

Consultation Results - the future of Hastings & St Leonards and Bexhill

APPENDIX J

Other consultation results



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On behalf of the Hastings Local Strategic Partnership

With support from Hastings Borough Council
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0 Introduction and conclusions

0.1 ABOUT THIS APPENDIX

- 0.1.1 This Appendix sets out some of the results of public consultation which took place during November and December 2002 on the future of Hastings & St Leonards and Bexhill. It should be read in conjunction with the report on the overall consultation programme (*Consultation Results; the Future of Hastings & St Leonards and Bexhill*) as well as the Appendices on the main plans and strategies.
- 0.1.2 Feedback from a variety of sources is included here. The material relates to all of the main plans and strategies and will be useful reference in many ways in the future. Further details are provided in the introductions for each section.

1 Meetings feedback

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This section contains minutes and notes of meetings. They are included in date order. Where appropriate, points made have been numbered and/or paragraph numbers have been added to facilitate referencing.

19 November OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1
19 NOVEMBER 2002

Present: - Councillors Barton, Charlesworth (as the duly appointed substitute for Council Pragnell), Jackson and Soan (in the Chair). Councillor Brown (for Minute 22 only)
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beaver, Pragnell and Roberts.

20. Community strategy consultation draft

Alan Blackwell, Executive Director, submitted the Draft Community Strategy and sought comments on those parts of it which fell within the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In a presentation to the Committee, Mr. Blackwell explained that the Community Strategy formed a key part of a major consultation exercise, which invited local people and agencies to comment on a range of plans and proposals for the regeneration of the town.

The consultation period would end on 6 December 2002 and it was proposed that a 'whole town conference' would be held in February or March 2003 to discuss the results. Finally, a revised Strategy would be published in April 2003.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees would have a role in monitoring the Council's contribution to the achievement of the final targets set.

Members discussed the draft Strategy in detail and asked questions of the Director. In particular, concern was expressed regarding the methods for engaging youth and hard to reach groups in the consultation process.

RESOLVED – that the Draft Community Strategy be noted.

Sustainability Network Meeting, 21st November 2002, Horntye, Consultation Meeting

1. Why is the consultation process so tight – looking at 30 year, 10 year and immediate policy implications?
2. Not a bottom-up approach.
3. Poor communication strategy.

Masterplan

4. Castle Ward forum – concerned about the future of Hastings Railway station/building, not comfortable with the design.
5. Reply – there is planning permission for station building. Regional development agency could put money into better materials for use on the outside of the building, stone rather than brick. Likely to go ahead.
6. There is confusion, where are the latest plans for the station?
7. Reply – would be available at Hastings Information Centre or Century House Planning Dept.
8. Ivy House Station Area – will it be a Millennium Community site?
9. To build in an AONB – not sustainable. Is it cheap land in AONB making site more viable than urban site? How is it different to Holmhurst St Mary?
10. Reply – concept at this stage. Can't answer question at this stage.
11. Country Avenue – seems like a thinly disguised eastern bypass.
12. We are building houses at three times the rate we are providing jobs – not sustainable.
13. Consultants looked at mutability/uses of both Ivy House Lane and Holmhurst St Mary and advised.
14. How can MBM replace AONB with countryside conservation area – which has no legal status/protection?
15. Euphemistic descriptions “Countryside Avenue” and “hilltop community” are misleading. Have already rejected bypass – due to impact on AONB.
16. AONB – not Holy Grail. Reduce impact of traffic more important for sustainability. Country Avenue should have an Environmental Impact Assessment in relation to impact on whole town. Need to provide more jobs – where is assessment of brownfield sites in the Masterplan?
17. Reply – there is a balance of brownfield/Greenfield development in the plan. Very conceptual at this stage.
18. Expansion outside the urban area should be sustainable – high density/with transport nodes. MBM haven't acknowledged this. Hilltop community drawing looks like a rocket base! Bexhill area – industrial and housing zones – but should be mixed use.
19. Need to look at way sites are developed in addition to whether they are developed.

20. There should be sustainability assessment of all proposals as they come up for development. What is the feedback mechanism for everyone?
21. Warrior Square arts centre – a surprise to local community – violating existing central focal point. Could be incorporated into seafront. How can we sustain something, which is out of context? Arts centre in this location – another barrier to a seaview.
22. Magdalene school area is suitable for university accommodation.
23. St Mary's in the Castle – not being used to full potential – could use arcade
24. Rely – this is part of the 5-point plan.
25. Masterplan – doesn't mention Stade and it should / or open space, pocket parks and access.
26. When will work on the Observer building start?
27. Reply – will have to CPO first – owners don't want to sell. Use university facilities/library/admin. Need a one stop shop for local residents – here they can get help/advice on problems/issues.

Community Strategy

28. No infrastructure for effective communication to enable equal opportunities. Keep making same mistakes e.g. use photos in publications without asking person first.
29. Talk about vision – need to illustrate it e.g. architectural drawings by students. No environmental theme in the community strategy – would like a seat on the LSP for environmental issues. Waste recycling targets are too low, 5-10-year target 50% reduction or zero waste.

**“The Battle for Hastings” - Our Community Strategy
(Hastings Voluntary Action’s 2002 Annual conference report)**

1. Hastings has published its draft Community Strategy setting out the long-term vision for the future of the Town. Voluntary and community groups have a crucial role to play in this future both in terms of their engagement with communities, service users and volunteers and through the services and support they provide to individuals and groups. The largest consultation exercise ever attempted in Hastings is gathering views and comments from individuals, groups and organisations and HVA’s annual conference in November was part of this process giving local voluntary and community groups the chance to:
 - a. Hear about the range of new regeneration initiatives affecting the future of the area and consider some of the issues from a community and voluntary sector perspective. (Including the Community Strategy. The Millennium Communities Initiative and the SEEDA Five Point Master Plan).
 - b. Contribute to and influence the Community Strategy proposed priorities.
 - c. Identify ways in which the voluntary and community sector can play an effective role in the future shape of service delivery and community involvement in local planning processes.

2. Participants were given the opportunity to consider some of the priority areas identified in the Community Strategy from the point of view of their communities and service users. In thematic workshops they were asked what they felt were the key priorities and whether they were reflected in the draft Community Strategy proposals. In a second workshop participants were then asked to consider the role of voluntary and community groups in finding solutions to problems identified and what issues need to be addressed in order for them fulfill this role?

3. **Each workshop fed back key points on each discussion area, summarised as follows:**

<i>Thematic area</i>	<i>Priorities</i>	<i>Role/issues for the sector</i>
1. A Safer Town - less crime, violence, drugs and anti-social behaviour	a. Active/visible police presence and reopen town centre police station. b. Involving young people and funding youth projects. c. Drug/alcohol initiatives including aftercare and a ‘wet	a. Consultation – need clarification about role of Police Consultative Committee, Community Safety Forum etc. b. Helping to evaluate new schemes e.g. CCTV, Street

	<p>centre’.</p> <p>d. Safer streets, play areas, transport etc.</p> <p>e. Concern about the lack of police response on some issues.</p> <p>f.</p>	<p>Wardens etc.</p> <p>c. Developing more community based provision for young people and offenders.</p> <p>d. Networking and ‘joining up’ of services.</p>
<p>2. A Decent Home – more choice and better quality of housing</p>	<p>a. More decent accommodation for young people.</p> <p>b. Improvements needed in other areas as well as Renewal areas.</p> <p>c. Need to address fuel poverty in the private housing sector.</p> <p>d. Technical aid agency needed.</p> <p>e. Greater use of local labour in housing developments including ‘trade’ education for young people</p>	<p>a. Stronger funding based needed for voluntary organisations.</p> <p>b. Community based initiatives link wider issues of health, community safety etc. with housing.</p> <p>c. Key role in supporting people towards independence and encouraging self-help initiatives.</p> <p>d. Able to mediate between agency and residents aspirations.</p>
<p>3. An Inclusive Town - equal opportunities for all and more community involvement</p>	<p>a. Rhetoric needs to change – groups termed as ‘marginalised’ are often in the majority in Hastings.</p> <p>b. Physical regeneration and the built environment need to be accessible.</p> <p>c. Consultation should not rely on the ‘written word’ – include fun events and other ways of gathering views.</p> <p>d. Social Inclusion should run through the whole of the strategy and not be seen as a separate activity.</p>	<p>a. Community participation/consultation – greater use of community networks.</p> <p>b. Need to overcome resource problems to enable groups to link up and be involved in strategic development.</p> <p>c. Improving communication to make voluntary and community sector more visible.</p> <p>d. Creating opportunities to promote and celebrate diversity in voluntary and community sector.</p>
<p>4. A Learning Town - better education, training, skills development and school results</p>	<p>a. Greater use of community buildings throughout the year e.g. schools, library to broaden access to learning.</p> <p>b. Recognising that life-long learning is about more than just qualifications (a ‘passport to learning’ credit</p>	<p>a. Consultation – role of sector needs to be more effectively harnessed by planners and policy makers.</p> <p>b. Need to develop awareness of what the voluntary sector has to offer and improve connections between funders,</p>

	<p>system was suggested).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Improving access to childcare. d. University for Hastings needs to offer real opportunities for local young people linked to housing, e. Arts need to be valued as a ‘stepping stone’ to education for all ages. 	<p>delivery agents and users. (role for HVA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Organisations that deliver accredited training need to be recognised as equal partners enabling them to access funding presently only available to colleges.
<p>5. A Town that is good to live in - better transport and a cleaner environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Make the most of what Hastings has in terms of character, architecture etc. b. Transport needs to focus on access and getting people to where they need to go e.g. town centre, hospital and schools. c. Play needs a higher profile – including safe play areas where children and parents can gather and opportunities for older children. d. More environmental initiatives and opportunities for recycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consultation – greater use of community networks to gather views and harness the energy and commitment of voluntary and community groups. b. Involvement in new development – e.g. assessing the impact of new homes on existing services. c. New communities e.g. refugees and asylum seekers can find a voice through the voluntary and community sector.
<p>6. A Healthier Town - healthier lifestyles and better access to medical facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No mention of allotment development linked to ‘5 a day’ initiative. b. The role and support needs of carers needs to be recognised. c. Befriending services need developing across the whole Town. d. Planning and funding priorities need to take account of services that are provided across Hastings and Rother. e. Preventative health measures need a high priority e.g. counselling, exercise, complementary therapies etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. More health services are contracted out to the voluntary sector but with insufficient funding, bureaucratic barriers to overcome and increasing threats of funding cuts. b. Role for Health and Social Care Forum to highlight issues, support individual organisations and communicate/consult with Primary Care Trusts, Local Strategic Partnerships etc. c. Need to establish stronger links with Rother Community Links.

<p>7. An Economically Successful Town (thriving business, less poverty and unemployment)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop skills and opportunities within the Town rather than looking to outside. b. Support for local economic initiatives e.g. farmers and craft markets and promotion of unique events e.g. Jack in the Green and Bonfire week. c. Greater focus on income maximisation e.g. Credit Union, Money Advice, LETS. d. Development of community enterprises. e. Encourage a diverse range of new businesses and appropriate premises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A lot of innovation takes place in the voluntary sector and can be built on. b. Volunteers are an important part of the local labour market but need to be recognised and supported. c. Voluntary sector can attract external funding to support local economy. d. Groups need to be able to access support and advice on trading companies, setting up co-ops etc.
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Way forward

- 4. The feedback from the conference is being fed into the initial public consultation process on the Community Strategy, which will set out the main vision for Hastings and St Leonards over the next ten years. This will identify what the priorities are, how key issues will be addressed and what the targets are to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.
- 5. In addition the issues raised by the conference will be taken up within the Community Network and related forums. This work will focus on the role of the voluntary and community sector in influencing the strategy and enabling a wide range of groups and individuals to contribute to the development of their communities and to participate in local decision making processes that affect the future of the Town.

For further information contact Jill Ferguson at HVA, email Jill.Ferguson@ukgateway.net

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2
(REGENERATION & TOURISM AND TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT)
26 NOVEMBER 2002**

Please note that these are draft minutes and they will not formally be agreed until the next meeting on 13 January 2003

Present: Councillors Cartwright, Hancock (in the Chair), Hart, Lock, Moon, Sabetian and Scott

26. COMMUNITY STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT

Alan Blackwell, Executive Director, gave a presentation on the Community Strategy Consultation Draft. The consultation was currently being carried out and it was the biggest such exercise that the town had ever been involved in. A great deal of work had gone into looking at ways of engaging the public in this consultation and a variety of methods were being used. These included training community consultants to work with such groups as the Black and Minorities Ethnic (BME) and those with mental health problems to help feedback their views, elderly persons forums being held in sheltered housing accommodation, involvement of some primary schools and consultation with the Young Persons Council.

