

Hardwicke Road News



From your local Labour team: Peter Chowney & Tania Charman

January 2018

Happy Hardwicke?



Over the past few years, local councillors have dealt with a number of problems and complaints in Hardwicke

Road, both from the private housing residents and Optivo housing association tenants. But over the past few months, there has been none.

Tania Charman said:

“ We’ve had many issues to deal with over the last few years in Hardwicke Road. These included erratic rubbish



Cllr. Tania Charman

collections, fence disrepair and poor cleaning in the Optivo blocks, litter and flytipping on the open space and steps, litter and flytipping in the street, and rubbish left outside some of the private houses, as well as drug dealing from a couple of properties. We

also asked whether residents in the private housing would prefer wheelie bins to the seagull proof rubbish sacks. So we’re hoping that the absence of complaints means no-one has any problems in Hardwicke Road now—or at least, not any their councillors can sort out. If there are incidents with litter or flytipping on the road or open space, the easiest way to get that dealt with is by reporting it on the Hastings Council website. But for anything else, including issues with Optivo housing association, or if you can’t use the council website, do let us know. Our contact details are overleaf.”

The Bridge Community Centre: What Next?



Bridge Community Enterprise Ltd, the trust that has run The Bridge Community Centre since it opened 12 years ago, has been wound up because they’ve run out of money. Organisations that use the building, such as the Creative pre-school, run by In2play, have continued to use the building, and other key groups still meet there. But the café has had to be closed to the public, for the time being. The Bridge trustees have been looking for a new partner to take on the ownership of the building, and help to run it.

Tania Charman said:

“Sadly, the sources of grant funding that The Bridge had depended on since it opened have dried up, as government austerity cuts bite deeper into the community sector. Other not-for-profit organisations have been invited to submit expressions of interest in The Bridge and these will be considered very soon. The trustees hope to have new arrangements in place by the end of March. I’ve been involved with The Bridge since it opened, as a worker, chair of the Halton Residents’ Association, and as the local councillor. I shall be doing all I can to make sure it fully re-opens and continues to serve our community.”

Selective Licensing: A Success!

Two years ago, Hastings Council introduced its selective licensing scheme, requiring all private landlords to licence their properties. To get a licence, they have to have proper tenancy agreements, and make sure the property is safe and in good repair. If they fail to get a licence, they face big fines. The scheme covers the wards in the borough with the most private rented housing, including Tressell.



Cllr. Peter Chowney

Peter Chowney said: "We have now licenced over 5,000 properties across Hastings, with another 1,000 being processed. There have been several successful prosecutions against landlords who have refused to licence

properties. But we think there are up to 3,000 more unlicensed properties out there, so more prosecutions are likely. The advantage of this scheme though is that anyone can report a bad landlord, it doesn't have to be the tenant, who may be afraid they'll lose their tenancy. St George's Road has quite a lot of private rented properties, most of which will be licensed and well-run. But if you suspect a property nearby might not be licenced, or is not being managed well, let me know—I can easily check. And if it's not licenced, I will make sure that's followed up. Most landlords are responsible and look after their properties and their tenants. But there are some landlords out there whom we need to expose as the criminals they are. We need to get rid of rogue landlords, and the licencing scheme is a good tool to achieve that."

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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