

Deepdene and Waterside News



From your local Labour team: Peter Chowney & Tania Charman

October 2018

More Play at Waterside



During this summer, Hastings Council held play sessions at Waterside Close for local children.

These were popular, and well-attended. At the sessions, play workers held a consultation with local children about what improvements they'd like to see to the play area.

Peter Chowney said:

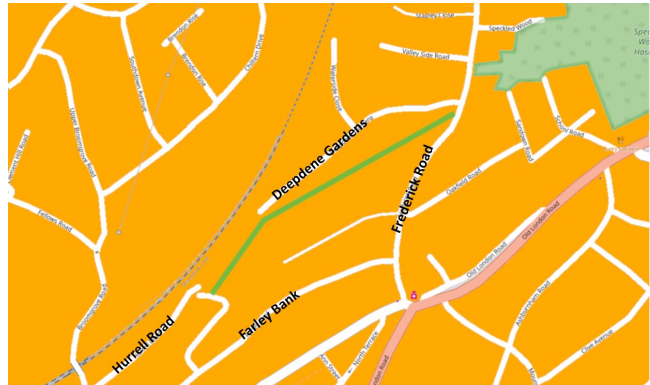


Cllr. Peter Chowney

“ If you're planning to make improvements to a play area, it's a good idea to ask the people who know most about it—so we asked the children who use it. Following this consultation, the council will be installing a new item of play equipment, before next spring. So

thank you to the children who helped decide this, I'm sure it will be well-used as it's the people who use it who chose it. The scope the council has to install new play areas and play equipment is now very limited, because of the huge cuts we've suffered to our grants from central government. In the future, it could be difficult to provide more than a basic level of services. But it's good that we were still able to do at least this for local children, right here in Tressell ward. Children's play is important to their well-being, as well as shaping their future lives. So we will continue to look for sources of funding for play equipment and for the sort of play sessions we held here this year wherever we can.”

Greenway: A Step Closer?



With long-abandoned sites likely to be developed in the near future, the possibility of a greenway link from Frederick Road to Ore Station moves closer. But there are still obstacles to overcome.

Tania Charman said:

“ The greenway would be created through the development of housing sites along its route, as it's a planning requirement from Hastings Council. The Frederick Road development site to the south of Deepdene



Cllr. Tania Charman

Gardens is the largest of these, but the developer has so far produced only an unacceptable scheme that didn't include the greenway. Fortunately, this was turned down by the council's Planning Committee. From the end of that site, the greenway would pass along council-owned land that connects to the end of Deepdene Gardens, through the development at the old Ore Business Park, along Hurrell Road, and through the Broomgrove Power Station site to Ore Station. None of these sites has approved plans for development yet though, so the idea is a little way off being realised, but it will eventually provide a useful link from Deepdene and Waterside to the station.”

East Sussex County Council: Cuts and More Cuts



In recent weeks, there's been a lot on the news about councils running out of

money. Huge cuts in government grants have made this inevitable. But East Sussex County Council are judged to be in the top ten councils with the biggest financial crisis. The council has recently announced that it is going to develop a 'core services only' budget, reducing services to a bare minimum.

Tania Charman said:

" This year, we saw cuts in community sector grants as well as cuts to ESCC's direct services, some of them provided to the most vulnerable. For example, the

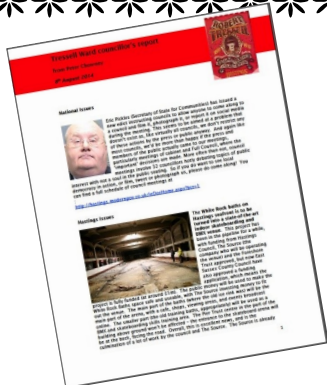
Isabel Blackman Centre in Hastings Old Town, which offers daycare services to elderly people with dementia, is set to close. ESCC provides many services in Hastings, including adult social care, children's services, highway maintenance and libraries, If these are cut to the minimum, expect to see a lot more potholes, and a lot less care for those in need. I can sympathise with the county council as an organisation, the scale of cuts it's received has been staggering. But it's difficult to have sympathy for the Tory leadership of the council. They complain that the government doesn't give them enough money, but then at election time they're out there campaigning for the Tory austerity policies have created all their problems. These are Tory cuts, whether they're made at county hall or Whitehall. We'll keep fighting them."



Ore Community Land Trust Needs You!

As a local charity set up to protect and look after Speckled Wood, OCLT needs local people to volunteer and get involved to organise events, raise awareness of the woodland, and carry out maintenance tasks. See their website at:

www.orecommunitylandtrust.org.uk/



Tressell Councillors produce monthly reports:

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

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Tania is also the East Sussex County Council councillor for the Tressell and Old Hastings division.

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