The Community Strategy was an umbrella strategy that would run for the next ten years. There would be milestones along the way at two, five and ten years and it would be possible to measure how the Strategy was doing at these points. The Strategy outlined 20 milestone targets.

The final draft of the Strategy would be published in April 2003 and prior to this there would be a town conference to report back the results of the consultation.

RESOLVED – that the Committee:

- 1) **noted the Draft Strategy;**
- 2) **considered crime to be a big issue and that additional police resources were needed within the Borough; and**
- 3) **thanked the officers involved in producing the Draft Strategy.**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY 3
(ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY)
28 NOVEMBER 2002**

Please note that these are draft minutes and they will not formally be agreed until the next meeting on 16 January 2003

Present: Councillors Brown, Castro (in the Chair), Daniel, Finch and Hart (as the duly appointed substitute for Cllr Rushbrook)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors May and Rushbrook

23. COMMUNITY STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT

Alan Blackwell, Executive Director, gave a presentation on the Community Strategy Consultation Draft. The consultation was currently being carried out and it was the biggest such exercise that the town had ever been involved in. A great deal of work had gone into looking at ways of engaging the public in this consultation and a variety of methods were being used. These included training community consultants to work with such groups as the Black and Minorities Ethnic (BME) and those with mental health problems to help feedback their views, elderly persons forums being held in sheltered housing accommodation, involvement of some primary schools and consultation with the Young Persons Council.

The Community Strategy was an umbrella strategy that would run for the next ten years. There would be milestones along the way at two, five and ten years and it would be possible to measure how the Strategy was doing at these points. The Strategy outlined 20 milestone targets.

The final draft of the Strategy would be published in April 2003 and prior to this there would be a town conference to report back the results of the consultation.

RESOLVED – that the comments of the Committee on the Draft Strategy be noted.

Chamber of Commerce, 28 November, Meeting Notes

- 1 **Average earning levels**
Depends on number of factors: skills, education, job availability, market controls!
Resp: what can we do to encourage that!
- 2 Lots more employed at lower rates rather than fewer on higher rates.
Shift to more balanced 'skilled' workforce
- 3 John Page – Town kept low because of low wages but SE costs.
Large numbers of core workers = lower wages, cannot rely on business therefore core has to increase.
- 4 100 Business Units, Ivy House land 60k sq ft + IS Sheltered units, media centre, incubation centre + der land Sainsbury's
West of Queensway. Mix small in sheltered + larger. 10 years.
- 5 Regeneration Committees - No one person who is responsible!
Yes variety of agencies! Task force=most of physical regeneration.
- 6 John Shaw – power+money to be influential, ability to move along. Connected needs of economic improvements to what happens to people in the town.
- 7 LSP impt!
- 8 Lots of money on consultation – when pop going to results.
Talked to groups never talked to before.
E.g. Station Feb 03/ Students Sept 03 / town centre disorder-6months / 2-5 years sig diff
Millennium comm. – first houses handed over. (Election)
Danger = so much happening @ once needed to bring with them
- 9 Some targets don't look challenging e.g. crime – back to average. Stretching targets.
Police key partners. Each crime reduction partnership in family like it. Therefore targets based on what can be expected.
Population surge in men corollary crime rates go up. Therefore police cautious about targets.
- 10 Responses
 1. Policing
 2. HBC +partners act together in town centre – licensing
 3. Long term physical structures e.g. CCTV

FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE'S COUNCIL MEETING 02/12/2002

A) A SAFER TOWN

Less crime, violence, drugs & anti – social behaviour

1. Control of pedophiles system not working, tagging etc
2. Should feel safe in own environment
3. Street wardens grases – laugh at them
4. Stronger police on beat
5. More crime prevention, more employment, more jobs
6. Compulsory drug rehabilitation + probation solution
7. Mobile phone
8. Security Cameras
9. Small groups doing / area of crime drug related
10. School should be responsible – don't feel safe in school
11. School should be safer
12. Don't feel anything done re: perverts
13. Street safety
14. Alcohol
15. More things for people to do, skate park, youth clubs, dj'ing, ymca
16. Paper rounds / car washing dangerous
17. Job centre for younger people - paper rounds - car washing

B) A LEARNING TOWN

Better education, training, skill development & school results

1. Dyslexic – need support special help.
2. IT okay – spell check
3. English v hard
4. Didn't notice him coz got bad temper but goes to school Booster Class
5. Not enough modern apprenticeships – good way to learn
6. Not working + earning money + 1day week - Tree surgeon Graphic Design
7. Schools No teacher for 10 lessons – busy schedules + can't speak English & gave lots of homework.
8. 2hrs 20mins – Not allowed to go to toilet w/o note from Dr. (GROVE) respect for rights
9. French teacher can't speak German.
10. Bursaries for people who cant' afford.
11. Rights - Schools Council not listened to!
12. All schools need reviewing Head teacher decides everything.

13. 6 would go.
14. Infrastructure needed for University, many local people can't afford to go + relevant to skills.
15. Detention - done not safe mother not knows if safe.
16. EAZ
17. Learn First Aid at school
18. Access to internet in and o/s schools

C) A DECENT HOME FOR EVERYONE
More choice and better quality of housing

1. Repair older houses – recycling of them,
2. There is a problem with rubbish in places pigeons etc if we improve people might want to move into these areas.
3. In Central St Leonards there is a problem with Dog mess & drugs house in bad condition (smashed windows) abandoned cars etc
4. Support for children 16+ who leave home receive training in how to live on there own life skills e.g. cook clean bill payment etc.
5. If we build house on the outskirts of the town what is there going to be for them to do? What else is there to do!
6. West St Leonards There is nothing to do there now!. Need shops clubs green space & outside space for young people.
- 7. Brownfield**
8. Do more with empty properties + buildings. People are noticing improvements but more needs to be done. This needs to go through to town centre Commercial buildings. Possibility of CPO of properties.

D) AN INCLUSIVE TOWN
Equal opportunities for all and more community involvement

1. People don't get involved because tokenism
2. Need to show what's happened - there is what's happened and report back why happened
3. Also said what.
4. Access – can't get into night clubs – flashing lights
5. Not enough youth workers - intervention
6. Free time Home---- after school place, dinner, activities ,internet Big Xtrax, lots people go
7. All groups & do home work - good for jobs.

E) A TOWN THAT'S GOOD TO LIVE IN
Better Transport and a cleaner environment. A better image.

1. Volunteers/Community Service – collect rubbish.
2. Willing to split rubbish if got space & collect regularly.
3. Public Transport: unreliable, expensive, safety, routing, timing, dirty “Go home early”
4. Community Transport – must be more creative ways
5. Timings – flat fare around town
6. Times for collection
7. Traffic speed
8. Card £30 + free for rest of year.
9. Too many cars – take up all the room
10. Can't cycle to school too much traffic
11. Cycle route on roads not pavement – in middle of pavement! Accidents
12. More security cameras along streets
13. More street sweepers I way bins
14. Household collection times – blocks of flats – get big bins in same places
15. Collect more often more daily collections – Claremont – domestic waste empty syringes in sack outside house.
16. Too many humps where not needed + people don't slow down.

F) A HEALTHIER TOWN
Healthier lifestyles and better access to medical facilities

1. Schools taken out cooking lessons.
2. No smoking everywhere/ 2 areas
3. Doctors they're not on time when they set appointments - 45mins
4. Healthy Living Centres.
5. Doctors Dentists Opticians related to appointment times.
6. Shouldn't charge to park hospital
7. Trams
8. More Doctors

G) AN ECONOMICALLY SUCCESSFUL TOWN
Thriving business, less poverty and unemployment

1. More access to specialised jobs and education e.g. animal care travel to Plumpton, and can't get job here.
2. 1B better than A levels.
3. Indi six form not consulted.
4. Performing Arts Careers.
5. College curriculum gone down GCSE's gone. Course on ghosts left in.

6. Development of housing + places of employment + for people without education being built people working.
7. Sit outside school – ruin things – paying tax to support these people coz their parents can't get jobs + paying for their damage.

H) COMMENTS FROM YPC (WISH LIST)

1. INDOOR SKATE PARK
2. HASTINGS SCHOOLS NEED MORE BETTER FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
3. A COSMOPOLITAN MINI VERSION OF BRIGHTON, BUT WITHOUT A HUGE HIKE IN THE COST OF LIVING, HOUSE PRICES AND THE EXCLUSION OF LOCAL RESIDENTS.
4. JOBS
5. BUSES ON TIME
6. LESS CRIME
7. MORE SUPPORT
8. ACTIVITIES (SET)
9. ACTIVITIES (SCHEDULED)
10. SAFETY
11. HOUSING
12. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
13. EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT
14. MORE YOUTH FACILITIES
15. SAFE PLACE TO WALK AT NIGHT
16. MORE STREET WARDENS - 24 HOURS SAFETY
17. POLICE ARRIVE WITHIN 10 MINS
18. A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE HAS A VOICE
19. BETTER SAFETY
20. MORE POLICE 999

**HASTINGS COMMUNITY STRATEGY
FEEDBACK FROM DISABLED PEOPLE**

- 0.1 Having attended a training course in becoming a Community Consultant on the Community Strategy for Hastings and St Leonards, I agreed to facilitate a discussion with disabled people in the town to find out their views on the seven priority areas identified for the Community Strategy.

- 0.2 I facilitated a discussion with members of the Hastings Disabled People's Forum, which is part of a European-funded project related to employment opportunities for disabled people. The role of the Disabled People's Forum is to encourage disabled people to raise issues that affect them in relation to finding and remaining in employment, whether this be in relation to access to information (eg job advertisements, application forms, welfare benefits forms and other correspondence, training course materials), physical access to buildings, issues regarding transport to and from work, the accessibility of education and training opportunities, independent living, health services and housing. Although many issues do not initially appear directly related to employment, they are areas of people's lives that need to be adequately provided for in order that they can even consider taking up employment. The project aims to take forward those issues concerning Forum members and raise them with the key relevant organisations, influencing the decision-makers of service planning and future development. The project also aims to encourage disabled people to become involved in local planning groups across East Sussex, ensuring that their views are included in the future planning and development of services.

- 0.3 Participants were encouraged to consider the seven priority areas of the Community Strategy, looking at the problems and proposed solutions that had already been identified and any additional problems and solutions which they felt had been missed. Below is a summary of the feedback given:-

1) A SAFER TOWN

Participants generally agreed with all the problems identified and supported the proposed solutions. However, some more solutions that they identified were:-

- a) There needs to be better street lighting.

- b) Police and Street Wardens need to be visible and approachable.

- c) We would like to see all agencies working together to solve crime problems in the town.
- d) The introduction of Anti-social Behaviour Orders is a good way of tackling the nuisance caused by those people who are drunk and harass people in public. However the fear of crime has a lot to do with people's perception of particular areas of Hastings and St Leonards in some cases.
- e) Attention is often attracted towards disabled people who use a wheelchair, a white cane or a guide dog, meaning that they can be harassed, sometimes by people making derogatory comments and at worse, assault. The solution to this is the need for awareness to be raised with members of the general public.

2. A LEARNING TOWN

All the problems identified were agreed with, but it was felt that there were some problems missing, which were:-

- a) Many disabled people miss out on education when they are at school due to ill-health or their needs are not catered for in mainstream schools, and therefore services that are often only available to young people (16-25 years) - usually due to where these services get their funding from - need to be made available to disabled people over the age of 25.
- b) Many disabled adults experience problems accessing further education due to courses being at the wrong time of day, in the wrong kind of environment, because they are too difficult to get to by public transport, or there is not enough information about funding and other support available to enable them to go into further/higher education.
- c) Fee waivers are only available to those on means-tested benefits - Disability Living Allowance and Incapacity Benefit are not counted. It was felt that this was wrong - Disability Living Allowance is given to people to cover expenses related to living with a disability.

