



27 September 2022

Report of Public Meeting of West St Leonards Forum Tuesday 13th September 2022

Hello

This is a report of the public meeting held on September 13.

1. Designated Area

The extended designated area was explained. The original area was agreed in March but after the meeting residents in Boscobel and Essenden Road expressed interest in being part of the plan. During the summer surveys were done of the area which resulted in the majority of people in favour of being part of the plan.

The amendment to the constitution was agreed by the members of the forum

2. The questionnaires

Anna Sabin summarised the results of the questionnaires, including the extended area:

- People like living near the sea and the quiet environment
- The Green spaces, community spirit and local shops were also valued.
- The amount of traffic, parking around schools and pollution was mentioned by many people.
- It was also felt that there was a feel of neglect of the area, inappropriate development was highlighted and the derelict buildings in West Hill Road were flagged up.
- Poor connectivity was highlighted with trains and bus routes. Graffiti and litter were also mentioned and the poorly maintained roads.
- The Bathing Pool site was mentioned by many people and it was felt it had been neglected and it should be landscaped and used for leisure and recreation and made the heart of the community. The public realm generally needs improvement

3. Hastings Borough Council

HBC were unable to send anybody from the planning department but did send documentation with comments on questions which we have raised and hopefully once our application for designation has been lodged with them there will be more communication.

4. The Legal Stages

It was reported that following the meeting we should be in a position to lodge our application for the designation of the forum and the area with Hastings BC. The borough then have 13 weeks to reach a decision: during the first 6 weeks they are required to carry out their own consultation with the residents. So do please respond to any request for information from the council.

We can hope that recognition will be granted by the end of the year, or at worst in early January 2023.

After that we will be able to apply for grants to fund professional help in developing the neighbourhood Plan, in close consultation with all the residents, as well as businesses and other organisations involved in the area.

Once the plan has been accepted as in an appropriate format, there will be a local referendum run by the Council, when residents will be able to vote on whether or not the plan is accepted. If accepted then the Council will have a legal obligation to have regard to the contents of the plan in making any planning decision effecting the area.

5. **Local History Project**

The Community branch of the Forum are planning an exhibition of photos and reminiscences of the area at Electro Studios on 8th-16th April 2023. Judges have given us access to their archive and are also working jointly with us to produce a Heritage Trail in West St Leonards and will help with advertising.

6. **the 15 Minute Town**

William spoke about the 15 Minute Town project he had attended in Warrior Square and felt this exercise could be useful in West St Leonards, with similar exercises in the different parts of West Saint Leonards

7. **AOB**

The proposed changes in bus services was raised, and the proposed reductions to be brought in in October are not acceptable.

A call for volunteers

As you will appreciate there is an enormous amount of work to be done and if you would like to help please let us know. If you would like to attend committee meetings please let us know and also we are looking for area representatives to liaise between the forum and the 6 areas of West Saint Leonards identified in the Constitution. And we have the local history project, again if you would like to be involved with that let us know.

Join the forum

If you have not already done so, please consider joining the forum. I enclose application forms in pdf and open office – the former can be printed out and filled in manually, the latter can hopefully be completed on your computer. I hope to get the forms on the website, but have not got that far yet.

With best wishes

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on behalf of
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