

HASTINGS TRUST QUARTERLY

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T!

£9.4 million over seven years for the Hastings Regeneration Partnership

The Hastings Regeneration Partnership, of which the Trust is a member, was awarded £9.4 million pounds over seven years in the great SRB Challenge Fund Round III. At last Hastings' problems had been recognised with a significant amount of cash. So, jubilation all round - until the Government Office of the South East released the annual allocation for the funding which revealed a major shortfall in the first three years. Consternation all round. The funding shortfall seriously affects the Partnership's ability to meet the targets outlined in the bid.

Members of the Regeneration Partnership met with GOSE in mid-January to see if a compromise could be arranged. The negotiations were successful and extra cash has been allocated for year one and some rearrangements for year two.

Buildings at Risk

Following the announcement of the new Town Centre Conservation Area, the Trust is setting up a Buildings-at-Risk Database which can be used to help the Borough and English Heritage up-date their own registers. Steve Bridger, currently on a training placement with us, has been researching and setting up the database, and now needs volunteers to help put information on the forms. Anyone interested in being part of the Buildings-at-Risk Team, please contact Steve at the Trust.

Members of the Burtons' St. Leonards Society can help out in their patch by contacting Christine Wilson at the Society's H.Q.

The Old Hastings Preservation Society are conducting their own buildings research in the Old Town using a photographic computer system, and we hope that they will include the written information as part of their undertakings.

Community Resource Centre

The Trust bid for £250,000 over three years (matched in kind and cash) to enlarge and equip our Community Resource Centre in the new building at 35 Robertson Street. The shortfall in SRB allocation in year one is going to affect the rate at which we can staff and equip the Community Resource Centre.



Queen Visits Hastings

The announcement of Her Majesty's trip to Hastings on June 6th caused our opportunistic little hearts to beat faster for about 10 minutes. Could we get the Sovereign to cut the Ribbon for a Royal opening of 35 Robertson Street? What a launch! Our chair, Stephen Hinton got straight onto the Lord Lieutenant's office, only to find that he was the tenth caller that morning

and the agenda for ribbon-cutting had already been set. As the Lord Lieutenant said: "Nice try, Steve".

ORE VALLEY

The new Information/Advice Centre based in Ore Valley is now up and running. There are five regular Service Providers attending, with several others preparing to start sessions in the near future.

We are holding an informal Open/Coffee Morning on February 18th. This, along with a Press Release to all the local newspapers, will give us some much needed publicity. We are also in the process of producing our own brochure which will be delivered to all households in the Ore Valley catchment area.

The Information Resource Library is slowly building up and is available to residents to "Pop in" and find out more about the services in their local area. The Centre for Continuing Education (University of Sussex) and Paul Ackerley (Arts Development Officer) are also organising several exciting new projects based in the Ore Valley area.

Funding is a continual headache. We are awaiting news from the Hastings and Rother District Joint Planning Team about our bid for further funding, as well as one to the Hastings Borough Council Voluntary Bodies Grants Subcommittee. We have been lucky to receive some funding from the Fix It Campaign and also from the "Health of the Nation", for both of which we are very grateful.

For any further details on the services available at the Centre, or how you could use the two meeting rooms to hold your own group, please do not hesitate to contact Clare Croft on the Centre's own number - 719080 or leave a message at the Hastings Trust - 446373.

ROOM WITH A VIEW

In June 1996 the Hastings Borough Council's Planning and Highways Committee granted permission for an all-weather hockey pitch and other works, including floodlights, at Horntye Park in spite of the objections of many residents, which will have a considerable adverse effect on the diverse wildlife of the area. In presenting the petition at the planning meeting, the writer made the suggestion that "the Trustees shall provide for the construction of a suitable building designed to enable visitors to observe and enjoy the wildlife of the woods, especially badgers, with provision for an artificial sett". I followed this up with a letter and Assistant Director of Tourism & Leisure, Bob Dawson, replied by saying that he would ask the Department's Ecologist to "look at the implications of providing an artificial sett, together with a viewing area". Not having heard anything, I telephoned recently and found that the idea had been 'mislaid' - so some chasing-up will be necessary, because it is a very important ecological site. In fact, Summerfields Woods are a glaring omission from the current proposals in the Local Plan Review as a Local Nature Reserve.

