

# Halton Estate News



From your local Labour team: Peter Chowney & Tania Charman

April 2018

## Halton Litter: The Boss Visits



For many years, Halton Estate has had problems with litter and rubbish across the communal areas, as well as flytipping and bins left unemptied. The reasons for this can be complicated, involving different agencies. But recently it's been

looking a lot cleaner.

Peter Chowney said:



Cllr. Peter Chowney

“Litter, unemptied bins and poor general maintenance of the estate communal areas have been a recurring problem. Litter picking is only done when the grass is cut, so it's not done at all during winter. Halton residents shouldn't have to put up with this. So as council leader, I wrote to Paul

Hackett, Optivo's Chief Executive, asking him to visit the estate. He came last week, had a good look round, and spoke to some of the tenants. For three days before the visit, Optivo workers were out in force litter picking the estate, so it was spotless by the time he arrived! He told us that he had taken immediate action to get the estate cleaned when he received my letter. Let's hope they can keep it that way—Tania and I will be keeping an eye on it and will send Paul Hackett pictures if it deteriorates. We also learned that the closed play area is scheduled to be repaired and re-opened by 11th May, so we'll be keeping them to that, too. But do let Tania or me know about any problems”

## EU Money to Help Halton

A Hastings Council bid for EU funding to help the most deprived areas in Hastings and Bexhill has been successful.



The 'Community Led Local Development Programme' (CLLD), will provide a total of more than £7m for a variety of projects. Halton Estate will be one of the areas that will be included in the CLLD scheme.

Tania Charman said:

“ I lived on the Halton Estate for many years, and was chair of the Halton Residents' Association. We were supported by Ore Valley Forum, and the council's regeneration team. This money helped residents get involved in their community by running activities and projects on the estate. As people like me gained skills and moved on, it failed to renew members and closed. The government cuts left us with no choice. So that's all gone now. However, CLLD offers a new opportunity to fund projects in places such as Halton Estate, to help get residents' organisations off the ground again, and to help people on the estate into training and employment. There will be projects to help people build 'entrepreneurial' skills and set up their own businesses. Bids for local organisations to run these projects will open in May, with the projects starting later in the year. Some of them will be run by Hastings Council, some by other organisations. But the new funding we've won is good news for Halton residents.”



Cllr. Tania Charman

## The Bridge Community Centre: A New Beginning



Last year, The Bridge Community Centre Trust had to wind up because of lack of funds, after twelve years

of running the building since it first opened. Although the building remained open for groups who already had booked sessions there, its future was uncertain. Hastings Voluntary Action began a process to find a new organisation that would be able to take over the building, working with the trustees to find an arrangement that could provide a sustainable future. Several organisations were considered as future owners of the building, with The Bridge eventually

transferred to local charity The Parchment Trust.

Tania Charman said:

“ It was disappointing that the Bridge Trustees ran out of funding—sadly a victim of the government’s austerity cuts, and the lack of public funding for community groups. But I’m pleased that HVA and the trustees were able to find a local charity that had the resources to take on The Bridge. The Parchment Trust work with adults with complex disabilities, and will run a training kitchen and community garden. They will allow the building’s current users to continue, including nursery provision and making the building available to local groups around their activities. We’re hoping they’ll re-open the café too. We want to work with them to plan a new future for The Bridge.”

**Hastings Council elections are on May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Tania CHARMAN**

**Peter CHOWNEY**



*your councillors for Tressell Ward*

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

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