children have, so far, managed to get over five hundred signatures on their petition, including those of Stephen Lloyd MP, and Cllrs. Elkin, Jenkins and Warner.

SHRA chairman, Jan Weeks, said, "It was so pleasing to see these children acting on their own initiative and trying to help themselves, instead of just accepting the status quo. Their action reinforces the failure of the Borough Council to provide the facilities necessary for a sustainable community at Sovereign Harbour."

"We will, of course support the children in any way possible, but they seem to know what they want and be perfectly able to run their own campaign. However, in the final analysis, we are all at the mercy of Carillion, which owns the land, and it has shown no inclination to do anything but cover every available square metre of it with unneeded flats."

Look out for Hannah, Alistair and Andrzej, and please show your support by signing their petition. [Click here for enlarged photo...](#)

NEW! ▶ 03 June - SHRA Annual Review - The SHRA Committee's annual report-back to members was given out to those attending the Association's recent AGM.



It contains an overview of SHRA activities during the past year, as well as the Associations accounts. [Click here to read it...](#)

NEW! ▶ 26 May - Japanese Knotweed Alert - a resident contacted us recently to say that they thought they had spotted some [Japanese Knotweed](#) beginning to sprout on the shingle ridges of [Sovereign Park](#) on the right of the prom just beyond the water treatment works as you head towards the town.



Although not quite on our 'patch', we alerted the Council who have since confirmed it was the highly evasive and damaging weed, and that it would be treated with herbicide.

Japanese Knotweed is the most invasive species of plant in Britain and it spreads extremely quickly, preventing native vegetation from growing. It is also a problem to the construction industry and house owners as it is capable of exposing weaknesses in buildings, foundations, concrete and tarmac. If you spot it in your garden search Google for removal advice (the sooner the better). If you spot it growing in a public space, report it to the Council or relevant landowner.

NEW! ► **26 May - Martello Tower to be Repaired** - Land owners Carillion, confirm that work is scheduled to start on Martello Tower 66 at Langney Point on 31st May.
Update 15 June: Scaffolding being erected.



Carillion state that they have been liaising closely with [English Heritage](#) and have obtained Scheduled Monument Consent to carry out work to the exterior of the Tower.

East Sussex company [Paul Reed Conservation Limited](#) will be carrying out the work, which is likely to last for between 12 and 20 weeks, depending on weather and the extent of the work necessary.

The work will primarily be to repair areas of defective brickwork and render to protect and help conserve the Tower. It will be necessary to erect scaffolding around the tower and much of the work will be carried out by hand hence the length of contract.

► **21 May - Two Additional Discounts for SHRA Members - (i) The Happy Dragon** restaurant in Pevensey Bay (01323 468 222). From Sunday to Thursday, on production of a current membership card, SHRA members will be entitled to a 10% discount on food only for all meals eaten in the restaurant on those days and on take away meals, with the exception of set menus, and only for orders collected in person.

(ii) City Gym Express on Furness Street in the Town Centre is offering a discount of 10% on membership for SHRA members. Gym members are also entitled to a 20% discount on many of the other services, including the hairdressing salon, and massage and beauty treatments. And the City Holistic Centre at the gym is also offering a 20% discount to all harbour residents, even if they are not members of the gym or SHRA. Tel: 1323 648 863 Web site: www.citygymexpress.co.uk

[Other discounts for SHRA members...](#)

► **20 May - Harbour Community Association - Latest News** - The Harbour Community Association (HCA) was awarded £4,000 from the Ward Councillors' Devolved Budget to further its aims in facilitating social activities for Harbour Residents.

Since January 2011 HCA have booked the Haven School every Friday evening during term time for very successful Zumba fitness classes. From September 2011 there will be further activities, starting with carpet bowls on Thursday evenings, and with a drama group to follow soon; look out for further announcements. You can show your interest in this and other activities, by registering in advance.

Membership of The Harbour Community Association is FREE to all harbour residents over the age of 18. To register for HCA membership, pick up a form from the Haven School on a Friday evening or at the SHRA AGM this Thursday. Alternatively you can download a form from the webpage www.shra.co.uk/hca or request one by sending an email to hca@shra.co.uk [More info on the HCA web page...](#)

► **17 May - New Life in the Harbour** - mother and babies doing well - photographed this morning by Peter Thomas.

[Click here for large photo...](#)



► **17 May - Sovereign Harbor Art Group** - This friendly, local Art Group currently have a few places available on their weekly Thursday morning sessions at the Catholic Hall, Princes Road. So, if anyone would like to join the group

(beginners or experienced) they are very welcome.

