



Old Hastings Preservation Society
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Registered Charity Number 221623 Company Registration 611762

Newsletter Spring 2019



The start of another year for Hastings oldest conservation society which is still as relevant today as it was in 1952. The battle to try and stop spread of the enclosed part of the Stade Amusement Park is still being fought. The hearing of the 2017 application was twice postponed in the autumn last year the first as reported in the autumn newsletter because the proposals had been incorrectly described when advertised and the second time because there was a problem with the certificate which the applicant has to serve on the owner, ie the Foreshore Trust. The applicant then took the matter to appeal on the grounds of non-determination. There is an 8 week timeslot for Councils to make a decision after which the applicant can appeal to the planning inspectorate.

As well as appealing against non-determination another application has been submitted for the same scheme **HS/FA/18/01009** so which ever gets to the finishing post first will win or not as the case may be. We have submitted a petition again and as far as I know comments can still be added on the HBC planning website.

The online petition organised by the Green Party was unacceptable for consideration at a planning committee but it has just been drawn to my attention that HBC's website has a facility to submit an E-petition. What validity this has with the planning or any other committee is not explained but it could be a useful tool.

Despite attending the last Coastal Users Group and hearing it's views, the Foreshore Trust have no objection to the increase in the enclosed amusement park nor the re-routed footpath but do want the footpath to remain open. I am not sure they understand the implications of allowing the enclosure.

I have asked the Council to explain their change of policy on allowing the westward expansion of the enclosed amusement park, as demonstrated in the planning officers report with the 2017 scheme, having resisted this for many years, as yet I have had no reply.

All the current trustees of the Foreshore Trust are members of the Council's cabinet which surely cannot be right within the spirit of HBC being the Trustee, especially as Trust funds are the only source of income which is rising. The task of the 'protector' will be increasingly important.

Another current issue of concern is the proposal by HBC to explore filling some fields in Hastings Country park behind Fairlight Place and land at Wilting Farm with solar panels to generate income. Possibly a laudable scheme in the right place, but in an AONB adjacent to a listed building and its curtilage is not the right place. There is a petition that can be signed against the Fairlight aspect of this scheme on line at <https://www.change.org/p/amber-hastingsandryeconservatives-org-uk-say-no-to-solar-panels-in-hastings-country-park>. Your Council of Management have not yet met to discuss this but as individuals many have made objections and I am sure will support the Friends of Hastings Country Park in their objection.

The Council owns a number of industrial estates and the buildings thereon, the roofs of which would be fine for solar panels. This might be more expensive to undertake but would be more environmentally friendly. Going for the easy option or picking the apples from the lowest branches, as someone said to me the other day, should not be the way local authorities operate when it is to the detriment of the life and land in their area of responsibility. The current practice of HBC to spend money first on consultants/ additional staff time and then consult the public needs changing in these times of limited funding.

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