In terms of solutions, disabled people felt that:-

- a) Key agencies need to be a lot more aware of the needs of disabled people accessing education.
- b) Flexibility needs to be given to the ways in which disabled people study courses - distance learning, courses held in more community environments / flexible timings, assistance offered to cover transport costs that are incurred by disabled people due to their disability.

- c) Further/Higher education providers need to be aware of their obligations under the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Act (SENDA) in relation to making their curriculum accessible to disabled people. They also need to consider the access needs of disabled people when organising open days.
- d) Many disabled people fear returning to education because they are so unsure of whether their needs will be met. More funding needs to be made available to further and higher education providers to make their buildings and curriculum more accessible, including the provision of specialist equipment.
- e) An important target identified was the need to raise awareness of disabled people's needs in education. Often lack of understanding of their needs by educational staff is a huge barrier for disabled people when accessing education.

3. A DECENT HOME FOR EVERYONE

The problems identified were agreed with, but the following additions were raised:-

- a) There is a requirement that a percentage of new homes have to be built to a particular standard so that they are physically accessible. It was felt that any conversion work to properties by property developers should also have to comply with certain accessibility standards.
- b) There are often issues when disabled people want to visit friends and family whose properties are not accessible. This means that they cannot visit them in their homes and have to find alternative, more public meeting places instead. It would therefore be preferable for more homes to be physically accessible.
- c) There is generally a lack of accessible housing in the area, therefore limiting the choices of disabled people as to where they can live in the town.
- d) Many private landlords do not wish to take on tenants in receipt of welfare benefits. It is known that a large number of disabled people are unemployed or on low incomes and therefore in receipt of benefits so they are undoubtedly excluded from taking up such tenancies.
- e) The rights of landlords have to be protected, but it was felt that the requirement for tenants to renew a lease at frequent intervals means that many tenants feel very insecure and are fearful of entering into the private housing sector in the first place because they feel that a landlord could choose to sell up, meaning that they have to find somewhere else to live at any time.
- f) Many people do not want social housing provided in their area because there is a perception that social housing means unruly tenants. This is a very stereotypical assumption which is often unfounded. However it is often the case that those in

social housing are those with a lot of other problems/disadvantages as well. Many disabled people are reliant on social housing due to the low incomes they are forced to live on.

- g) Who exactly are vulnerable people? Are these just people who live chaotic lifestyles and have a lot of social problems? Disabled people are often put into this category although it was felt they should be categorised differently as there are issues that are unique to disabled people.

The following solutions were identified:-

- a) More wheelchair accessible homes need to be built in the area.
- b) Housing benefit systems need to be less bureaucratic to encourage landlords to accept tenants receiving the Benefit and a higher level should be paid for single people.
- c) An identified target was that the number of newly built physically accessible homes in the town should be increased.

4. AN INCLUSIVE TOWN

In relation to the problems identified, participants made the following points:-

- a) Decision-making processes need to take into account the needs of disabled people, who should be encouraged to take part in such processes.
- b) There needs to be equality of access and involvement in services.
- c) Strong relationships need to be built with those groups in society whose views have previously not been taken into account (e.g. disabled people).
- d) It has been identified that "Public buildings need to be accessible to more people". It was unsure whether this meant that they needed to be more physically accessible or more accessible in terms of being more friendly.
- e) Again, the question was asked "Who exactly are vulnerable people, and who are the deprived communities? Disabled people do not necessarily want to be seen as deprived or vulnerable.
- f) Emphasis is placed on the town being multi-cultural and the needs of black and ethnic minority communities, and also young people, not being taken into account, but what about the needs of disabled people? These needs are often not taken into account, and much consideration needs to be given to consultation of this group. When we talk of an inclusive town, this goes right across the board,

including housing, education, environment, health services, employment advice and provision, independent living, social services, advocacy, leisure and much more.

Some solutions identified by participants were:-

- a) Organisations need to be made much more aware of their requirements/responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA).
- b) Any information provided needs to be in alternative formats, e.g. Braille, audio cassette, electronic, picture format, other languages.
- c) Again who are disadvantaged groups? When we talk of enabling communities to be involved in decision-making about key issues that affect them, we need to ensure that these consultation processes are made fully accessible to all sections of the community.

Participants identified the following targets:-

- a) Key organisations representing or formed from particular groups of the community (eg disabled people, those from various ethnic minority backgrounds, younger people etc) need to be liaised with in order to ensure that their sections of the community are consulted with in the most effective way. When carrying out consultations, people need to know that their views will be listened to and acted upon.
- b) When we talk about inclusivity, we need to consider all sections of the community and not just focus on those that are the in group at the time.

5. A TOWN THAT'S GOOD TO LIVE IN

Some issues identified in this area were:-

- a) The need for recreational facilities to be made accessible to people with a range of disabilities
- b) Reflective strips should be put on all steps.
- c) Streets and buildings need to have clear signage, particularly in town centres.
- d) Public buildings need to be accessible by ramp as well as steps.
- e) Consideration needs to be given to installation of tactile paving and dropped kerbs in many more areas.

- f) Buses in the Hastings area are inaccessible to wheelchair users and the requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act mean that bus companies do not have to make them accessible for some years to come. Bus services have recently been cut in the area (particularly during the evenings) as East Sussex County Council could not subsidise the bus company due to the amount of money spend on repairing flood damage from two years ago. The lack of buses in the evenings means that people wanting to go out for an evening have to find alternative ways of getting home. This also affects people who are employed on evening shifts. Buses have also stopped going to the Sainsbury's complex in St Leonards, meaning that people have to walk more of a distance from the bus stop to the store. Obviously this is difficult for many disabled people using these services.
- g) Parking bays for blue badge holders (previously orange badge) are often filled with cars not displaying a blue badge, meaning that there are no parking spaces available in the designated places.
- h) Anyone providing a service to the public needs to consider their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act. They are required to make reasonable adjustments, either by: providing auxiliary aids; changing policies, practices and procedures; providing an alternative method of offering the service; and (under the 2004 duty) altering physical or sensory barriers or providing a means of avoiding them Still subject to reasonableness.

6. A HEALTHIER TOWN

Particular issues raised were:-

- a) Many disabled people find health services inaccessible due to attitudes of medical staff, information being presented in inaccessible formats (eg visually impaired people receiving correspondence in print that they cannot read and therefore having to ask friends/work colleagues to read out to them what is often very personal information.
- b) Independent Living
- c) There is a need for more advocacy and liaison services – there is currently no advocacy provision in East Sussex for those with a physical disability and very little provision for people with sensory disabilities
- d) There needs to be more co-ordination between agencies around services to provide adaptive equipment for disabled people. Disabled people often experience a large number of agencies being involved in providing them with a particular service and it would be more preferable for there to be one contact person who

could liaise with all agencies concerned if it is not possible to rationalize the number of agencies involved.

- e) Disabled people often have to wait for lengthy periods for assessments, meaning that their needs are not adequately met in the meantime. This, together with the number of people they have to deal with and the amount of paperwork involved can cause a lot of stress. If these issues were dealt with then the quality of life of many disabled people would be improved and their independence would be enhanced.

7. AN ECONOMICALLY SUCCESSFUL TOWN

All identified problems were agreed with, but the following were some additions:-

- a) Many disabled people are particularly on low wages. There is still a lot of discrimination amongst employers around disability often through a lack of awareness or willingness to make reasonable adjustments. Employers are now required to make such adjustments under the Disability Discrimination Act and they need to be made much more aware of their obligations.
- b) Disabled people need to be given more opportunities to gain skills that they need to enter employment. Many have missed out on education so have not gained the qualifications that they need.

Some possible solutions identified were:-

- a) Schemes could be set up to enable employers to be made aware of their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act
- b) If areas of the town are to be developed to encourage new and medium-sized businesses to buy / rent premises, these need to be affordable for those starting up in business.
- c) Adequate information and advice should be provided to people seeking employment, including by staff in the local Careers Service, Job Centres, Benefits Agency and other advice organisations.
- d) Information needs to be provided in accessible formats.

Suggested targets were:-

All identified targets were agreed with, but the following were also added:-

- a) Wage levels particularly need to be increased if housing costs in the area increase – otherwise this will lead to those who currently live in town (particularly in social housing) not being able to afford to stay here.
- b) Barriers - health, accessible or appropriate transport, lack of work experience and discrimination by employers.
- c) Disabled people should receive more support in the work place.
- d) Employers should receive disability equality training on a regular basis. Workplace cultures need to change in order to make it more flexible and inclusive.
- e) Employers need to be well informed about the support that can be put in place for disabled people in employment (e.g. the Access to Work scheme, Work Step programme).
- f) Employers need to be encouraged to take on the Positive About Disability (Two Ticks) symbol,

As part of the Joint Investment Plan (Welfare to Work) work plan research was carried out to identify the gaps existing in services that offer employment or training advice to disabled people. The top five issues identified were:

1. Benefits trap
2. Support to keep a job once a disabled person gets a job
3. Access to information about services and where to get help
4. Access to education and training
5. Awareness of the Disability Discrimination Act amongst employers.

FEEDBACK FROM BRIEFINGS, BEXHILL, 4 DEC 2002

1. Based on the small number of reply slips handed in from the invited guests at the briefings, it would seem that transport is a worry for many people, despite general approval of the Masterplan.
2. From St Richards School in Bexhill there were questions about improvements to routes from Eastbourne, Hailsham, Battle and Rye. A Fairlight parish councillor hoped access to the area was improved and Sedlescombe Parish Council was also concerned about improvements to the A21.
3. There were three replies from Crowhurst. Again, there were worries that work on the A21 would channel more traffic along The Ridge and assurances were sought that the Link road would actively discourage the use of village roads as "rat runs".
4. But the main Crowhurst concern was about effects on the flood plain. One reply form asked what would be done to ensure that building on the flood plain would not increase the risk of flooding in Crowhurst, and a parish councillor also expressed concerns about flood plain implications.

MASTERPLAN PUBLIC MEETING, DE LA WARR PAVILION

WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2002

Questions and Answers

Q. If SEEDA's function is to encourage local industry, why have you employed Spanish architects?

A. Looked at international experience, looking for the best, believed MBM the right architect to bring an international dimension and fresh energy. It was also important to win the government's trust and confidence.

Q. How much of the undeveloped beach would be destroyed by these plans?

A. There would be no erosion of the shingle bank – the railway line is part elevated and part sunken. Would be treating the entire brown field site, consistent with sustainability of transport. Would give exciting opportunities to live and work in a beach community

Q. Where do you see the long-term wealth creation and how would you sustain this?

A. This is the physical master plan, showing how the various elements come together, and the first chance to get views on the architecture and design. Looking at all the issues the only way is by the creation of space for employment and the rail and road infrastructure.

The biggest issue is persuading investors to come to the area because of transport and communications problems. Looking at ways of using public money to start the process of regeneration. The Council is trying to bring together small scale projects in Bexhill and tell private investors that it is worth investing in.

Q. What is happening re the A21?

A. The Transport Agency has just started consultation on the Tonbridge to Robertsbridge section: the Lamberhurst bye pass is due to commence in Spring 2003; the Tonbridge to Pembury section is out to detailed consultation; M25 to south of Lamberhurst will be dual carriageway; and south of Lamberhurst to Robertsbridge will be single carriage re-aligned. This should happen within the 10 year master plan. Work is

progressing with East Sussex County Council on the Queensway – A21 link road. SEEDA has supported the proposal to make the whole A259 from Pevensey to Brenzett “fit for purpose”.

Q. The integrated transport proposals are supposed to make life better but don't join up with the railway north of Bexhill.

A. These are not at cross purposes – looking at relationship between Highways Agency and Strategic Rail Authority – we have to take ownership of our own transport problems and bring them all together. Councillor Earl is carrying out a review of integrated transport.

Q. If you are concerned with making things better for people how can you reconcile another road through Crowhurst?

A. We are very sensitive to Crowhurst village and have spoken to the Parish Council specifically. The route shown is notional; the debate has to start somewhere. It has no standing and does not preclude further investigations of other routes.

Q. How will an extra road keep traffic out of Crowhurst?

A. The vast majority is not through traffic, which we would want to continue to go via motorways. We would hope traffic would travel along a new “smoother” route rather than the present “rat run” which affects other villages as well as Crowhurst. We will be discussing this in more detail with Crowhurst after Christmas.

Q. You talk of building on the character of the area – the North Hastings Country Avenue is along the old bye pass route which was turned down for environmental reasons –what is the thinking behind this road which would be visible for miles?

