

**Bexhill Heritage Members Meeting
Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 7pm.
St Barnabas Church, Sea Road, Bexhill**

Committee Members:

Raymond Konyn	(RK)	Chair
Steve Johnson	(SJ)	Vice Chair/Treasurer
Alexis Markwick	(AM)	iT Support Officer/Historian
Simon Allen	(SA)	Projects Coordinator
David Beales	(DB)	Planning Officer/Consultant
Geoff Tompkins	(GT)	Band Stand Chair
Yolanda Leybourne	(YL)	East Parade Liaison
Chris Madeley	(CM)	Membership Secretary
David Hatherall	(DH)	Bexhill Museum Liaison
Jeanette Eason	(JE)	Committee Clerk

Welcome - RK welcomed everyone to the first 'in person' meeting since the Covid pandemic started in 2020. He also welcomed the guests attending for the presentation of the Bexhill Heritage Civic Pride Awards.

The committee members attending were asked to briefly introduce themselves and provide an outline of their roles to those attending.

Main item - Civic Pride Award – presentation of the Bexhill Heritage CPAs

SJ explained that all the nominations for the various categories within the awards had been put to a vote of members via post or the online meetings.

A list of all the nominees, categories, runners up and winners was made available to all attending.

SJ provided a presentation with photos of all the successful candidates for each category. The award recipients for each category were invited to receive their awards from local supporters and sponsors, and for official photographs.

Category 1 Shopfronts with heritage features – joint winners :

Haus of Brooks, Wilton Road Talbot Foot Clinic, Endwell Road	<u>Presenter</u>	Howard Martin President Bexhill Chamber of Commerce
---	------------------	--

Category 2 Public Open spaces :

The Footbridge Gallery, Station Road	<u>Presenter</u>	Patrick Stapleton Director of Redwell Estates and sponsor of BH Civic Pride Awards
--------------------------------------	------------------	--

Category 3 Conversions and Restorations :

St Andrews Place, Wickham Avenue	<u>Presenter</u>	Raymond Konyn Chairman, Bexhill Heritage
----------------------------------	------------------	---

Presentation – “My life in buildings”

Peter Stavri (winner of Category 3 – St Andrew's Place) spoke about his early life and how he found a passion for bringing older properties back into use, rather than simply demolishing a building that

was a feature of its surroundings, and had historical/heritage links with the areas. His aim is to achieve sympathetic renovation and/or repurposing. He also spoke specifically about the work done to St Andrews Place

There was a short period during which PS was available for Q&As.

RK thanked Peter Stavri for his presentation.

There followed a short break for Refreshments – provided by Bow Ties café.

Members' Business Meeting

1. Apologies and Declarations of interests – Philip Howard-Knight; Rebecca Cosier; David Harding; Viv Taylor Gee; David Hatherall; Colin Taylor; Carole Green; John Packer; Judy Walker; Lynn Markwick; Nick Hollington; Dru Trumaseur sent apologies and RK stated that he is a Trustee of Bexhill Old Town Preservation Society (BOTPS).

2. Matters arising from the December online members' meeting – No amendments were identified and RK ask for the minutes to be shown as a true record of events.

3. Urgent planning and development updates – DB provided an update on a number of issues, including the national picture, policies adopted by BH and use of tropical hardwoods.

DB explained the reasons for changes to the Planning system, because there had been no major changes since 1947 and some applications were 6-10 years old before being resolved. The changes proposed in the White Paper were intended to speed matters. When the government asked for comments and feedback, they received thousands of responses from individuals and organisations, BH being one of them. The government was surprised by the negative reaction to their proposals. There has now been a change of minister and we await further developments. It is not known at present what will replace the current planning system.

DB outlined the policies adopted by BH, particularly in the Conservation Area. Chiefly this has been focussed on the poor design and quality of UPVC replacement windows in old buildings. BH has taken a view to adopt a policy to urge owners and RDC to use top quality design and manufactured replacements, to closely match the original timber frames. BH would prefer to see timber frames in the conservation areas, but could accept good quality design and manufacture of UPVC ones.

DB then highlighted the use of tropical hardwoods and the environmental damage being done in parts of the world, particularly where areas are being cleared to plant soya and palm oil plantations. BH has adopted a policy not to use new sources of tropical hardwoods. BH will however use recycled sources when necessary in our various projects.

DB highlighted a bad news story at Little Common, where the scaffolding has now been removed from the building opposite Tesco's. Despite objections the building was renovated and extended upwards. As predicted by BH, the building is now top heavy, disproportionate and out of keeping with properties in the surrounding area.

4. Projects Update - SJ Bandstand Project. Photos of the project and progress to date were shown. Geoff Tompkins has been working on booking of performers, especially around our planned opening date and helping to design an online system with Alex Markwick. SJ reported that Stella at The Bathing Station café, has been very supportive. BH has a policy of using local contractors and sources for materials. Also we are using European wood for replacement timbers where possible.

Many of the items are out of BH 'hands' e.g. contractors who laid the floor. Unfortunately it was not done properly and had to be removed and re-laid.

Work is continuing in the Bandstand and at the workshop, fabricating pieces to replace damaged or rotten panels.

SJ mentioned that the recent request for raffle prizes was for events throughout spring and summer, in order to raise funds to purchase furniture and the new ridge crest.

SJ then asked the meeting if there were any questions on the Bandstand project.

Q. Coralie asked about Shelter 4 on East Parade – currently clad in polythene. It was explained that the Bandstand is the priority for BH at present. Unfortunately, Shelter 4 is an RDC issue. The paint was stripped off badly. The wooden framework has absorbed water must be allowed to dry out naturally. The plastic sheeting has been affected by the winter storms but has been replaced by RDC. It may become a BH project in 2023.

5. Introducing The Bexhill Heritage Action Plan – SJ explained that the Action Plan covers all the things that BH is hoping to cover in the next 4/5 years. He ran through a few of the projects listed and what was required e.g. The Local List details all the assets in the town, shops and other buildings and not necessarily formally "listed". It needs someone, a volunteer, to lead on this project, which is not complicated. SJ asked if anyone is interested in any of the projects or wants more information, to send him an email.

6. Q & A session – RK

i. JE introduced a new fund raising idea that BH has been signed up to, which takes empty printer cartridges for recycling. JE explained the process of obtaining a prepaid label to send off cartridges, which will generate a donation to BH. There is also a comprehensive list online of the varieties of cartridges they accept and how much they are likely to generate for the charity. JE answered a number of questions about the scheme. The details of the scheme will be placed on the BH website.

ii. A Crotty asked if BH was doing anything for the Queen's Jubilee? SJ and JS explained they were in early stages of planning to support events at Egerton Park, and working on a town wide "Treasure Hunt". The aim of any BH involvement would be to promote the charity and engage people with what we are doing, not to raise funds. AC also mentioned that there will be a Beacon Lighting at 9.45 p.m on the 2nd June. It is hoped to have a poster with all events listed for that weekend, displayed at key locations.

iii. Christine said BH very helpful and supportive to her as a Councillor with regards to getting quality UPVC windows used in conservation areas. This could also help to change the current rules on heritage buildings.

8. Date of next members meeting: Wednesday 6th April which will hopefully be a face-to-face meeting (subsequently changed to 20 April).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.