

Mount Pleasant News



From your local Labour team: Peter Chowney & Tania Charman

April 2018

Unbusted Grot



For many years now, the shop premises at 159 Mount Pleasant Road has been abandoned and left in an unsightly condition. Attempts to

Grotbust the property have proved unsuccessful. Other routes are now being sought.

Peter Chowney said:

“ The owners of this property have gone to great lengths to evade Grotbusting, which has cost them money. I can't imagine why they don't just sell the property, rather than spending to keep it as an eyesore. So the council is now changing tactics, and is proposing to compulsorily purchase the property. In its current condition, it has



Cllr. Peter Chowney

little value, but the council will probably sell it at auction after the purchase, with a covenant requiring it to be brought back into use. It's a pity we have to use these slow and problematic legal proceedings to deal with irresponsible property owners—leaving property empty and abandoned like this should be a crime, at a time when housing is in such short supply.”

The council's Grotbusting initiative has improved over 700 properties across the borough, a couple of dozen of them in Tressell Ward. Hastings Council has also used compulsory purchase powers to bring 200 properties back into use.

Busy Badgers

As the undergrowth died back during the Winter, it revealed that Mr Badger has been busy underground in Mount Pleasant Road, not far from the hoardings.



Tania Charman said:

“The first sign of our friends was a sunken pavement . On further exploration, I could see the sett entries. It is definitely a main sett as it has five or six entries into it. So I took the county council highways officer to look at it. He confirmed that it was starting to compromise the highway.

East Sussex County Council will need to carry out an assessment and road survey to establish how big the sett is and whether they have built their home under the road as well as the pavement. Badgers are protected and as your local councillors we are committed to protecting them. The county council will need a government licence if they need to close the sett, or any part of it. That might mean creating a new sett nearby, or even relocating the badgers. But badgers are notoriously stubborn animals. They could well turn their noses up at a new sett, and just return to Mount Pleasant Road to dig a new one. But if the highway collapses, it could cause a serious road accident as well as killing the badgers. For now, highway officers will monitor the badger activity. We await further news from highways as to whether our badgers are in need of a new home.”



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

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 currently run a range of different activities and services for the community, including art classes, cooking, sport, fitness and horticulture. They will allow the building’s current users to continue, as well as re-opening the café and developing the garden to help local people gain horticultural skills. As local councillors, we want to work with them to plan a new future for The Bridge.”

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

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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