

Hastings Trust
Chaos Trust Launch
National Space Centre
Leicester
11th June 2004





Hastings – small south coast town. Big London overspill in late 60' s early 70' s when population expanded from 65,000 to 85,000. Decline in fishing, tourism and manufacturing, lack of major structural investment leading to a low wage, low skill economy.

Hastings ,a small south coast town - population 85,000 - currently ranked 27th on the indices of deprivation. Of its 15 wards, 5 wards in top 10% and 6 in top 20%.

Government Intervention has meant that Hastings has a number of initiatives operating:

Neighbourhood Renewal, SRB, Single Pot, ERDF Objective2, Interreg, Education Action Zone, Sure Start, Single Local Management Scheme, Global



It was against the early background of deprivation that the Hastings Trust was set up in

1990 As a company limited by guarantee

1991 registered as a charity

1993 Joined DTA

After a five year struggle we bought our first building in 1998. Our asset base is now worth £500,000 and rising.

This is our HQ a former semi derelict greasy spoon. We also own the building next door (which you can't see)



Aims and Objectives

- To enable all those who live in, work in or visit Hastings to improve and enhance their environment
- To promote the sustainable economic, social, cultural and environmental development of Hastings and its inhabitants
- To promote and disseminate good practice in conservation and community regeneration regionally, nationally and globally.
- These were written over 13 years ago when the words ‘sustainable’ and ‘community regeneration’ were not Government buzz words.

•Globally also made people laugh, but the Trust has worked in France and Japan – so it just shows how forward thinking development trusts are. The Trust has a vision for Hastings which is:

- A regenerated urban environment
- A thriving and diverse local economy, with wealth created and shared locally by a skilled and educated population
- Sustainable, healthy and responsible communities working together
- A vibrant cultural and social life for all



The Trust cannot work alone to achieve its aims– all our projects are undertaken in partnership with the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

The Trust's Resources are:

Assets: People, skills, finance and buildings

Programmes of Work

Recognised national network in DTA



Actually all this boils down to people. Finance is obviously important but it is people that make things work.

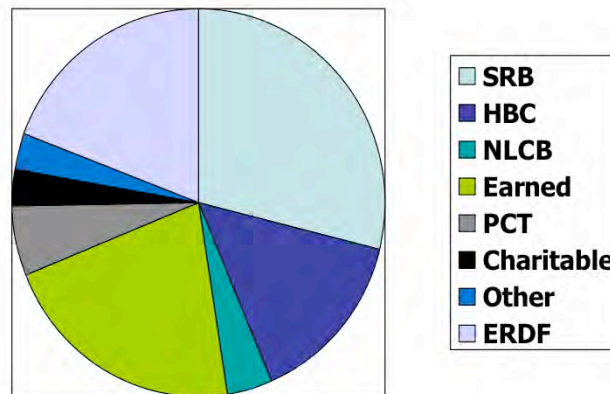
The Trust is very lucky in that it has:

- **A skilled and dedicated Board of management of 12, representing local people and interests**
- **A trained and resourceful team of staff, volunteers and trainees**
- **11 full time**
- **7 part-time**
- **18 in-house volunteers**

- **Diverse membership and users**
- **Quality Assurance Programmes to ensure that we improve our performance over time and offer a better service to all.**

- **A word about volunteers – they add £xxx value to our work**

Income 2002-03 £910,000



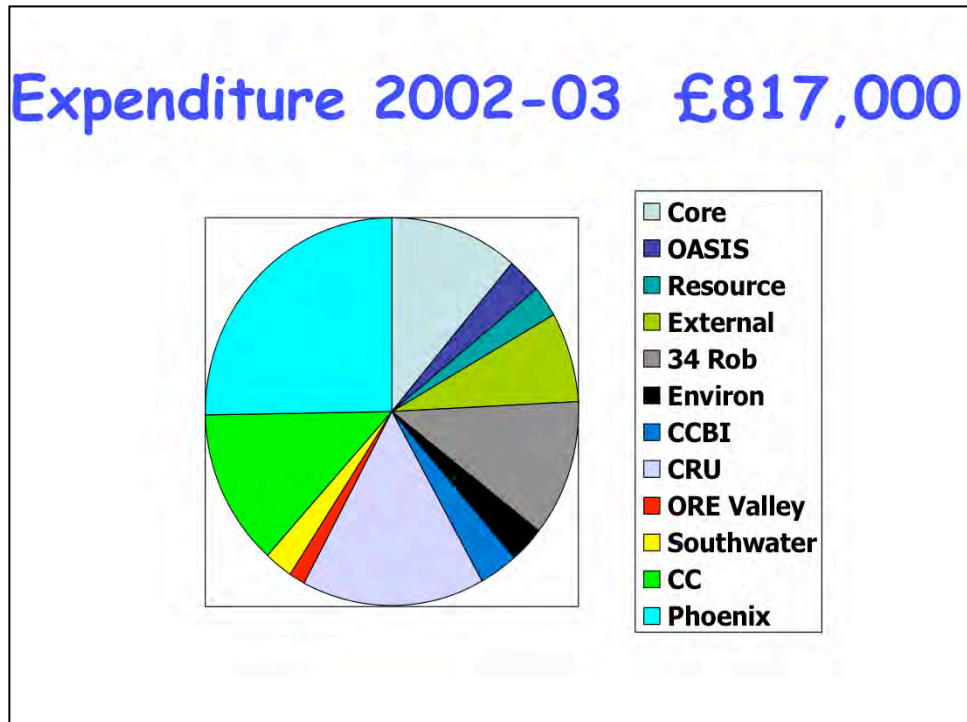
Here's the nitty gritty:

The Trust has a wide range of funders, pump primed by a core grant from the local authority

Mixed funding packages to ensure that it is not dependent on any one funder.