And following a couple of enquiries, they are also considering arranging evening sessions or classes if there is enough demand.

If interested in joining either the Thursday session or the possible evening classes, please contact Angela on 07914 884 378. [For further info visit the Group's web pages...](#)

▶ **15 May - Out of Africa** - The house martins have returned from their winter stay in Africa and already seem to be exploring nest building sites around the South Harbour. Their nests are built high on the eaves or walls of houses and are formed of mud or silt from the outer harbour beach.



▶ **14 May - Sovereign Harbour Social Club** - The Sovereign Harbour Social Club is soon to celebrate its third year of existence. Started by Sam Sweiry in 2008, it stems from a Luncheon Club that Sam initiated a year earlier. The present Club meets every Wednesday between 10am and 11.30am for coffee and chat in Seamors Wine Bar at The Waterfront. There is an annual membership fee of £5.



The weekly attendance averages around 45 people, many of whom are regulars bringing along their friends. 10% of the membership is made up of men and 5% of the membership live outside the harbour. The club has active members who may organise occasional outings etc. New members are most welcome - just pop along any Wednesday morning and make yourself known. [Sovereign Harbour Social Club web site...](#)

▶ **14 May - Over 50s Resource** - The Eastbourne Seniors Forum (ESF) was set up in 2008 to be a voice, focal point and information provider for the over 50s in the Eastbourne area.



Their web site is a treasure trove of information about community services and resources available in our area. It has sections on housing, health, learning, transport (e.g. did you know Age Concern Eastbourne runs a minibus shopping transport service to Sainsburys and Tesco's?), and many more, including information about relevant local events. You can also sign up for the ESF email newsletter to receive regularly updates.

The web site has an extensive Sports and Leisure Directory covering everything from Archery to Yoga. [Click here to visit the ESF web site at www.esf-online.org](#)

▶ **14 May - Haven School to Double in Size** - The BBC and The Herald carry stories confirming the planned increase in the intake of the Haven School on Atlantic Drive from September 2012.



The popular primary school will be able to increase its pupil admissions from 30 to 60 each year following the expansion. It will move from one-form entry to two, increasing its overall pupil numbers from 210 to 420 by 2016/17. Building work to extend the school is expected to start in the Autumn, subject to planning approval. [BBC report....](#)

▶ **12 May - Sovereign Vets Match Report** - The now 'Annual Challenge Match' took place on Sunday 1st May, a lovely warm day, with the veterans from Croydon coming out on top in a close fought 2-1 match.

Although The Sovereign Harbour Veterans had the luxury



of fielding a different side in each half, and despite a lot of late pressure, they could not get the equaliser they probably deserved against their more experienced opponents. So alas, the Croydon Veterans took home the recently donated challenge trophy until next year, when hopefully it can be regained by The Sovereign Harbour Veterans.

As you can see from the photo ([click here for large version...](#)) the numbers have grown from the early years and they now have a couple of players on a waiting list, ready to join the Harbour Veterans Football team, who's numbers continue to grow.

After the match the Croydon players and the Sovereign Vets and wives and partners, met up in The Garden Bar for an after match drink and a portion of sausage and chips each that were prepared by Eddie in The Chippy downstairs. Thanks to Eddie for the excellent food and to Ron for allowing us to eat them in his bar. Frank Milmo. [Web page...](#)

► **11 May - Most Wanted in Sussex** - Sussex Police are asking the residents of Sussex to help them locate some 'most wanted' criminals who are linked to the county. The gallery has pictures of people wanted for various offences throughout the county, but you can limit the search if you would like. [Click here to view the gallery...](#)



Any information on these people would be gratefully received either direct to Sussex Police on 0845 60 70 999 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Any information helps, and you could help catch some of the most wanted criminals in the county.

► **11 May - Police Station Opening Hours Changed** - East Sussex Police have announced that they have reduced the hours that people can just drop into front offices at Police Stations and are offering more pre-planned appointments instead. In the near future people will be able to book these online, as well as over the phone, although this service is not yet available.



Eastbourne Police Station, Grove Road will now be open as follows:
Mondays to Saturdays: 0900 - 2000 hrs. Sundays: Closed.

Please be reassured that even when the front counter service is not open, the police station is still staffed and functioning normally. The public will always be able to contact the police quickly through the 999 number in an emergency, or on 0845 60 70 999 for non-emergency matters. Sussex Police have one of the best records of all forces in the country at answering these calls quickly.

► **04 May - Boiler safety and carbon monoxide** - SHRA has received a report about a dodgy boiler installation in an apartment in Dominica Court, South Harbour.