A. These are notional routes which are not set in stone – the concept is to free up traffic and provide for on-going development. The district has got to provide 4,000 homes, and create opportunities where communities can naturally extend.

This provides an overview of where the development could go – the current east/west traffic flow is along the coast or the Ridge which provides a potential conflict. This route would provide an alternative route to the north at Ivy House Lane which has been allocated for commercial development in the Local Plan and assist with integrated transport to the Conquest Hospital.

Q. This is a very innovative plan and if some or most of it comes to fruition the whole area will benefit. It is great to have people who design around the world. As a Bexhill resident, what have you done regarding a focal point for Bexhill, especially the station?

A. There is an exhibition starting tomorrow showing the District and County Council's plans for the Town Centre, including the redevelopment of Devonshire Square. The station has had nearly £1m spent on it and another £1m is due to be spent in the next 18 months. The Bexhill Town Centre "footprint" is already an icon in its own right, and there are plans for the De La Warr Pavilion and the seafront, and we have sorted out the Christmas lights for this year. We may even be able to get the Grand Hotel turned into something good. The "icon building" should be a living place, e.g. Bexhill itself.

We must build on the importance of the two settlements, and invigorate the area.

Q. Agrees this is a wonderful idea. I am surprised that Phase III is after 2011 – surely it is important to get the infrastructure right first – otherwise it could be 2020 or 2030 before the work is done?

A. It is reassuring to get support for these points. The Steering Group say that we need to get the plan right first. SoCoMMS hopes to have the link road open by 2007, and there is a new agreement with the Strategic Rail Authority for a 7 year franchise which should achieve improvements to the railways within 7 years, rather than 20. The Minister is due to decide on the link road in the new year, but we believe we will get it. Members of the public should write to the Minister if they feel the work on the A21 should be accelerated.

Q. How much money do we have in place already?

A. £38m is already earmarked. We are writing a business plan for the next few months incorporating the cash flow for the next 10 years and targeting those who will attract the largest funding. Under a new agenda private investors are looking for and getting different levels of funding, looking for a smaller number of larger projects as a catalyst for development. There is currently £28m-worth of development work going on in Rother (from a £_m p.a. contribution from Rother District Council).

Q. If the link road is due to open in 2007, when will the public enquiry begin?

A. Assuming we get approval from the Secretary of State in the new year, work will then begin on a detailed scheme, with preliminary work on route options. A preferred scheme has not been identified yet. We are very optimistic that this is technically

feasible although it is a very tight timetable. We have to have clear aspirations to achieve short term.

Q. As this affects landowners, we need a quick decision on the route.

A. We won't commit to a route until the Secretary of State has given his approval.

Q. The past proposed roads were not the best ones. The link road should go around the east end of Coombe Valley between the Pebsham tip and the Caravan Park at Coombe Haven from the Glyne Gap roundabout. Part of the "Sea Avenue" covering land to the back of the tip could go under the railway to join Queensway by the reservoir. The other bottleneck is at Glyne Gap itself – the roundabout needs to be made bigger and the pedestrian crossings removed. The A2070 east of Hastings is not fully used.

A. These points are well made and work is going on behind the scenes.

Q. Catsfield and Crowhurst would be dissected by traffic and there seems to be no improvement for rural areas. You are hoping to raise £400m – could a small percentage of this be used to impose 30mph speed limits in villages (new developments will automatically get 30mph limits).

A. This is not within the remit of the Masterplan or Rother District Council, but is the responsibility of East Sussex County Council and policed by the police. The Masterplan will bring opportunities to get traffic out of places like Catsfield.

Q. I have no car and need pedestrian crossings on De La Warr Road. When are the new railway stations likely to come about?

A. Glyne Gap will be first, the County Council is working on the budget but we can't say how quickly these stations will come into force, although there is a 10 year window to get everything done. I agree that we need a balance for pedestrians, including places to cross the road.

Q. Would a link road across the marsh cause Crowhurst to flood?

A. We need to look at the detail as with any planning application and carry out statutory consultations etc. A road would not be built that would cause flooding.

Q. Have you thought about the topography of the private road on the ridge? This slopes steeply behind into the Westfield Valley.

- A. We need to review the landscape topography and local knowledge would be useful.
- Q. I would like to congratulate the committee on their vision for the future which is innovative. I have to use my car to go into London and, because of the state of the A21, have to go through the villages.
- A. We have to stimulate the debate so we make the best decisions.
- Q. Congratulations. This is fantastic. Will there be extra traffic if the (Turkey Road) quarry is used as a landfill site?
- A. The Secretary of Ibstock has said that the Company left open the option for the site to be used for landfill, waste disposal, etc. but I don't want to get into a political debate. One important reason why the Masterplan was drawn up is that it identifies a 30 year view and offers an air of protection to the public and an opportunity to manage change.
- Q. What about Broadband?
- A. This offers the ability to speed up access to the Internet for businesses and is one of the five points of the 5 Point Plan and a feature of SEEDA's strategy. Need to ensure the infrastructure is in the ground – part of a larger project – and links in with the education system. It is important that our young people become computer literate and able to get the best jobs. SEEDA is also working with partners to make them aware and bring up the skill base to ensure appropriate training is there. On the domestic front we are encouraging all new developments to include wiring for broadband, and all public buildings to be wired up, eg Sure Start.
- Q. Lack of facilities for car parking?
- A. In Masterplan development issues – normal part of planning issues.
- Q. How will building houses north of Bexhill regenerate empty houses in Hastings?
- A. We recognise that if regeneration has to start from the inside a long arduous land acquisition has to start in Hastings. Over the next few months public sector partners will start acquiring properties.
- Q. SEEDA's proposals re. Brenzett road?

A. SEEDA's deadline was 9.30 on the morning of the final assembly and we submitted a typed version with supporting papers at 9.15am. The only facilities available were to handwrite the proposals and these were properly presented and worded and voted through by a big majority (others tried to make amendments on the day that hadn't been presented in time).

Q. Can we expect to see the water treatment works at Galley Hill removed?

A. No. Southern Water has no plans to remove this. It has been there 10 years and is already landscaped but when we look at the plans for the seafront we will see whether it could be landscaped further.

(The meeting ended at 9.15pm)

1066 Tenants Consultative Group, December 17th, Horntye, (30'ish people)

Simon Hubbard's Presentation

Using railways

1. Mr. Beeching closed them down?
2. 5 new stations/upgrades.
3. Paul Bond - Plan Southampton to Ashford.
4. Want to see - 4 trains an hour on metro and working hard with bus systems.
5. Disgraceful bus service.
6. Ore to Ashford - diesel for 30 years with no electrification and not dual tracking!
going to continent = mockery
7. Simon Hubbard = understand not planning to.
8. Will it look like Metro in Newcastle?
9. Paul - Gradual improvement of rolling stock. Connex introducing more (to meet Core contract) and probably early morning. 5.10am 30% cheaper - 3-6 months)
10. Central St. Leonard's - bad housing owned by landlords, many who don't live here and funded in main by Housing benefits. Right that those landlords get grants when haven't looked after them?
11. Community as whole to improve, right for those who like them to have improved housing. Not housing expert and limits on how bad can be!
12. New development behind Kings Road - families moved to new areas still facing same problems - play areas, no community and quality of life no better! Simon Hubbard agreed!
13. Jane Kilsby - continued roll out of consultation, New Dawn.
14. Simon Hubbard - Housing Regeneration - not just housing - crime, young people, etc. Neighbourhood renewal - not just housing money - St Leonard's priority for other money. Can't change it with changing housing. Paul Bond - Village Green.

15. Encourage people to come here to work, shortage of plumbers etc. Not just university art etc. - ordinary jobs too!
16. SH: training skills
17. Good health - sometimes cannot see GP for 4-5 days - need to improve access.
18. Very concerned unqualified person judging if need to see or not.
19. More medical practices and ready access.
20. Daytime only courses for plumbing! Re-training needs not met! If working can't get to.
21. Housing issues on estates. Existing housing replaced and other housing same quality to be left! Other run down areas replaced by modern housing caused problems to be pushed into those areas!
22. Robin - 1066 needs to decide how to target investment in future at areas not being renovated e.g. programmes for next year communal entrances improvements.
23. Infrastructure = new housing estate will need development etc and facilities.
24. SH: beholden on residents to get maximum out of developer too!
25. Daughter on Young Persons Council - more industry into town too. SH = retain and attract and education opportunities for what wants to do in 2003.
26. This idea provides way of regenerating town and environmental effects.
27. Lots of thought given to map - before Christmas is too little time!
28. SH = feedback after Xmas + full and open process of consultation
29. Abolish HBC and convert Town all to flats for homeless people.
30. Robsack - if making it bigger are we making problems bigger.
31. Solving key issues - isolated and only 2 x police cars for Hastings and Bexhill
32. Need to have better policing!
33. SH = Police Constables compared to rest of East Sussex and evidence all time that's special case.

34. Plans = Police move away from response policing and establishing neighbourhood based teams.
35. Give backing to encourage police to do this.
36. SH = HBC = needs to discuss with Police Authority that amount of money comes to Hastings reflects problems we've got!
37. Robsack - teach communities to appreciate what they've got.
38. Doctors surgery closing down due to threats.
39. SH = examples of worst decisions! Look at what's done in the past and learn lessons.
40. Taxpayers money into these schemes! Pay a lot on childcare etc. already how much more Council tax!
41. SH= probation of HBC money little[?]. SRB, NRF etc. o/s funding Robin - sources of external funding will go away - Seedcorn to get working together so services stay in place. e.g. Community Wardens. Big challenge for town like Hastings to find ways of keeping new services going into future.
42. Paul Bond - cut red tape and straight to project.
43. Hospital - bus to Ore, then to town - Can't get to hospital easily.
44. Country Avenue- trouble with roads here - will have a riot if try and put that through.
45. Lovely idea! but beautiful countryside.
46. Paul Bond - nothing in stone and environmental approvals needed. Something has to be done!
47. Limit development around park.
48. Idea = Stop to delicate development [?]- proposal
49. IT barns
50. Robin - Pointed out particularly relevant
51. Country Avenue - how likely to get permission - if wouldn't let go over boggy old Marsh for by pass!

2 Regeneration Centre feedback

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 Regeneration Centre

This section records the comments made in the Regeneration Centre's logbook relating to the new plans and strategies or to the centre itself as a new facility. Most have been written by visitors themselves although in some cases staff have written comments following discussion.

2.2 COMMENTS

1. interesting
2. questions- composting? Methane levels? Protection of tip?
3. want to talk about realigning A259
4. concerns over parking conditions when plan is put in place
5. thanks for a visionary masterplan and helpful staff member at the exhibition
6. interested in Queens hotel
7. scenic artist - seeking to assist future projects
8. good to see vision and ideas coming to fruition
9. interested in transport plans
10. interesting ideas - will be interested in masterplan
11. interested in cultural strategy
12. interested in improving transport - excellent model to show the town
13. interested in all regeneration initiatives and quality of environment
14. interested in creative business
15. Magdalen convent, West St Leonards Road
16. good to see forthcoming regeneration for train station
17. a good facility - will visit again
18. interested in masterplan
19. student enquiry regarding project on regeneration
20. concerns over station, station yard and Robert Tressell building
21. environmental concerns
22. want to commute to London easily
23. arts centre please
24. looks very nice
25. very good display - good luck
26. most impressive - may it all happen

27. get building - don't delay!
28. many useful ideas - lets hope some get implemented
29. great plans - very exciting!
30. a lot of excellent ideas, however I am concerned with the lack of vision regarding cars.
31. friendly and talkative staff
32. who will direct the funding?
33. impressive display, upfront staff. Will come again
34. interested in media centre - good idea - very informative staff!
35. naturally interested in regeneration of our town
36. I approve of all of the plans presently under review
37. interested in all plans - have fishing hut and beach hut in Bulverhythe
38. excellent well thought out plans and helpful staff
39. good clear information - friendly help from staff
40. very useful
41. looking promising
42. helpful
43. very interesting and exciting
44. interesting, great opportunities for the future of the town
45. want to find out more about hatcheries
46. a brilliant resource - its enough to make me believe it'll happen
47. we are hopeful - nil desperandum!
48. very good for residents to actually know what is going on rather than council keeping it to themselves
49. good ideas - like the entrance to the sea at Harold Place
50. railway good. Too many homes- we have no jobs here
51. very good
52. very interesting - please be inclusive not exclusive
53. Broomgrove - if each new house has one car - where will they go?
54. the pond at Pebsham is there already at the centre of the wildlife preservation area!
55. very interesting
56. concerns over West St Leonards on Sea - needs to be a more vibrant area
57. interesting
58. thank you for the helpful explanation of the model
59. concerned about parking at Alexandra Park
60. lots of good info
61. very interesting and informative display
62. very informative
63. it sounds good but will it work?
64. concerned about buses and bus terminals
65. proposed bus terminal is in the wrong place close to railway station. It needs to be near Debenhams or site where passengers can be under cover and in heart of shopping centre
66. remember the ski slope and casino we were promised - this will be the same!
67. nice model

