

SHRA

Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



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Lisa Rawlinson
Strategy and Partnership Lead
Eastbourne Borough Council
1 Grove Road
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By email to: Lisa.Rawlinson@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

27 February 2019

Dear Lisa,

Sovereign Harbour Community Centre

We write to you on behalf of the members of our Association to say how disappointed we all are over the length of time it has taken to finish the community centre building and declare it open for business, and to ask you when it will be open.

After a lengthy campaign to obtain the promised community centre for Sovereign Harbour, a year ago we thought you were close to opening it when you invited residents to drop-in meetings at Pacific House to learn about the facility and the hiring. Since then the centre has sat empty and failed to open. We have been told that there have been snagging problems in the building that still wait to be resolved, and that the kitchen is not complete.

Earlier this month a newsletter from the local Conservative councillors confidentially stated that the centre would open on the 4th February; it didn't. They also stated that bookings for the centre would now be taken - they are not. Also this month, Margaret Bannister, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Leisure Services, apparently informed *The Eastbourne Herald* that Wave Leisure would not start managing the centre until April, and that the centre would finally open "in the Spring".
www.eastbourneherald.co.uk/news/politics/wave-leisure-chosen-to-run-new-eastbourne-community-centre-1-8801437

Like Brexit(!), the prolonged uncertainty is causing great difficulties for local organisations who are unable to book space for future meetings, classes or events, and so cannot make long-term plans. We are annoyed about the extremely long delay in finishing the building and setting up its management, and the lack of an opening date.

Is it possible that you could now give us a firm opening date for the centre? If an opening date could be agreed and confirmed now, then all the partners could work hurriedly towards meeting it.

We look forward to hearing your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely

John Winship
SHRA Secretary
www.shra.co.uk