

SEPTEMBER 09

Newsletter



FUTURE HPWRT EVENTS

26th September and 3rd October

The trust will have a stall in Priory Meadow outside Clinton Cards 10am – 4pm on the above dates. Information detailed opposite

Sunday 11th October

Battle For Hastings Pier GIG! @ St. Mary's in the Castle, 6.30-10.30pm.

Saturday 17th October

Battle For Hastings Pier – March

We will all be meeting at the pier gates at 12pm, for a mustering. **Bring your passion, it will have media coverage!!!**

QUIZ NIGHTS

Well, you all seem to like the quiz nights and we keep getting asked when the next one is so, by public demand, the next HPWRT quiz night is Friday 6th November at The White Rock Hotel 7.30pm start. Everyone welcome £2.00 members £3.00 non members, up to 6 per team. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and booby prize. + raffle to raise funds

OBSERVER PETITION

The Hastings Observer has started an online petition. It has over 2,200 signatures so far. If you have not done so already please sign here

<http://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/newshastings/Save-Our-Pier-Sign-the.5561417.jp>

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

We now have 900 members and more joining every day.

NOT JOINED YET?

Forms are available from stalls www.hpwrtr.co.uk, Arthur Greens or contact us by phone. Membership for the rest of the year now £5. Membership funds help keep us going.

GROUNDSWELL – CALL TO ACTION!

To rescue the pier we need to bring it into community ownership. To achieve this requires a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). Hastings Borough Council has promised to do this if we can provide a 'robust business plan' and £1.5m of initial funds. The business planning is continually being improved but the money will only come if there is hope for ownership. The Council must begin the process of CPO.

And they will only do that if there is a genuine groundswell of popular opinion... YOU CAN SAVE THE PIER!

THE BATTLE FOR HASTINGS PIER

There are loads of ways to get involved in the campaign. The simplest is to put up one of our posters and send out some postcards (by post or email). Join the Facebook group - search for 'Battle for Hastings Pier' and you'll find there's already over 3,500 signed up. Sign the Observer's online petition and leave a comment (that's how they judge how interested people are in a subject). Write to Michael Foster, MP and to Barbara Follett, Minister for Tourism. Talk to people at work, school or in local groups about the campaign. Drop in to Arthur Green's, come along to one of the trust's quarterly open meetings, the quiz night or coffee morning. But most important of all...

The Battle for Hastings Pier GIG!

Please join us at St. Mary in the Castle, Sunday 11th October 6.30-10.30pm. Local bands The Lucky Ones, The Guitar School, Luke Jackson and Red Diesel have all volunteered to play. Special showing from Utube of the 'On the Pier' Song! Licensed Bar. £5 entry to raise funds, under 16s free. The venue has been given for free so all the money raised on the night will go towards saving the pier.

Stewards Needed!

We need 5 stewards to help on the night please contact us if you would like to help.

STALL IN PRIORY MEADOW

We will have up to date news and proposals for the pier and we would really like as many of you as possible to come along on 26th September or 3rd October and share your views about the pier and how you see the vision for the pier's future.

Our plans involve not just the Trust but the people of Hastings and White Rock working together with us towards a future pier we can all be proud of. The whole community is affected by the pier so please let's all work together.

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OWNERSHIP

What needs to happen?

Our CPO expert explained to Hastings Borough Council that a CPO can be begun and once it has reached a certain point it can be left in limbo if necessary. If the council agrees and makes progress on this, we can then apply for funding but until this happens neither Heritage Lottery Fund nor the new £70m Communitybuilders Fund can consider an application from us.

All HBC would have to pay for is the legal costs of the CPO. The trust is not asking for any money towards the Pier's restoration from HBC once the Trust takes ownership. This transfer would happen in a 'back-to-back' deal as soon as the CPO is complete.

Meanwhile, Michael Foster MP is still exploring the implications of the Hastings Pier Act and talking to the relevant Government department.

RESTORATION

How much will it really cost?

We keep getting stuck on this so-called £17 million needed to mend the Pier. These costings, estimated over a 10-year period, were for a standard large-scale contractor taking a standard engineering approach. It doesn't have to be done like that...

The cost of the works to make her safe is £1.5 million. With the equivalent of the £4 million that it would cost to demolish the pier, we could instead: make her safe, repair the whole of the apron to a high standard making it sustainable for the future, and refurbish and reopen the Pavilion Buildings.

How can we do this? Firstly our plans for an off-site fabrication unit in a suitable location in Hastings. We will purchase the metal in its raw state and, taking on a local work force and apprentices, we will make and fit the struts & trusses systematically. This massively reduces costs, controls and spreads the costs, and brings much-needed jobs and apprenticeships to the town. Secondly as a trust we can seek public and charitable funds that a private investor cannot access.

Once the Apron is up and running all the profit will be used to maintain the works already done and begin the restoration of the rest of the pier. Of course the full restoration cannot be achieved all at once. *"Progressive commercialisation supports progressive restoration"* – in other words by taking it in stages, and making each phase stack up, the pier can be restored at a realistic cost.



MARCH FOR HASTINGS PIER

We will all be gathering at the pier gates at 12pm on Saturday 17th Oct, for a **mustering** followed by a peaceful march from the Pier to the Town Hall, via the subway, to hand in a signed request for the council to start a Compulsory Purchase Order on the pier. We hope that a member of the council will take the request from us and say a few words.

Show your passion for Hastings

We need a huge showing of **support** here so please let everyone you know about the march. Have fun making some banners and placards. We'll give a prize to the best. Tell the council how you feel about them ignoring this iconic building - it will only work if hundreds of you show up! So let's surprise them with thousands!

We will be distributing **posters** around the town. Please put them in the window where they can be seen. Get your poster at the Stalls in Priory Meadow, from Arthur Green's or from the White Rock Hotel. If you have time to help us distribute posters and postcards please get in touch with Lesley. Let's get them in windows all over town and make the groundswell visible.