When the boiler stopped working the Corgi registered engineer had to condemn it because it had not been fitted correctly. The flu was not sealed so poisonous carbon monoxide gasses from the boiler were escaping into the apartment.

Also the water supply pipe was cross-threaded resulting in water damage which, luckily in this case, caused the boiler to break down, otherwise the potentially lethal flu would not have been noticed.



The owner's son has asked that we make residents aware of this potentially lethal issue so they can get their boilers safety checked.

Carbon monoxide has no taste, smell or colour, and is caused by faulty or poorly maintained appliances. Installing a carbon monoxide detector can help, but regular boiler maintenance and servicing is essential. Rented properties are required by law to have an annual gas safety check. You can obtain more information from your gas supplier, the [Carbon Monoxide Consumer Awareness Alliance \(COCAA\)](#), or from [British Gas](#).

► **20 April - Charity Walk Report** - The charity walk last Sunday, organised by the Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour, and supported by local businesses, raised almost £3,000 for Help for Heroes.



[Full report and photos here...](#)

► **12 April - Medical Centre Update** - We are grateful to Peter Waugh, project co-ordinator, for providing the following report on the rapid progress made on building the medical centre.



"The building is already over 20% complete although it is just coming out of the ground. Having completed the piling, they have poured concrete into trenches to form steel-reinforced 'ground beams' and the pre-made floor slabs will be brought in and craned into position any day. You can now see the base of the lift shaft from outside of the site fence, and make out the shape of some of the rooms.

It is some time since the project began so as we go we are checking on one or two points of technology to see that we are still up to the minute in energy conservation, IT and health care.

The multi-purpose room of 420 sq ft will be sometimes available for community activities during working hours. Obviously these would have to fit in with the main health care use of the building, but we do want to see it being used widely.

Sovereign Medical Centre is on programme to open in the second half of October 2011."

► **09 April - Dotto Trains Start Summer Service** - The Dotto trains start their Summer Service today (Saturday 9th April).

A new timetable and new slip road at the Langney Point roundabout sees them running from Holywell to the end of Atlantic Drive. [Click here for a timetable and route map...](#)



And don't forget that with the start of the summer season comes the return to the normal sea front parking charges.

► **05 April - Letter about the Rent Charge Admin Costs** - In early March SHRA wrote to the Sovereign Harbour (Sea Defences) Community Interest Company (CIC) about the large increase in their administrative charges. We asked for clarification on a number of points raised by our members. [Click here to read the letter from SHRA.](#)

The CIC responded shortly afterwards and their letter does clarify some points we raised and contains information about costs and liabilities that residents may find useful. [Click here to read the response from the CIC.](#)



SHRA believe that we still have some way to go before the full transparency that residents should expect from an agency that is charging them money for services is

fully reached. We will continue to press for this aspect to be improved, and we will continue to demand direct resident representation on the CIC Board.

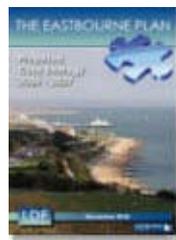
You will find more information on the [Rent Charge here...](#)

▶ **29 March - Premier Marina and Southern Water Responses to the Eastbourne Plan** - further to message below about Carillion's missing response to the recent consultation, EBC tell us that the responses have been taken down from the web site while they prepare replies. They expect to re-publish the comments, along with the EBC replies, in a couple of weeks time.



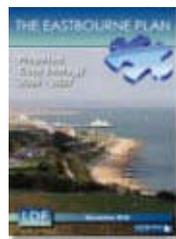
In the meantime, here are further consultation responses from **(i) Premier Marinas**, who raise an interesting point about the boat storage area beside Pevensey Bay Road - its planning permission expires in November 2011 - and who also bemoan the scant mention of the marina and all its facilities and attractions in the Plan; and **(ii) from Southern Water** about the need for a proper waste water infrastructure for any new development, and about the Water Treatment facility - it could be expanded.

▶ **27 March - Carillion Response to the Eastbourne Plan** - The response to the Eastbourne Plan consultation from Sovereign Harbour Ltd (A subsidiary of Carillion PLC), seems to have disappeared from the EBC consultation web site, so I thought I would post a copy of it here.



For those that don't know, Carillion are the land owners of the Sovereign Harbour development, so, not surprisingly, their views on Sovereign Harbour, its housing and its amenities, is markedly different from SHRA's. [Click here to read the response....](#)

▶ **12 March -SHRA Response to the Eastbourne Plan Consultation** - On Friday afternoon (11th March) SHRA Chairman, Jan Weeks, and Vice-chairman, Rick Runalls, presented SHRA's formal response to the Eastbourne Plan consultation to the Council, along with a supporting petition containing 1,550 signatures. The document was received on behalf of EBC by the Mayor, Cllr. Carolyn Heaps.