As a development trust we are striving for independence – hence the leaning towards a physical asset base to create long-term sustainability and earned income.

Income of the Trust has risen from £210K in 1996 to this level.



Have just arranged 2nd year of £150,000 overdraft to ensure delivery of this year's programme with Barclays Bank – based on assets.

Barclays have also offered us a commercial mortgage to replace Charity Bank loan. However, the Charity Bank aren't keen to let us go just yet.....



Registered as Building Preservation Trust in 1998

Bought and Refurbished:

34 & 35 Robertson St

Silchester Mews an old spectacles factory

3 Road Arches at Linton Road Viaduct

Priory Neighbourhood Centre

Now provides community facilities in 4 of the 5 deprived wards but all provide offices, resource facilities for local communities and income generation.



Central to life-long learning , capacity building, accessing employment, skills and training figures high on the Trust' s agenda. We have a dedicated training co-ordinator, overseeing the Trust' s programme.

Practical Building & Horticulture Courses

ICT courses

Personal/Career Development

Sussex University CCE

Matrix Accredited Information, Advice & Support for long term unemployed

Direxions

Development courses for staff and volunteers

Also have training space in one of the road arches used by Hastings College for outreach work.

Use both 34 and 35 Robertson Street for language courses for fast food workers and refugees.

Offering translators' course for settled refugees to bridge language gaps.

Environmental Enhancement



Working with local communities to enhance urban areas, provide green spaces, training and skills and health support and development.

People are very aware of what their environment looks and feels like. We work with local residents to create action plans for their areas, define a programme of work and help deliver projects.

We can provide finance as well as expertise.

Can be as small as restoring street sign on wall



Or large scale and overt

Staff and volunteer practical development day – everyone working on a garden for the Greek Orthodox Community at St. Mary Magdalene's. Do a project like this every year.



- **Building sustainable communities is central to the Trust' s work.**
- **Anticipating Neighbourhood Renewal, set up the Community Regeneration Unit to work with most deprived communities including asylum seekers and refugees.**
- **Support local communities of area and interest**
- **We provide community resource facilities in the five most deprived wards**
- **Host and manage community development posts for local authority and other organisations**
- **Administer the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit' s Community Chest & Community Learning Chest giving out £155,000 per annum in grants.**
- **Encourage Community Involvement and integration**
- **Offer Funding Advice and support**
- **Run inter-cultural events**



Some outputs

12 New Community Enterprises

23 Businesses supported

37 Voluntary organisations supported

71 Community Groups supported

68 capacity building initiatives carried out

216 individuals receiving guidance



Building the local economy is an important element of our work. We have a dedicated Social enterprise development worker in the Community Regeneration Unit. We are setting up a local Community Finance Development Initiative for micro loans

We offer financial and development support to the local credit union and GEMS (local LETS)

We are setting up Incubator start up units for social enterprise in the Linton Road Arches



This is what the finished unit will look like. Just have to raise the rest of the funds.....



But it's not all social enterprise. We work with local retailers where possible, so this is an example of several activity areas brought together. Tyre dump in the High Street, Old Town – back yard of Trade Paints – local decorator's merchants. To provide a public open space and also increase their customer base we worked with LA, owners, volunteers and English Heritage to provide...



A new public open space with walkway and entrance to premises. It has won several Britain in Bloom Awards, has increased trade for its owners and brought life to a derelict site in an historic high street.



Arts and culture are essential components for healthy and sustainable communities, so the Trust works to support local and visiting artists and arts groups.

This High School band is from Michigan who visited Hastings and dropped in to see us. They were intrigued by the America Ground in our address.

They performed an impromptu concert for passersby.



This is a Turkish belly dancer again performing for passers by. We also offered turkish apple tea and refreshments on the day.



This is an art exhibition by Laetitia Yhap held in our Resource Centre as part of the South Coast Coastal Currents Annual Arts event. We even had the paintings in the loo!.



The Trust has a long history of R&D, working with local, regional, national and global organisations on various projects.

NEF – Plugging the Leaks

Social Enterprise Mapping -ECOTEC & HT

Social Capital Fund - SEEDA

Low Flying Heroes – NEF & Scarman Trust

Social Enterprise Working Group

Tools for Community Regeneration

Sustainable Development Study

Hastings in 21st Century- local economic study

West St. Leonards Community Facilities Study

Finance for Communities – Bank of England/DTi

A Future of the voluntary sector - Japan

Tools for Community Regeneration Database now launched as an independent community enterprise. Web site and database providing information for developing and running projects.

Local economic study – now enshrined in Area Investment Framework Study

Social Capital Study with SEEDA RDA – to provide affordable capital funds for voluntary and community sectors to create asset base and funding mechanisms for social economy

Hastings Trust

working with and for the community



HASTINGS
TRUST

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- The Trust aims to achieve its vision by:
- Working in partnership
- Sharing information and knowledge
- Using its skills and resources
- Being open and transparent
- Fulfilling its own aims and objectives

