

**AGM** - Many thanks to Michael Foster for ably chairing this and giving us his interesting and informative take on 'My Hastings'. I particularly liked his comment regarding the Priory Meadow development on the Central Cricket Ground 'was it the right decision?'

You will have read the resolution on the agenda *The OHPS is opposed to the idea of a housing development and a marina at Rock a Nore as proposed by Hastings Harbour Quarter Ltd. We are opposed to public funds being spent on feasibility and development of this scheme.* For those of you not at the meeting this was passed after a lively discussion. It was further agreed that our President and Chair should write to Amber Rudd and Charles Moore [columnist of the Telegraph who lives in Sussex and often refers to Hastings.] This was duly done. Amber replied she had discussed the issue with the member of the Council Cllr. Chowney who said they had heard nothing from the developers for some months, this was reiterated by Kevin Boorman at the last Stade Partnership meeting.

Charles Moore emailed for more information and was sent the original brochure presented by Hastings Harbour Quarter and informed that we understood the Council had heard nothing from this company for some months. Matters had gone quiet with doubt expressed as to it progressing to the next stage. The reply came back to get in touch should the scheme show any signs of life and he would investigate. I recommend you visit the exhibition in the Fishermen's Museum on Hastings and the History of its Harbours if you have not already seen it. I have just found references to an investigation by W Halcrow in 1971/2 which decided West Marina was the best site for a harbour and even plans of it in our cuttings archive. Then OHPS were pushing for a yachting marina in conjunction with repairs to the harbour arm. The current works to the harbour arm are making steady and interesting, if slow, progress.

**Town Centre and Bohemia Area Action Plan** is up for comment and we will be objecting to building on The Oval and over development of Bohemia Road, which apparently needs to be turned into a street by lining it with buildings which will attract people to visit the area [unlikely]; and also some other aspects of the plan being positive where we can..

Some of the plan is good—protecting the Cambridge Road Post Office Building, the frontage of the Observer Building and Magdalen Rd Convent, these 'must' be protected but the former Gaiety Theatre only 'should' be protected it says, this being lumped in with Poundland and the snooker hall for redevelopment - a nice hotel perhaps?. A lot of car parking is to go with some to be provided on the Station Approach. Unfortunately it does not insist that Queensbury House be demolished before re-development. The White Rock Theatre maybe extended, refurbished or replaced, with one idea building over Schwerte Way.

One of the biggest issues is the development of White Rock Sports Park on the western side of Falaise Road and The Oval, replacing the existing facilities at Summerfields. The Museum it is suggested with be part of a heritage quarter with Summerfield's Wood. Strangely the Museum Association are not mentioned in the list of involved organisations. Possible arts storage facilities are suggested for the Museum, which I suppose would mean a saving on storing the Hastings Embroidery in London. There are no proposals the improve public access to our local history stored in the Museum indeed It seems what the Council would like to see is a focus on art there. Which leads on to the suggestion by the Leader of the Council to consider selling the Hawaiian Cloak given to the town by the Brasseys and one of the highlight of the Durbar Hall. Following the visit from the Hawaiian students in July they sent us their account of their visit to England, which included a visit to the British



Museum Store in the East End. They were very distressed by the sight and expressed the view that they should be returned – perhaps we could give them the cloak back?

### **The West Street Chronicle**

If you haven't yet picked up a copy of this wonderful publication by the West Street Community Group make sure you do. It is a gem and a great tribute to the researchers, writers, editors and designers. Full of interesting stories about former residents of that street, one of the Old Towns less visited apart from regulars going into town. We have copies at the History House and it is **FREE**

**Stop Press -Trees under threat.** Alerted by Erica Barrett the trees at the Conquest were saved by public objections.

**Rocklands** Caravan Park are seeking a blanket permission for tree works seemingly so the bunker has a view.

**Beauport Park** trees are also under threat to create an open space, for what is not stated.

You should be able to find details of these on

<https://www.hastings.gov.uk/planning/searching/>

**Fishermen's Museum have two new Christmas card designs this year, pick up a pack when you are passing.**