

**Bexhill Heritage Committee Meeting Traffers, Egerton Road, Bexhill on Sea**

**Special Item Meeting – East Parade, Bexhill**

**Committee :**

Raymond Konyn (RK) : Chair  
Steve Johnson (SJ) : Vice Chair /Treasurer  
Alexis Markwick (AM) : IT Support Officer  
Simon Allen (SA) : Projects Coordinator  
David Beales (DB) : Planning officer  
Anthony Lightly (AL) : Chartered Building Surveyor  
Jeanette Eason : Committee Clerk

RK explained that a large amount of money (£320k) had become available in connection with the East Parade, linked to Edwardian Legacy and JDC report, which was made available to the committee for information.

SJ mentioned that there were lots of ideas as to what the money could be spent on, and in speaking to Ian Hollidge these could include lots more road crossings, chicanes, and 'improvements' but none that would appear to enhance people's use of the promenade. From a consultation last year, the message seemed to be that people like it as it is, just make it better e.g. better disabled access.

There was some concern expressed should RDC chose to re-do the previous ESCC consultation, which could just be a waste of money and effort. There was discussion regarding what it could mean for the future of the bandstand. It was considered the report actually points the way for future restoration plans, e.g the use of toughened glass instead of UPVC – which is degraded by sunlight.

It was queried as to why BH was being asked to comment. It was stated that there was potential for improvements, such as replacing some items with cast iron.

There was discussion re JDC report and sharing with RDC. It was suggested that BH take the report along to the meeting with RDC and check if they have seen, or are aware of their own report.

DB considered that BH needed to focus on its priorities – namely finishing all the shelters, the installation of doors or gates and access for disabled. It was recognised that the membership so far, was generally passive. BH needs a good cadre of people willing to help out and volunteer for various projects. It may be necessary to consider additional protection for vulnerable sites e.g CCTV.

It was felt that once all the work on the shelters was completed, attention could then be focused on improving the look of the eastern end of the promenade. At present it is recognised as a slightly gloomy area. Some ideas for an uplift/improvement could include seating, shelters, car park (visual appearance only), plus the green area. Toilets will be needed and should be retained. There was discussion around retention of the kiosk building, continuing for it to be rented out and keeping the disabled access toilet.

Amongst the ideas of improvements to be considered for the East Parade could be the colour of any resurfacing of the car park, the construction of a new shelter could be incorporated in Sea Angling Club building, which need not be the same or similar to what is already in place. If the sea Angling Club doesn't need to move out it would be an appropriate use of the building. It was noted that their planning application has been withdrawn and that they have 5 years left on their lease.

RK mentioned that some members had indicated that they considered there is poor signage from Galley Hill. It could benefit from a "Welcome to East Parade" sign.

There was discussion about the band stand. It could be used as an education point, open to use by various community groups and music events, especially in the summer.

After general discussions about the merits of different ideas, RK summarised that the BH priority was to ensure all 4 shelters were 'brought up to scratch'. There was some query over how much involvement BH needed to get involved with No.1 shelter. The roof will need redoing which RDC will have to organise. Should perhaps BH get involved with the update? SJ suggested that perhaps BH could offer to strip down the paintwork, for RDC to repaint properly. It was agreed that BH should write the specification and manage it. SJ stated it was important that one person took control of any project.

TL said it was important any invitations to tender are sent to those contractors BH would like used, not only those of RDCs list. Any Information Boards could highlight who the contractors are, BH management etc.

RK suggested another idea would be for BH to match the lowest tender and for BH to do the work themselves. There would need to be an understanding as to what could be done, and any issues around sub-contracting certain work.

TL felt BH needed to agree a specification, which has already been prepared and ensure that all work to it. There is a need for tighter control of the work and programme of dates to ensure co-ordination with contractors and when they need to be on site.

RK raised the subject of gating off the shelters for discussion. It is considered controversial. It was noted that some shelters originally had doors. It would be necessary to check any available designs and proposals for daily locking procedures. Perhaps enquiries could be made of other resorts who have successfully protected their shelters and what they used.

RK noted that if any surplus money was available there is a need for better ramps and access for disabled people generally. Also, to widen the pavement pinch point at Channel View East to include a raised boardwalk over the existing concrete and grass ramps. Also that disabled access to the bandstand would need additional work.

After brief discussion re attendees to the Friday meeting with RDC, the special meeting closed.