Don Richardson



Drawing by Nigel Harvey

PROJECTS UPDATE

55 High Street

The major structural work is nearing completion. This has entailed filling the front basement with around 80 cubic metres of hardcore. Happily this coincided with an equal amount from restoration works of the former Mitchell's shop, three doors away. You may have seen the power barrow trundling back and forth along Post Office Passage to move this. We were pleased to help the owners with what would otherwise cost a considerable sum to clear, and to help to extend the life of Pebsham Tip by a minute amount!

Once the remaining brickwork is completed, the paving will be laid, railings installed across the front of the garden and the pergola constructed in time for the Spring planting season. With the additional works undertaken for Trade Paints to provide a traditional style sign-written frontage facing the High Street, the transformation is a dramatic one.

'Mitchell Memorial Garden' - Blackman Avenue



The transformation of the former garage block site to a Community Garden has been as dramatic as that of the High Street site. With a major donation from Barclays Bank, and the support of 1066 Housing Association, we were able to engage Walker Brothers to carry out the construction works. You will no doubt have also seen them around the town centre carrying out the pedestrianisation works and new road layout.

Unfortunately, the amount of rain immediately after the completion of the construction works has presented a few problems, and we have delayed the final fencing and planting until this is resolved. A public planting day and official opening event is scheduled for the early spring. The benches used on this site are made from recycled plastic, and we would welcome any comments on the appearance of these compared

to the timber and concrete alternatives often used in parks.

Barley Lane/Country Park Footpath

Yet another dramatic transformation! How many more can we achieve in a short space of time? The work achieved by the Territorial Army to build and surface around 70 steps and improve the drainage in under 8 days was a sight to behold. With a team of only 5, led by Jim Chatton from the BTCV, the work took place in near record time, especially considering the awful weather experienced. Thanks are due also to East Sussex County Council's Highways Department for the timber and to Stamco for cutting it to size.

BURTONS' ST LEONARDS SOCIETY

An architectural design study for the refurbishment of the Kings Road shopping area in St Leonards went on show to councillors and members of the public in February.

It includes ideas for restoring Victorian shopfronts, improving buildings and utilising derelict land.

The study was commissioned last year by the Burtons' St Leonards Society with a grant from the Town Hall, as part of its contribution towards the economic regeneration of St Leonards.

It could not be better timed. The Burtons' St Leonards Society hopes it will give Kings Road a valuable lead in the race to win some of the disappointingly small amount of government money available currently under Single Regeneration Bid III.

Crowborough-based architects, Clive and Chantal Wilson of the award-winning "domicile" partnership produced the designs, drawing on their experience of similar refurbishment schemes in Harrogate and Tunbridge Wells.

Christine Wilson of the Burtons' St Leonards Society said: 'We hope to provide a blueprint of what Kings Road and neighbouring streets could achieve with a co-ordinated approach to planning and conservation.

'Capitalising on its distinctive atmosphere and fine architecture will help Kings Road counter pressure from the Priory Meadow shopping centre, we believe.

'In turn a thriving trading area will help the Burtons' conservation area.

'We have never made any secret of the fact that getting funding to conserve the Regency New Town depends to some extent on providing the economic viability of St Leonards as a whole.

'Both the shopping area and the historic conservation area have a part to play in the regeneration of the town.

'In the coming months we hope to launch major schemes to enhance Burtons' St Leonards itself.

'In the meantime we hope this design study for Kings Road will show that different interests in the town can work together and help each other.'

STOP PRESS

The Trust has at last
exchanged contracts on
our new building,
35 Robertson Street,
and should complete on
the purchase before the
end of the financial year.

HASTINGS TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Membership of the Hastings Trust is open to both individuals and organisations.

Individuals – anyone aged 18 or over living in the Borough of Hastings District or Rother or any other place at the Board's discretion. Organisations – any organisation at the Board's discretion. The Board of Management comprises up to six members elected by the Individual Members, up to six elected by Organisations Members, one nomination by Hastings Borough Council, one by East Sussex County Council, and one by English Heritage.

Membership benefits include: Entitlement to vote at Annual General Meetings to elect Board Members and determine policy
Receipt of Annual Report
Receipt of newsletter and other information on Trust activities
Invitation to Trust events

I/We _____
of _____ (name of individual or organisation)

_____ (telephone/fax) _____ (address)

apply to become a member of the Hastings Trust, a company limited by guarantee. I/We agree to be bound by the company's memorandum and articles of association (available for inspection at the Trust's offices) and any rules made under these. In the event of the company being wound up while I am a member, or within one year thereafter, I agree to contribute such amounts as may be required, but not more than £1.00.

