

# School and Sandown News



From your local Labour team: Peter Chowney, Tania Charman & Jeremy Birch

February 2015

## Speckled Wood Saved!



The planning inspector has now reported on the council's Development Management Plan, after its 'examination in public' last year. Not only has he

supported the council's proposal to make most of Speckled Wood protected open space, but has proposed 'modifications' to add sites off Old London Road and Victoria Avenue.

Tania said:

"This is brilliant news. The council had proposed development on the small Old London Road site as a compromise, but the inspector didn't think this was necessary. The Victoria Avenue site wasn't included in the open space proposal because it already had planning approval. However, the developers have never signed the necessary legal agreements, so it seems that site can also be designated as open space. This is a wonderful conclusion to the hard work carried out by local people over the years to open up the woodland and create the haven for flora and fauna it has become." The inspector's modifications are now out to consultation for six weeks. He will then consider any objections, following which the plan will be finalised this summer. For more details see:

[www.tressell.org.uk/stoppress.htm](http://www.tressell.org.uk/stoppress.htm).



Cllr. Tania Charman

## Council Budget: More Cuts

Hastings Council's draft 2015/16 budget is now out to consultation, with the council making a decision on the final budget later in February. With big cuts in central government grants—

much bigger than for other East Sussex councils, and one of the biggest percentage cuts in England, cuts to services have to be considered.



Peter said:

"The money Hastings gets from the government has gone down by more than half over the last four

years. We've continued to make real savings through efficiencies, with more to come, by getting people to apply for services online rather than face-to-face.

But some services will have to be cut—for example, grants to the voluntary sector are being reduced, and the Old Town Museum is earmarked for closure. Around 20 jobs will be lost. There are some bright spots though: we're raising money through the Arts Council and others for celebrations of the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, and our bid for a £500,000 Coastal Communities grant for seafront improvements was successful. In future, we will be focusing more effort on bidding for alternative funding, from the EU especially. It looks like a lot more of the money we spend will have to be raised in this way if we're to continue the regeneration of our borough."



Cllr. Peter Chowney

**Sarah Owen** is Labour's candidate to be MP for Hastings & Rye at the general election on May 7th. Sarah says:

"I was born and bred in Hastings, and have worked here, so I understand the kind of problems experienced by local people every day in Tressell ward. If I'm elected, I promise to fight for a fair deal for all, to protect the NHS and public services, and for the necessary resources to continue the regeneration of Hastings."

Find out more about Sarah at [www.sarahowen.org.uk](http://www.sarahowen.org.uk), or leave her a message on: 01424 424125



### Dog mess and litter?

You can report any street cleansing or refuse problems on 01424 451077.

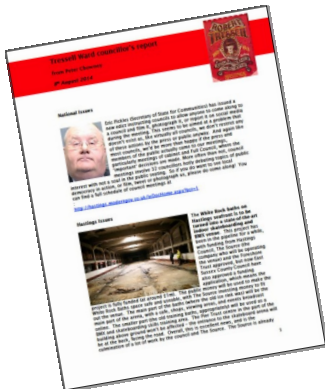
e-mail: [refuseandrecycling@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:refuseandrecycling@hastings.gov.uk)



### Crime and anti-social behaviour?

You can contact the Safer Hastings Partnership by e-mail at: [communitysafety@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@hastings.gov.uk). Or you can contact one of the Community Support Officers for Tressell Ward directly: Chi Yau (07770 443014) or David Gibbins-Jones (07787 685787). They work shifts, so leave a message if he isn't on duty. And you can also phone 101, the police non-emergency number. But don't forget, if you see a crime in progress, ring 999!

**For all other issues involving Hastings Council, phone 01424 451066, and just say the name of the person or department you want to contact, or the problem you want to report. You will then be put through to the right person.**



### **Tressell Councillors also produce monthly reports:**

- On Tressell Ward issues (from Cllr. Tania Charman);
- On Hastings Borough Council issues (from Cllr. Peter Chowney);
- On Tressell & Old Hastings county council division issues (from Cllr Jeremy Birch).

If you would like to receive these by e-mail, contact Peter Chowney, or download them from the Tressell Councillors website.

### You can contact your Labour councillors at:

Town Hall, Queen's Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1QR or:

Peter Chowney: Tel: 01424 436032 e-mail: [cllr.peter.chowney@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.peter.chowney@hastings.gov.uk)

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Jeremy Birch: Tel: 01424 423794 e-mail: [cllr.jeremy.birch@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jeremy.birch@eastsussex.gov.uk)

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