Jan Weeks said, "The Eastbourne Plan, as far as the vision for Sovereign Harbour is concerned, is a flawed document that gives harbour residents absolutely no confidence that anything will change, except for a further reduction in the sustainability of the community.

The negative comments of residents who responded to the online consultation and the number of residents who signed the petition is a clear demonstration of the strength of feeling that exists on the harbour.

The Borough Council and the land owner cannot continue to ignore residents' justifiable aspirations."

Members of the SHRA committee will be meeting with Stephen Lloyd MP and members and officers of the council on 21st March to discuss the issues.

[Click here to read SHRA's response document...](#)

[Click here to read other submissions...](#) (then click on "Who said what" - top right).



► **10 March - Good News! - Seniors Free Bus Pass Start Time Retained** -Following representations from [Eastbourne Seniors Forum](#) and [East Sussex Seniors Association](#), the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Cabinet have agreed to keep the start time for the use of Seniors Free Bus passes at 9 am.



This is great news and will be appreciated especially by Seniors wanting to attend the DGH for early appointments.

Eastbourne, along with other areas in the county, had an earlier start time than many counties but with the Tory cut backs and the move of responsibility to the County Council, this extra time was under threat.

Following lobbying by ESSA and ESF at their regular meetings with executives of ESCC and approaches to Stephen Lloyd MP, this important extra time has been saved.

► **15 Feb - Some Council Tax Banding Reduced** - We were interested to learn that some of the residents of 4/5 bedroom town houses in St. Kitts Drive have received a letter from the [Valuation Office](#) informing them that their Council tax banding is being altered. The banding runs from A (the lowest) to H (the highest).



Apparently a new tenant moved in and challenged why the Council tax band was F when a similar property on another part of the estate was E.

It seems the Valuation Office agreed and have altered the existing entry from F to E and back dated the valuation to the date of moving in. This means residents can expect not only a lower Council tax bill from now on, but also a refund on any over-payments.

On such a large estate with so many similar dwellings it could benefit residents to check on the valuation office website what band their neighbours are in. [Click here to start the on-line search process...](#)

► **15 Jan - More Housing at Sovereign Harbour - Report.** A Report has come to light that was commissioned last year by EBC entitled '*External Review of Sites with Residential and Employment Potential*'. The results of this review, which assessed in particular the economic viability of each site, were used by EBC to complete its evidence base for *The Eastbourne Plan* which has consequences for Sovereign Harbour (see below).



You can download the Report from the EBC web site [by clicking here...](#)

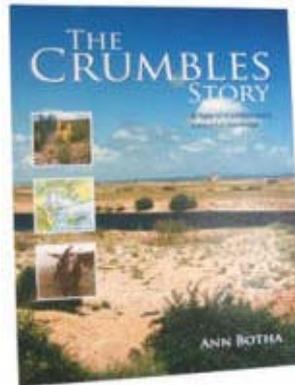
The table commencing on page 26 of the Report, and pages 120 onward, give details of the development proposals and viability findings for 7 sites at Sovereign Harbour. It is worrying that flats are proposed for the majority of these sites, and that the sites are generally considered viable, when there is clearly already a glut of flats on the Harbour.

The proposals, which would probably form the basis of any new 'Master Plan' for the Harbour, also appear to drive a residential bulldozer over land originally intended for the Business Park development, and would completely surround the inner North harbour with buildings.

The proposals in this Report are further evidence of the Council's intention to hoist more residential development on Sovereign Harbour.

► **The Crumbles Story - available from SHRA** - Where did the rock of the harbour arms come from? What was the Crumbles Railway? What is the wreck visible at low tide?

We have a limited number of copies of the very informative paperback book, *The Crumbles Story* by local author Ann Botha that answers these questions.



If you are interested in the history of the land on which Sovereign Harbour is built, the industry and events that took place on it, and its unique flora and fauna, this little book is for you, and at just £7.99, it won't break the bank. The book contains many illustrations in colour and B&W.

To order a copy and pay on-line with your credit or debit card, send an email to the webmaster webmaster@shra.co.uk simply saying you would like a copy of the book and we'll email you a PayPal payment request link which will take you through the online paying process (you don't need to have a PayPal account).

Or send a cheque for £7.99, payable to SHRA, with your name and address to:

The Crumbles Story
SHRA
PO Box 124
Eastbourne
East Sussex BN24 9AW

The price includes delivery - we will pop your book through your letter box, or post it to you if outside the area.

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