68. interesting!
69. collecting leaflets for friends
70. well presented!
71. good ideas - needs modification
72. interesting
73. a few areas in the UK have a road train. This could go between Bexhill & Stade on the coastal walkway
74. interesting and challenging as long as new housing is relevant to lower income people
75. much more detail required - strongly object to link road across conservation area
76. would make a great improvement to the area
77. very good work - keep it up please
78. get high speed rail link to London - its all you need
79. very helpful staff. I would have preferred a more detailed map. Lots of reading to do
80. country park won't work. European feel to plan, but will planners allow this
81. I like to see energy correctly directed, keep your eye on the ball. You need a much clearer set of goals. Particularly to whose benefit the masterplan is?
82. some interesting proposals. Some concern over what would be included in the mixed development at Ivyhouse
83. I wish all the best for the future
84. would like construction leaflet
85. High Weald Bridleways Group - please let me know any developments re equestrians
86. checking impact of roads and new development areas
87. A259 - where is it going?
88. how will nature conservation be protected with link road
89. tell me about Hatcheries project and art studio facilities
90. interested in the University complex - how will it work
91. how will the wildlife be affected by the link road?
92. what about the ice rink, public lighting and bypass? Have these all been forgotten?
93. very interesting - The new Brighton
94. what's happened about the Stade, is it included in these plans?
95. excellent plans ahead.
96. how will the local plan review of the station goods yard be affected by the Millennium Community bid?
97. how about proper landscaping for Safeway roof - trees and grass to soften the skyline?
98. big model. What about play facilities in town, how about above Safeway building?
99. interested in regeneration - nice to have information available
100. could masterplan be displayed at West Marina meeting 17.10.02?
101. interested in business expansion, improved transport in 1066 area and overall fabric improvement

102. interesting in rowing course at Pebsham
103. landmark buildings at Warrior Square
104. impressed
105. hope it all happens!
106. interesting - I hope it happens!
107. we wish you every success
108. the bathing pool site should be a recreational area for tourists and the local community
109. the detail of certain parts of the plan need to be thought through and the information given to the staff here (and at meetings)
110. good display - even better having someone to ask - who can supply answers
111. great! Excellent!
112. hope it all works out
113. disappointed in architecture of centre - scrappy
114. how about an all year 'doto train' from Fish market to Bo Peep to encourage people to that end.
115. transport- bus routes and integrated travel system round town illogical. Coaches could clog up town.
116. Transport queries- what is function and structure at West Hill.
117. Concerned about the footfall down Havelock road from the station being diverted to the shopping centre. This will affect their trade dramatically.
118. Very concerned that his land North of Ore will be cut in half by the New Northern Country Avenue.
119. Very interested in the plans for Hastings and how it will affect Fairlight
120. What provision is being made for cycling in the area and leisure activities in general.
121. Transport is so poor - please amend now.
122. No mention of town centre parking in presentation. Is it being ignored?
123. Any plans for Marina Pavilion?
124. Congratulations on the public lighting schemes. Will there be more?
125. Concerned over the re routing of the A259. Will Bulverhythe road become a main road?
126. Will there be any help with businesses? Any plans for children and sports areas?
127. Metro, will this be on a separate line to the main railway?
128. Very concerned over flood plains and how this will be overcome?
129. Good to see things happening, looks good.
130. What propositions are there for the Malvern way, Broomgrove and education?
131. Those of the local plans are excellent but there is no proper provision of east/west traffic - Southampton to channel ports and tunnel.
132. Interesting and informative plans.
133. The proposals sound very good
134. Hope it all happens!
135. Some good ideas.
136. Concerned over asylum seekers in Hastings - what is being done about them?
137. Interested in link road and new station at Upper Wilting.
138. Concerned about traffic increase around Harleyshute Road.

- 139. Very interested in all the proposals- will you be providing more detailed feedback.
- 140. Keep parking underground at the station. It works well elsewhere.
- 141. Concerned over Junction with Queensway, The Ridge and A21
- 142. Looking to start business - said Hastings is a vibrant place to be.
- 143. Interested in renewal of Old Town e.g. Visitor Centre and Local Plan
- 144. Many thanks for help

3 Hard to reach feedback

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 This section explains the process used to secure the involvement of hard to reach groups by training community consultants. The work was carried out by Mee Ling Ng, Judith Hammond and Adam Pozner of Clive Jacotine & Associates Limited.

3.2 TRAINING COMMUNITY CONSULTANTS

- 3.2.1 As part of community engagement in the consultation process and the need to consult with hard to reach groups, the concept of community consultants were developed. These community consultants would be recruited from a number of hard to reach 'constituencies' such as people with disabilities, the black and ethnic minority communities and both older and young people. The two key roles of these consultants were (a) to carry out peer group consultation with their hard to reach groups/communities and (b) to be an additional community resource to assist the statutory agencies in their consultation work on the community strategy and the local action plans.
- 3.2.2 Recruitment was carried by a combination of outreach, fieldwork contacts and referrals from community and voluntary organisations, HVA and council staff. 26 individuals said they will attend the two day training programme at the end of October.
- 3.2.3 Over the two days, 23 individuals were trained in a number of skills such as presentation skills, organising group discussions, interviewing skills and facilitation skills. The trainees received a briefing on the Community Strategy. Group work was done using the Community Strategy questionnaire on day two and some trainees also gave individual presentations on their chosen topic, using the skills they have learnt. The presentation topics were: 'The Allotment Society'; 'Living with right sided hemiplegia'; 'Animal skinning'; 'The Queen's Jubilee'; 'Hastings Young People's Council'; and DAB – a young person's theatre group'
- 3.2.4 15 out of 23 individuals participated in the two day course. The remaining eight could either only join day one or day two due to other commitments. Out of pocket expenses eg travel, parking fees and childcare costs were reimbursed. The profile of the 23 trainees are set out below:

7 young people (16-25 years; including two from the BME community): (30.4%)
6 people over 50 years old: (26%)
7 from the BME community: (30.4 %)
14 women and 9 men: (60.8% to 39.2%)
2 people with a declared disability: (8.6%)

3.2.5 16 evaluation forms were filled in plus one contribution by email. The majority of the trainees found the skills training: a ‘great help and instruction’, ‘very helpful’, ‘good tool’, ‘I got a lot out of it’, and ‘good, concise and practical’. One trainee was familiar with the many techniques but she still felt it was useful as a ‘welcome revision’. Some were confused about the Community Strategy as they felt it was quite a complex issue to take in for the first time.

3.2.6 Views were more variable on the training venue (where for day one the room was too small) and the quality of the food. The central location (Town Hall) was appreciated. The trainers were ‘fab and friendly’ and there were good opportunities for networking.

3.2.7 *The key issue raised by the trainees* was whether their participation in consultation events and activities to assist the Council/LSP should be remunerated. Views were divided on this. Some trainees from the BME communities and a trainee with a disability felt that community consultants should be paid as a matter of principle, rather than be relied upon as volunteers. It was stressed by the trainers that ‘out of pocket’ expenses could be claimed via HVA and that the issue of payment was discussed by the Project Management Group (PMG) who made the decision that it would be too impractical at this stage to set up a system of payment. The trainers reassured the trainees that their views would be reported back to the PMG. There is support for paying trained community consultants, whilst allowing those who do not want to be paid to do so on a voluntary basis.

Post training:

3.2.8 Following the training, a number of community consultants also participated in the briefings organised for community representatives in order to get a better understanding of the various initiatives. They were also advised that HVA could pay a small grant to assist their own organisations carry out consultation activities. A number of community consultants were encouraged to turn out to assist staff at numerous events across the borough and at local ward level.

3.3 WORK WITH HARD TO REACH GROUPS

- 3.3.1 To date, at least two community consultants were involved in organising consultation session with their own organisation: The Allotments Federation and the Disability Forum. Four community consultants turned up to assist local neighbourhood forum (Gensing and Central St Leonards - GCSL) in their consultation day about the local action plan.
- 3.3.2 Consultants from Clive Jacotine & Associates Limited also made contact with the representative of Hastings Chinese School who will be carrying out consultation of the Community Strategy and the GCSL local plan at their Sunday school. Contact was also made with a group of Muslim women who said they intend to fill in the Community Strategy and action plan questionnaires given to them.
- 3.3.3 As a result of outreach work by CJ & Associates, requests were also made by MenCap and Horizons for the training materials which will then be adapted to train people with learning disabilities and users of the Horizons scheme.
- 3.3.4 As a result of a meeting with officers involved with working with the BME communities, it was agreed that they will organise a consultation event with refugee and asylum seekers with the help of officers responsible for the Community Strategy and other initiatives.
- 3.3.5 The officer responsible for supporting the Hastings Young People's Council indicated that it would be possible to organise a consultation session with their members with the support of those young people who have been trained as community consultants.

3.4 SCHOOLS BASED WORK WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

- 3.4.1 This work is led by the EAZ. Six schools have been identified and are willing to participate in the Community Strategy consultation. This will be carried out either with the School's Council or as a project within a classroom setting. The citizenship curriculum coordinators in the schools will work with the EAZ officer on this project. Outcomes of this project will be reported to Nick Wates of CJ & Associates for analysis by the EAZ lead. The 6 participating schools are:
1. All Saints Junior (7-11 year olds; catchment – Ore)
 2. Christchurch School Primary (GCSL)
 3. Sacred Heart Primary (Ore and Hastings wide) – Year six group is keen
 4. Blacklands Primary (west of Ore)
 5. Sandown Primary (Ore)
 6. Saxon Mount special needs (11-16 years) (GCSL and Hastings wide)

3.5 COMMUNITY CONSULTANTS TRAINING DAY TIMETABLE

DAY 1

- 10.00 Coffee, introductions
- 10.30 **The Community Strategy – What is it?**
What is the consultation for?
Presentation with questions and answers
- 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.30 **Presentation skills**
With participation and exercise
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 **Running a discussion group**
Presentation with questions and answers
- 14.30 Tea break
- 14.45 **Exercises**
- 15.30 **Questions & Summing Up**
- 16.00 Finish

DAY 2

- 10.00 Welcome, coffee and introductions
- 10.30 **Interview techniques**
Presentation with questions and answers
- 11.30 **The consultation questionnaire**
Group work
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 **The consultation questionnaire**
Group discussion
- 14.45 Tea
- 15.00 **Bringing it all together**
- 16.00 Finish

3.6 COMMUNITY CONSULTANTS CODE OF CONDUCT*

The following general rules should always apply.

The Community Consultant...

1. Should do everything possible to ensure that there is a climate of goodwill, responsibility and trust between themselves and the general public. Everything should be done to leave interviewees and members of groups disposed to receive a future contact on another consultation or research project carried out by any organisation.
2. Must not mislead anybody by giving him or her inaccurate information.
3. Must not disclose to **anyone** else any information learned about individuals in the course of the consultation.
4. Must be polite and courteous at all times and allow people to withdraw from interviews or discussions at any point if they so wish.
5. Must always follow instructions given to him/her by the Project Management Group with regard to the project.

* Based on the Market Research Society's rules for interviews.

3.7 COMMUNITY CONSULTANTS BRIEFING

WHAT A COMMUNITY CONSULTANT WILL DO

There are various ways in which a Community Consultant can help us to find out what the people of Hastings think about the Community Strategy.

- a) One-to-one interviews with people in your local community, fellow club or group members or, perhaps, people who ask for information at one of the events that will be held in Hastings.
- b) Talking to a group of people about the Community Strategy. This may be at one of their regular events, perhaps a monthly meeting of a tenant's group.
- c) Running a focus group, noting down and feeding back to us the points that people in the group have made.