Dated this day _____ 199

Signature _____

Position in organisation (if relevant) _____ Payment may be made by cheque or cash:

Individual membership	£10.00 per annum	£.....
Students, Senior Citizens, Unwaged	£ 4.00 per annum	£.....
Organisation Membership	£20.00 per annum	£.....
Donation		£.....
Total		£.....

Payment may be made by cheque or cash:

I enclose a cheque for £ payable to Hastings Trust

I enclose cash totalling £ I do/do not require a receipt.

I/We enclose a cheque for £ payable to Hastings Trust.

I do/do not require a receipt. (Please delete as appropriate)

Please return this form with your subscription to: Hastings Trust, 11 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BP. Tel: (01424) 446373 Fax: (01424) 434206



WHEELS (YOUTH OFF ROAD) PROJECT – AT WORK

WORKSHOP

On October 29th 1996 the Project opened the workshop doors to young people aged 11-25 years old living in Hastings and Rother. The project runs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week, with an average of 12 young people per night.

Since opening, all the young people attending have taken part in their initial and intermediate training in two of the following sections:

Car Maintenance – Everything that they need to know in order to keep a car well maintained and legal for road use.

Car Conversion – All of the stages required to transform a normal road car into an off-road competition vehicle.

Welding And Fabrication – The basis of welding and then production of custom vehicles, metal sculptures, and much more: possibly the favourite area.

Motorcycle Section – Motorcycle maintenance along with restoration, competition, conversion and competition preparation.

STAFF

The National Lottery Charities Board grant has enabled the recruitment in November 1996 of a

second (full time) project worker, Caroline Studley, who has responsibility to promote the project, raise funds and organise the administration of the project.

TRAINING

The paid and volunteer staff have taken part in First Aid Training provided free by the Sussex Police, which was both interesting and good fun and also imperative to help make the workshop as safe as possible.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sponsored Walk

The young people on the project have decided to raise money to purchase Off Road Motorcycles to race. They will be undertaking a 20 mile sponsored walk from Ore Village to Rye Harbour and back on Easter Sunday. Anyone wishing to sponsor them or the adults accompanying them should contact Caroline on 01424 446373 or Matt on 0468 685973 (Mobile).

Official Opening

The project will be officially opened by the Chair of the Project Steering Group on Tuesday 1st April 1997. Representatives of funders, key agencies, local businesses, the National Lottery Charities Board and young people who attend the project will be present.

YOUR TOWN NEEDS YOU!

James and Rod keep a master list of projects suggested to the Trust from a variety of sources. At present the list consist of over 100 projects ranging from minor clearance or enhancement tasks up to major restoration projects that would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds.

With the best will in the world (and an unending supply of finances!) the Trust could never undertake all of this work alone. We are dependent upon the help of volunteers such as the Territorial Army, the HEART team and BTCV, as well as our own volunteers.

But there is also a great deal that could be achieved by groups of residents in their own locality. The sense of achievement when a project is completed makes all the effort worthwhile, as I am sure the groups carrying out projects locally could testify.

Local involvement also has the added benefit of bringing a community closer together (how many of your neighbours do you socialise with?). This level of involvement can increase the chances of long-term success, through reduced vandalism, for instance.

If anyone feels that they would like to tackle a project in their own locality, please give us a call. You may like to consider one of the projects on our list, or suggest one yourself. The work need not be physically demanding - even

making a cup of tea for those carrying out the projects is greatly welcomed. At the Trust, we have details of a wide range of funding sources that may be available and many useful contacts to help projects along.

HASTINGS TRUST VISION

"To create active partnerships between the public, private, voluntary & community sectors and to enable them to work together for the economic, environmental & social regeneration of Hastings"

The Hastings Trust, a registered charity, has these aims:

- To help those who live, work or visit here to care for the environment.
- To help the local economy to flourish in ways which won't spoil the place for those who come to us.
- To spread the word to all concerned about how best to regenerate the town and, at the same time, conserve all that's good in it.

If you would like to know more about the Hastings Trust, or would like to help in some way, please contact Heather Smith Tel: 01424 446373, or call in at our Community Resource Centre, 11 Havelock Road, Hastings, open 9.30am - 5.00pm.

WANTED - VOLUNTEERS

If you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming a volunteer with Hastings Trust, please give them a copy of this newsletter and ask them to ring Heather on 01424 446373

WORKING TO REGENERATE HASTINGS

Hastings Trust, 11 Havelock Road, Hastings, E Sussex, TN34 1BP. Tel: (01424) 446373 Fax: (01424) 434206 Registered Charity N° 1007410