What sort of person are we looking for?

- a) Someone who cares about the future of Hastings
- b) Someone who likes meeting people
- c) Someone who can listen to what other people say. You're not a salesperson – you just have to report back what other people think. (You can always fill in a questionnaire yourself to make sure your views are made known!)

If you feel that you would like to do this, but don't feel very confident, don't worry. We can offer you training in all these areas which will help to overcome that. The training will also provide you with skills which can be useful in the future.

We can also offer you expenses, including dependent care costs.

If you would like to take part, please complete the enclosed application form and return it to: Mee Ling Ng c/o Community Services, 4 Robertson Terrace, Hastings TN34 1JE.

4 Event sheets

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 This section provides a record of the comments made on several different forms used at the main public exhibitions, public meetings, local events and briefings.
- 4.1.2 The wording used on the form is included at the beginning of each sub-section in bold. Contact details have been withheld to maintain confidentiality but can be traced via the reference number.
- 4.1.3 Some comments need responses from appropriate parties.

4.2 FEEDBACK SHEETS - GREEN

THE FUTURE OF HASTINGS AND ST LEONARDS CONSULTATION RECORD OF FEEDBACK

To record views of people attending consultation events in addition to or instead of questionnaires.

- 4.2.1 Re 1a: Development of brownfield sites and taking over all properties unused for over 1 year is a good idea.
Re 1b: Metro idea generally good. No to Ivyhouse station - could be one within the urban area on the ridge instead. Wilting - yes to station only. No to industrial (or housing) into fields.
Re 2: No link road or extension of Hastings urbanisation northwards of the Ridge into the area of outstanding natural beauty. Yes to planting mature, deciduous trees along roadsides where there's space. No to road crossing straight through new recreation area to the east of Bexhill.
Re 3: No to additional road across the new recreation area. What is proposed for safeguarding against the rise in sea-level expected within the time scale of the plans? Yes to development of brownfield sites, renovation or rebuilding where condition of buildings is too poor for renovation.
Re 4: Generally OK. Consultation with business and college staff and study of work trends to decide on faculty subjects. What would be the expected life-span of the new building at the station?
Re 5: More details needed. Why has Warrior Square been chosen rather than the Old Town?
Re 6: Would the new huts be for living in? If not why would they attract people more than the current beach huts? Are beach cafes envisaged? If not why not?

Re 7: Having designated parks good and lake OK but not for speedboats or other noisy boats. Dissecting and surrounding the park with main roads rather than just having access sites on the edges near urban areas not OK.

Re 8: The plan looks dreadful – ugly factory jungle! I am strongly opposed to this development which is obviously the wedge (together with the link road) to joining the two towns with new built-up areas all the way across the country route of the proposed link road.

Re Crime: There are two towns in the south east of England currently experimenting in reducing crime by dealing with the needs and problems of persistent offenders (who account for a large proportion of crime). At the moment they have had excellent success with half of the offenders and significant reduction in crime. I am finding out which these towns are and will let you know. (the police area commanders should know.)

- 4.2.2. Bringing all the regeneration projects together was a good start. I visited Priory Meadow Shopping Centre on the Saturday morning and it was impossible to study or ask questions properly. The exhibition area was too small.
The gateway into Hastings via Queens Road needs a total uplift.
There are some lovely buildings along the sea front spoilt by the retail shops underneath - all of which shall be demolished within the regeneration plan.
- 4.2.3. Build a better road network around Hastings or DIE!
- 4.2.4. Deliver on accessible public transport (buses) asap. The DDA[?] deadline is irrelevant now. This level of regeneration must warrant a change[?]. What's the point of a new town so many people can't enjoy?!
- 4.2.5. Will there be more provision to help people detox? A clinic or a Halfway house? And will there be provision to help them find employment/occupational therapy afterwards?
- 4.2.6. Close to my friends. I only have to go around the corner to have somewhere to play. Nothing wrong.
- 4.2.7. County Council has as much idea as what happens in Hastings as they do about Worthing.
- 4.2.8 I am a little sceptical about proper regeneration of town - transport etc, in view of the fact that HBC seem to have created multi traffic jams where none existed before. Was this accidental (therefore they're incompetent) or deliberate (in which case they are malevolent). Either way - do we trust them?
- 4.2.9 More pretty lights on seafront. Very dull compared to other resorts and how about the pier too! More little bins and frequent collections. More drunks cleared away from seafront and town.

- 4.2.10 Uplift the whole seafront from Old Town. Grotty shops with rubbish in them. Good clothes shops, boutiques, etc. Some people like nice things - less cheap clothes and a good coat of paint.
- 4.2.11 I worry about being beaten up in the town centre by horrible people. I like the shops, most people are nice and I like Alexandra Park.
- 4.2.12 I like my bedroom, I used to live in Northiam.
- 4.2.13 Appalling bus service - no call for improvement? Just check the number of taxis going over the hill!!
White Rock Baths is an eyesore. Enforcement Notice? Why not shield it with colourful murals, like Southern Water did in the town centre?
- 4.2.14 Interested in self build project.
- 4.2.15 Self build project.
- 4.2.16 Double bin needed opposite Homedane House. Like others, on seafront in Harold Place.
Street Wardens not in the right place - move in to town centre.
- 4.2.17 No footpath between Battle Road roundabout and top of Fletcher Avenue and from Highbeach Estate to top of Battle Road.
We note new bus stop on the Ridge near Fletcher Avenue. Nowhere to stand.
Mums push children in road as verge too muddy. 40mph speeds along the Ridge.
- 4.2.18 Consultation: Use network of local organisations to take questionnaires and get their groups to fill them out. Such as people who do not read well or cannot visit exhibitions.
- 4.2.19 Disabled access to all new stations. Are they to be manned to enable crossing of rail?
- 4.2.20 Sports development: Opportunities there but not widely publicised. Concern over targeting certain wards - should be town-wide provision.
- 4.2.21 Arts: Many people are interested in art as a volunteer activity to help them prepare for work, deal with health problems, etc. Not easy to find outlets to express their creativity, particularly if they do not have qualifications.
- 4.2.22 More bins and more things to do for teenagers - more clubs, better parks - see-saws etc. for little kids.
- 4.2.23 Attacker persons.

- 4.2.24 Best thing: shopping in the Old Town. Worst thing: next door neighbours – but housing association are sorting it out.
- 4.2.25 Bus service (No34) needed in Marline Road - better link to town.
- 4.2.26 Bus service (No34) needed in Marline Road - better link to town.
- 4.2.27 I like living near shops, I like where I can play and would like not to have to go to school on a Friday!
- 4.2.28 Lots of places to play.
Play facilities for 10-14/15 year olds in Alexandra Park - adventure park etc.
More places for older kids e.g. youth centres to keep them off the streets. Despite a lot of drugs, there are still lots of nice people – I like the beach.
Clean up Warrior square - syringes on streets - clean up - police did sort it out quickly.
- 4.2.29 Little Ridge off site school parking causes problems for local people.
Irresponsible parents parking - we need a yellow line!
Let part of Ashdown House out - extra cars aren't catered for and are all down A21 and by the new McDonalds! Lost bus service too so we cannot use public transport!
- 4.2.30 Cyclist - would like to see more cycle lanes - other towns seem to be going onto the pavements etc. More complete "sacred" cycle routes from living areas to the town like Hollington to Town Centre, and to supermarkets and stations, and other main areas.
- 4.2.31 The Masterplan map of the Ore Valley does not represent the Ore Valley Forum area - it needs to include Victoria Avenue and Church Street to the north east and St Georges and Whitefriars to the south.
- 4.2.32 Any information on plans for Saturn facilities centre - old "Stills" factory - please?

4.3 OTHER ISSUES SHEETS - WHITE

Other Issues Feedback Form: To record issues not relevant to the consultation but that need a response from an individual or organisation.

Further contact or an initial response will be made within a maximum of 7 working days.

- 4.3.1 Unwanted goods being dumped. Wouldn't it be more cost-effective to just collect when people make such a request - instead of waiting weeks. As it stands you have to phone up and they're only 'open' at set times and you wait weeks.
Metro - good idea but it only serves the coast - what about Hollington, Alexandra Park area, etc.
- 4.3.2 Something for teenagers, Ore area. Roller skating and skateboarding.
- 4.3.3 All things promised in the 'New Dawn' are the very rights that we have been promised and should have had for decades, the very things for which we have been paying exorbitant amounts of council tax.
The new vision is nothing more than an excuse to destroy more of our green spaces and freedom. Every creature, including the human race, needs space to move and breathe, not a concrete jungle and roads that lead no further than the next bottleneck.
Our own culture is buried beneath excuses, inactivity and waste of resources.
- 4.3.4 I don't mind if you don't destroy woods, forests or marshland.
More litter bins for people.
- 4.3.5 I want the prices lower.
- 4.3.6 It would be great to have our own moving image museum, particularly as the British Film Institute aren't going to re-open the one in London. It could also exploit our links with TV, plus offer training on digital video making!
- 4.3.7 I can see big improvements in the Town Centre but – when are you going to run some public transport so that people can come into the town and use the facilities and have a drink, leaving the car at home?
Also - when are we going to get a late night shopping night like most other large towns have had for years?
- 4.3.8 None of this will matter until you can supply employment for all, and good rail and road connections so industry and trade will want to do business here.

- 4.3.9 What plans are there for the "glen" area (Southwater to London Road)? Homes or recreation?
- 4.3.10 On A21 entering the town by bridge there is an excess of rubbish - bags etc. despoiling the verges - can it be cleared?
- 4.3.11 I think that Hastings will never be a safe town. I think that there will never be a future for Hastings. And it will never be a healthier place.
- 4.3.12 Could there be more double yellow lines on intersections? Could there be a roundabout? Brittany Road/Upper Maze Hill junction [illegible] Plus speeding vehicles. Could there be a roundabout at the junction with Pevensey Road as well?
- 4.3.13 Concerned that traffic will use Hollington Park Road.
- 4.3.14 Lack of drainage in Alfred Street.
- 4.3.15 I would like to know the exact route of the SoComms proposed link road on an ordnance survey map, and further implications. (Has a farm on the route.)
- 4.3.16 More than half of the roads in Hastings (minor roads) have not been resurfaced in over half a century; roads are "third world".
There is a major litter problem - get community service for people on probation.
-

4.4 MASTERPLAN MEETING - 26 November

Masterplan Public Meeting, St Mary in the Castle, 26 November 2002, comment sheets

- 4.4.1 The proposal where the triangle area, for the university, I think is not correct. This place is not nice and inspiring. You should choose another area for the University. Why don't you ask the students their opinions? They are going to spend every day, at least 3-5 hours at this place!
Change Hastings Railway Station, it's so ugly!
Is the British Telecom building a nice building to study something that you like in there? I don't think so...
Hastings can be a really nice area if you can change a few things!
Don't turn it into an ugly city!
- 4.4.2 Extend/connect 'Beach Community' to encompass existing beach huts/chalets in West Marina.
See community plan presented to HBC commissioned by West Marina Partnerships 2002, by Neil Choudhury Architects. It would appear that many of the features in the community plan have been adopted for Bulverhythe.
West Marina also has an independent artists complex/gallery – Electro Studios.
Why not build on this by creating more studios / workshops and a permanent Pavilion/Gallery/Cafe?
- 4.4.3 Is the university site in the City Centre really a challenge or is it just an easy way out in order to make a University in Hastings? I have studied in Newcastle where the campus was in the city centre and now in Brighton the campus is outside the centre and one thing is for sure, that a campus outside the centre motivates you to study and work in the University. While when it is in the centre it is a distraction to your studies and you always want to go for a coffee or go shopping!
It seems to me that there is more ambition for economical improvement of Hastings than the ambition to improve the actual town, and this needs to be taken care of otherwise this may never emphasize or might even eliminate the beautiful parts of Hastings, and its function as a city.
- 4.4.4 The dotted line connecting Glyne Gap with the Old Bathing site appears to be a new road. Surely, if we value the beach, why a new road through the only section of beach left that is car-free and people friendly? This stretch of beach must stay an area for walkers, cyclists, etc. Please don't spoil it with a road.
- 4.4.5 Proposed Shammah Community Centre for Hastings Town Centre; a community drop-in meeting place to develop informal and formal groups and activities for local and university folk.
How do we ordinary Hastings residents register our opinions and who will listen?

- How many of the decision makers actually live in the borough of Hastings & St. Leonards? – i.e. what percentage?
Will transport services to and from the Conquest Hospital be improved?
- 4.4.6 This kind of vision will take residents time to 'warm' to.
Glad to see that transport is at the centre of everything. Less road building - more alternative mode provision needed. Keep the Sea Avenue bus/tram/pedestrian/cycle only.
- 4.4.7 You have made the point very clearly that the Country Avenue is designed to contain the urban area, yet you show the Country Avenue north of Hastings running for the most part deep in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. No, please!
- 4.4.8 Stop degrading the Old Town with hideous "Amusements" and don't plan new buildings in the Old Town area.
Why not include the Queen's Hotel in the University Triangle?
If the Pebsham tip is going to be a country park - where is the rubbish going?
Is the Metro running along the present railway and if not where else exactly is it going?
A larger scale map would be helpful with local places marked in relation to the proposals.
Not everyone is near the Metro - any plans for adequate bus transport especially for the Old Town which has no direct service to the Conquest or to West St Leonards? - and the number of cancellations is disgraceful.
The present station building is almost unique in Hastings of it's period (50s?) and more suitable to Hastings than a steel and glass structure. And what has happened to the original paintings which were round the booking hall and were representative of it's period?
- 4.4.9 The planning dept. is going to be very busy and will need to expand it's staff presumably. Will the additional salaries come from local council tax or from a contribution from the regeneration fund?
On-street parking on the roads within the town is a big problem now and restricts free movement of traffic, especially buses. Many properties could use their front gardens to park cars and should come under pressure to do so. "One side only parking" needs to be extended.
- 4.4.10 The proposed university triangle in the railway yard and around Havelock Road will not provide adequate space for a proper university. The train noise will be disruptive. White Rock Gardens and Warrior Square would be a better choice for a University site.
- 4.4.11 A marina has an elevating effect on a sea town. It attracts wealth by virtue of the value of yachts etc. To develop a marina, at say West Marina, would bring a host

of visitors, employment long term and help halt the shingle drift eastwards.
Fulfills the sea theme!

The new station and approach plan by Network Rail is flawed considerably as a 'transport interchange'. How can Network Rail be brought to the table where the plan can be re-addressed by SEEDA, CABE, MBM, HBC and community representatives?

4.4.12 What plans are there for improved entertainments outlets? Much of the success of seaside communities - even just opposite to us in Normandy - is the cafe culture. Outlets cheap and good enough for restaurateurs to make a living and offer good local food for sale. Not beautiful but far too expensive "White elephants". Also arts/carnival/film/theatre/dance?

Is it possible to incorporate a bridle path into the country park and country path?
Concern: Wildlife habitats both flora and fauna. The new proposed "heavy goods" road would appear to ride rough over some very important environments. Have you studied it/made any provision for alleviating damage/re-siting creatures/plants?

4.4.13 Much emphasis was placed on Hastings & St Leonards being on the coast and new building being great architecture, but :-
Where was the preservation of the wonderful architecture we already have - Hastings Old Town, Burtons' St Leonards. Modern tower blocks do not fit in and will dominate.
Landmark buildings are unsympathetic to surrounding areas - will mask views to the sea fishing properties whilst there is much point given to having sea-views for new buildings.
New buildings need to be "in the style of" existing properties.

4.4.14 Need for country way off of ridge and the need for so many roads (5 in all) onto it. Sandhurst Gardens is a privately owned road.

4.4.15 The metro rail is essential. I am concerned that there will not be the financial commitment to build the new stations etc.

4.5 MASTERPLAN BRIEFINGS – 4 December

Masterplan Consultation, Manor Barn, Upper Sea Road, Bexhill on Sea, 4/12/02

- 4.5.1 We draw pupils from a very wide catchment area, will there be improvements to in-coming transport i.e. from Eastbourne, Hailsham, Battle and Rye areas? (governor, St Richards Catholic College, Bexhill)
- 4.5.2 A very good idea, especially if access to the area can be improved. (member Fairlight Parish Council)
- 4.5.3 This is an attractive proposition - improvements for those living there but also the changes will act as a magnet for the area.
Presentations should provide "facts" or at least aim for extra housing numbers and location of shopping development - both areas are presently poorly served. (member, Udimore Parish Council)
- 4.5.4 A very good presentation. Main concern is A21 - businesses need better access. (member, Sedlescombe Parish Council and Rother Association of Local Councils)
- 4.5.5 An assurance that at all stages Crowhurst Parish Council will be properly consulted given the impact the proposals will have on the village.
When is it proposed to build the link road and is this dependant on improvements to the north and east of Queensway.
To thank AZ Urban Studio for agreeing to provide a presentation in Crowhurst in January 2003 (member, Crowhurst Parish Council)
- 4.5.6 Good: Development of Bulverhythe; Accentuating seaside connections of both towns; Landscaping Avenues and disguising development sympathetically.
Concerns: Additional traffic being channeled to the Ridge before improvements on the A21; Reassurances that access to the link road will be such as to actively discourage routes through villages 'rat run' traffic; Flood plain implications to village of Crowhurst. (member Crowhurst Parish Council)
- 4.5.7 We are very concerned that building on the flood plain will increase the risk of flooding in Crowhurst. What will be done to ensure that this does not happen? (Crowhurst Residents)
- 4.5.8 The scheme looks brilliant. I hope the necessary funding really is forthcoming. If it turns out that only one project is possible I hope it will be the link road – everything else hinges on that. A park and ride facility would help a lot, and meanwhile, an improved bus service to the Conquest really is a must. (member Udimore Parish Council)

5 Facilitators feedback

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 This section records the feedback received from an email survey of client groups, organizers and exhibition facilitators on their reactions to the consultation exercise.
- 5.1.2 Questions are given in bold followed by all the responses to that question.

5.2 OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

What was your overall impression of the consultation process? (What do you think worked particularly well and what lessons should we learn for the future? Please also make any suggestions for improvements.)

- 5.2.1 A really encouraging commitment of resources and organisations, optimistic about THE FUTURE of Hastings & St Leonards.
The majority of the questions could all obtain a positive response, but with so many "YES" "AGREE" results, it could be difficult to determine what is a Priority. Perhaps a summary of two/three key Priorities could be given as an option in the future, with a reduction in the number of questions.
- 5.2.2 I thought that overall it was a very good consultation - taking the exhibition out to places such as supermarkets and railway stations was worthwhile. More posters in local shops etc advertising what's going on would be good in the future.
- 5.2.3 Tesco's was a good way of meeting people who wouldn't normally go to an exhibition.
- 5.2.4 This consultation exercise was a step forward in the authorities' process of learning how to consult.

5.3 EFFECTIVENESS OF PARTICULAR ACTIVITIES

Do you have any comments on the effectiveness of particular activities or events?

- 5.3.1 White Rock, perhaps over indulgent for Castle Ward?
- 5.3.2 The consultation at Hollington neighbourhood shop was not effective - only about 15 people turned up over 3 hours - perhaps the event needed greater publicity in the local area before it happened?

5.4 INSIGHTS ABOUT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

Did you gain any particular insights into what people thought generally or about specific proposals, and what were they? What were the main messages you heard?

- 5.4.1 Concern on lack of visible progress on UNIVERSITY - buildings identified, signage etc.
- 5.4.2 Roads - heard it all before?
- 5.4.3 Most people welcomed the fact they were being alerted to possible changes in the future, and most agreed there was a need for change. There was support for the link road from most people I spoke to. Most interest was shown in the MBM plans, particularly the map based on the aerial photo of Hastings and St Leonards.
- 5.4.4 They seemed to be generally positive about everything, but cynical as to whether anything would be delivered. "I'll believe it when I see it".
- 5.4.5 Many residents that I met welcomed the consultation but they all appeared to be healthy, well educated and well motivated people. However, many people appeared to feel excluded. The process assumed a fairly high level of literacy, education and motivation (and also good eyesight) which many people don't have. Also from my experience as a councillor I would say that most residents are more interested in genuinely local issues affecting their street and local neighbourhoods so many may have felt that they weren't being consulted on what issues matter to them, but rather what issues matter to the authorities.

5.5 MESSAGES - WARD OR LOCATION SPECIFIC

Were there any particular messages that were Ward or location specific e.g. West St Leonards/Warrior Square etc?

- 5.5.1 West St Leonards - unsuitable TA Centre and Wood Yard, should be recreational/tourist location.
- 5.5.2 In the central St Leonards/ Gensing consultation local residents consistently expressed concerns about safety issues - both violent crime and burglary were areas where people wanted to see real progress.
- 5.5.3 Some residents were puzzled about the proposals for an arts quarter and the proposed developments in Warrior Square.

5.6 ANY OTHER COMMENTS

Any other comments?

- 5.6.1 The principle of taking exhibitions into the community is excellent but the response will be influenced by how well people understand the material. My concern - having looked at the various displays myself for the first time at St Mary - was that the exhibits appeared as 'blow-ups' of the various leaflets rather than being material prepared for exhibition purposes. There is a difference! - exhibition material needs to be simpler and presented in bite-size chunks and generally less wordy. My impression (albeit from the low turn-out at Hollington) was that the exhibits were not grabbing peoples' attention. Coupled with this was the diversity of the topics, from the 'almost happening' and specific Housing Renewal Area to the distant dream of the masterplan. I am not sure how easily people get their heads round this when the displays are randomly presented. I hope this is not too negative! I am sure it was an outstanding success overall.
- 5.6.2 There was very little real attempt to consult young people in the broadest sense. I know the difficulties of time scale and complexity etc. but:
 - 1. I did suggest when asked early in the process that material was produced to go into schools which could have been part of Citizenship curriculum. If we had been asked earlier we could have undertaken some of this especially with schools councils. For whatever reason there was no consultation stuff in the Youth Information Shop or Xtrax until I took some literature in.
 - 2. The Questionnaire was very difficult and complex and certainly not designed for young people,

3. The idea of Community Consultants was good but in practice 5 members of YPC attended the course but seem very unclear about what they were consulting about. Since the course finished they have not been asked to undertake any consultancy except by me. Was this effective in any way? I would like to know how the trainees will be used?
4. Our own low key event with the children's art competition worked far better than I expected. We could have used this more effectively to talk to children if we had been more prepared with appropriate literature.
- 5.6.3 I am not too sure how well the trained community consultants had been briefed.
- 5.6.4 Its not a major regeneration issue, but a number of people have complained to me (at the exhibition and elsewhere) about the lack of proper traditional decorative seafront lighting. (and I agree- it looks very bare now.)
- 5.6.5 It's very important that more consideration is given to asking people how they want to be consulted and what they want to be consulted on. My experience (from a recent local survey) is that it is possible to achieve a 10% response rate to questionnaires and if the percentage of returns is much less that this for any of the questionnaires delivered through the front door, then the effectiveness of the exercise should be called into question. A low rate of return could suggest that residents didn't feel that the questionnaire was relevant to them or that the questionnaire was badly written/designed.

6 Miscellaneous feedback

6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1 This section contains substantial written comments received from individuals relating to one or more of the plans and strategies that are not easily dealt with in the other appendices.
- 6.1.2 The submissions are listed by date received. Names have been omitted to maintain confidentiality but it may well be that the authors would welcome being identified if the material is made publicly available – for instance on the internet.

02 11 09 HASTINGS OLD TOWN PROMENADE

The Future of Hastings & St. Leonards

Meeting Tuesday 19th November
St Mary's in the Castle, Hastings

1. Regrettably I cannot attend the public meeting but would wish to put a point of view. The brochure on the Future of Hastings & St Leonards which prompted this letter is made up of generalities and not specifics and I believe I can point to a specific need.
2. I enclose a series of overlapping photographs of the 'tourist' end of the promenade taken mid-afternoon in November last year. They were originally taken for a series of paintings I wished to do - entitled Hastings in Winter but adequately make a statement of their own.
3. With the exception of the arcade of amusement machines, the shops and restaurants are boarded up and appear to be unoccupied and will remain that way for another five months. Anyone traveling to Hastings for a day out could be forgiven for thinking they wouldn't bother to come again at this time of year
4. It is obvious that the owners probably take their own holidays at this time, and that the commercial premises are not viable during this period.

5. SO perhaps this is one of the areas which should be looked at to provide all-year-round interest
6. My suggestion is to re-designate the swan boating lake, as an area of cultural interest. I would like to see the smelly and often dirty lake filled in and the site occupied by a building able to cope with a multitude of uses. Perhaps a huge empty space under a tented roof such as the Millennium Dome.
7. We have to THINK BIG so I see The Tate Gallery being invited to mount a winter exhibition a national furniture manufacturer to stage an Ideal Home exhibition, Sotheby's Sunday specialist antique markets, a major motor manufacturer displaying formula 4 racing cars and our very own Boat Show. At the same time as the events are being shown, local theatres and arts groups could make their presence known. Societies such as the English Speaking Union could be invited to host meetings of foreign dignitaries. I'm sure they'd be pleased to spread the word of their unpublicized good deeds for young people in foreign parts. And so on and so on.
8. As long as the events were marketed widely through national cinemas and national newspapers I know these events would bring in hundreds of enthusiasts To accommodate such extra numbers an out-of town car parking allotment would be required with free into-town-and-back coaches to run every 20 minutes. I believe the grand events mentioned would not interfere or detract from existing venues.
9. I'm quite sure the owners of the dwellings in my pictures would not want to miss such rich pickings.
10. I would be pleased to be involved with such an undertaking

21 11 02 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The consultants working on the Hastings regeneration proposals appear to be unsighted as to the importance of integrating natural environment, ecological and green space/wildlife requirements, Statutory and Otherwise, into their strategic plans. The potential for getting it right is there so I would ask you to make an immediate Governmental representation to ensure EU Policy for wildlife and environmental protection is given an equal footing in the present procedures. The situation regarding the Coombe Haven SSSI and Pebsham marsh is a case in point. I would refer you to Hastings Borough Ecologist who has a relevant strategic paper.

Comments on MBM "Towards a Masterplan" for Hastings

I welcome the masterplanning process, and the opportunity to examine new and different visions for Hastings/St Leonards. Some elements are there to be shot at, and some to be refined. Hopefully there is still the opportunity to float new visions.

For all that the masterplan is for Hastings and Bexhill, the two towns have separate identities, which should remain. I will confine my comments to Hastings, except where Bexhill initiatives affect Hastings.

- 1. Overall view**
- 2. Sea Avenue**
- 3. Country Avenue**
- 4. Parks**
- 5. Hill Community**
- 6. Beach Community**
- 7. Housing generally**
- 8. Hastings Station I University / Town Centre**
- 9. Arts community I Creative Quarter**
- 10. Other**
- 11. And finally... new ideas**

1. Overall

The masterplan lacks a single overarching theme (as indeed do the draft Community Strategy, and 5 Point Plan). This should be rectified, although the sub-themes are broadly agreeable.

I suggest something along the lines of; "A town with history that looks to the future".

In terms of history it has (among other things):

- 1066 and all that (see last section of this paper).
- fishing industry.
- architecture and physical: Old Town, St Leonards, parks, seafront.
- social history: America Ground, Decimus Burton, Robert Tressell, tourism.
- Television.
- Arts and arts connections.
-

In terms of the future it has:

- New media.
- Eco-friendliness: Sustainable architecture / millennium communities.
- University Centre.

- The Stade, station, and other physical regeneration initiatives..
- Social regeneration - looking after people.

The masterplan can achieve its aims within this overarching theme.

2. Sea Avenue

Concept can't be applied to whole of sea front - not enough space, too expensive. So need to concentrate on key points: primarily from pier to Stade, and also central St Leonards.

- Pedestrians can co-exist with traffic if it is slow enough. So seafront needs 20-30 mph *physical* limit, set through junctions, parking, crossings, chicanes. But design must avoid causing tail-backs and bottlenecks which are unpleasant to pedestrians. Slow speeds here are also an incentive to use Country Avenue instead.
- Pedestrian access to beach by permeability, not dedicated crossings between railings (as now).
- Creative use of space made by moving parking away from seafront at Pelham Place. Car parking in middle of road, either side of green space.
- Move funfair (excluding "soft activities" like boating lake and crazy golf), or at least redesign.
- Slowly introduce higher-quality retail, instead of amusements. Raise design quality of arcade frontages.
- Warrior Sq / London Road (St Leonards) need representing / linking at seafront.
- Queens Road / Elphinstone Rd route is untenable as alternative route to Old London Road, given new traffic that will be generated by Broomgrove redevelopment anyway (notwithstanding the Metro). Broomgrove traffic west or north needs to be taken outwards first. Proposed road tunnel is not best use of resources even if affordable in the first place.

3. Country Avenue

Initial scepticism has been replaced by guarded support. It meets the twin needs of managing traffic and framing development/expansion.

A standard by-pass would generate more speeding traffic and piecemeal ribbon development of tin sheds and Brookside-style estates. This proposal takes traffic out of the centre, diffusing its impact, and allows for high quality mixed use development - but must be designed so as not to encourage more traffic overall.

- New road route to cause minimum social and environmental disruption - take new traffic off The Ridge, with minimum affect on the countryside, and remedial measures.
- Controlling speeds - new road must be an urban / suburban street, with crossings junction and speed limit to keep traffic below 30-40 mph.
- Development / urban design: need to provide for:
 - new street frontages.
 - mixed density and tenure housing.

- local centre/s at a cluster-point/node eg close to Hospital.
- space for larger industry / commerce (as part of mixed-use where possible, though small trading estate is conceivable).
- Public transport to provide access to centre.
- Deal with bottlenecks, especially around A21 junction.
- Sustainability principles to architecture, landscape and urban design.

[The infamous Stevenage Green Belt expansion c 1999 had some excellent ideas, although it was finally quashed. See also ideas for "green business parks" in Wales, Bristol and elsewhere, and integrated high density mixed use at Beddington Zero-Energy Development (BedZED). Ring me for details.]

4. Country Park & local parks

Country Park with lake should be a local amenity and tourist attraction: boating, artificial beach, horses, cycling (inc. links to town centres), picnic areas, viewpoints. Will take time to implement, since dependent on landfill site reaching limit - this could drag on if compression measures introduced.

So in the meantime it is imperative to improve local green and open space facilities. Community Strategy objective of green / open space within 300m of 90% - if not all - of housing, should be in masterplan. Include pocket parks, play areas for toddlers and teens, piazzas, pooper-scooper bins.

5. Hill Community

Absolutely must build on ideas of Millennium Communities, and sustainability / urban village and BedZED ideas.

- Wilting is in principle a valid urban extension, and the focus around transport node / interchange is right.
- But rocket base / science park appearance is an outdated and jaded view of the future, not best practice in current thinking, and wrong-headed advert for a good but controversial aspect of the plan. What were you thinking?
- At this site, need village feel, natural materials, and - especially - high level of ecological enhancement.
- Also needs to relate to and help improve Robsack/Hollington
- [See among many other things TCPA's "Tomorrows New Communities" entries (late 90s) for "organic" approaches]

6. Beach Community

I can't see Californian approach to beach culture taking off here. If cabins are for temporary / weekend occupation, developers / residents will fear vandalism. If for permanent occupation, needs to be better planned as a community. Railway is a major barrier (physical and psychological) - high density is needed to allow remedial measures.

[Look at Amsterdam's Borneo Sporenberg development, or Alsop's Manchester Cardroom ideas.]

7. Housing generally

Part of my proposed "looking to the future" idea involves best practice sustainable design and construction. Issues include:

- In Hastings there is no excuse for not maximising passive and active solar strategies, and natural ventilation.
- There are also powerful arguments for maximising ecological value of developments, as part of remediation for loss of ecological value of both brownfield and Greenfield sites, and proximity to SSSIs and AONBs.
- Prefabrication / volumetric construction also has its advantages, though it does export labour from local site to distant factory.
- Hastings will and should never have a pre-fab plant - transport links are too poor. Therefore it must take one-off opportunity to develop component manufacture, and local labour for ground-work and assembly / final finish.
- Just because Bexhill's local plan creates commercial and residential zones on north side, doesn't mean masterplan has to. Zoning here may undermine mixed-use approaches around Hastings.

8. Station / University triangle / town centre

Good approach - more attractive than BDP's proposals last year.

- Pedestrian piazza needs to be a stunning urban space, with a life of its own, and reasons to go there apart from as a route to the station.
- Havelock Road and others still need attention, as secondary routes to town centre.
- Tall building as landmark is fine with me, and height pays for quality design. At least, it will if it's for higher value uses than student accommodation. The building must be an inter-nationally recognised symbol of Hastings - it must look more like the new Baltic tower than the old one.

9. Arts Community / Creative Quarter

This is a good approach for St Leonards. But it doesn't need a landmark, so much as seedcorn/pump-priming and cheap property.

- Effort better directed around King Street, loft living over the shops, than Warrior Square itself.
- Gallery/Art Centre in Warrior Square likely to compete with existing foci at St Mary's, Stade, etc.
- Warrior Square needs help, though. I suggest developing it in the long term as high class cafe/bar/bistro/restaurant area. Remove all traffic from at least one side, to allow pavement life to filter into / across the grass. Encourage movement, life and

activity within the green space - performance, busking, play area, sculpture, roller-skating/ice rink. Good access to beach.

Think Placa Real, Barcelona, Brussels central square, Rockefeller Plaza.

10. Other

- Sustainability, ecological and regeneration assessments for all proposals and initiatives.
- New housing based on indigenous growth - natural household formation, and new jobs - not commuting to London.
- Therefore need for new employment areas, to be integrated into mixed-use communities wherever possible. Zones only for unfriendly uses, and then with good links to residential areas.
- Need to build on existing strength in scientific, medical and other high-tech industry - this will provide more employment for current residents (assuming training is there) than small incoming media businesses, however fashionable. (Not that the latter should be neglected, either).

11. And finally... new ideas

A town with a history... Hastings equals 1066. This alone is more heritage than most cities can boast. Hastings should be a regional tourist destination on a par with Portsmouth, Oxford, Canterbury and Windsor. If we can't make the most of 1066, we can't expect to make much of anything else. Unfortunately we make little of it - comparing poorly to Bayeaux, for instance, and even Battle. So I suggest:

1. Major support to the 1066 Experience (including a new name). It must appeal to children and to retired people. Main access via West Hill cliff railway, with "front door", publicity and ticketing at bottom foyer.
2. A Museum of the Millennium - the first millennium. Covering pre-Roman Britain, to 1066. The people, and how they lived: Romans, Saxons, Vikings... The leaders, and what they did: Julius Caesar, Hadrian, Budicca, Alfred the Great, Hereward the Wake, Ethelred the Unready, Edward the Confessor. All those TV programmes in one nationally famous indoor and outdoor museum / park. Located in / north of new Country Park.

. .that looks to the Future: People, environment and technology, working together to provide safe futures for all. This should be represented in all the masterplan and Millennium Village proposals. It can be the recognised symbol of Hastings, to see it into and through the 21st century. It is something all new developments must subscribe to and promote.

1. I am the voluntary reserve manager at Filsham reed-beds LNR, which is part of the Combe haven SSSI.
2. I have been contacted by several local people who have an interest in wildlife and the general environment, they have all expressed concerns over the impact of the master-plan on important wildlife sites, especially the Glyne gap marsh area which is proposed to become a boating lake.
3. Glyne gap marsh is a coastal reed-bed, an important habitat which is listed under the biodiversity plan and is also an SNCI.
4. We were wondering whether the consultants and designers of the master plan were made fully aware of the importance of this area.
5. Bearded tits regularly breed on this site; they are a schedule 1 breeding species, so afforded full legal protection from disturbance and habitat destruction. Other important breeding birds are Reed buntings, Yellowhammer and Water rail which have all declined nationally, with also occasional pairs of Cetti's warblers and possibly Teal.
6. Our group feels that this is a great opportunity to turn the whole area incorporating Glyne gap, Combe haven SSSI up to Marline wood LNR into an important nature reserve. With this incorporating parts of the new countryside park on the Pebsham landfill site, the chance to produce circular walks through important habitats, which can be used to increase education and interpretation facilities of the environment. We also feel that the chance to generate income from eco-tourism seems to have been completely over looked in the plan (this is one of the fastest growing areas of the economy, also people are taking more holidays within the UK), the chance to really promote this area and Hastings in general has not been fully explored. I know of at least one eco-friendly holiday company that has been in touch with the council about basing a holiday in Hastings. There has been a recent trend for bird-watching holidays to be centred on good habitats near towns so non-birding partners and family members can enjoy the other tourist facilities places have to offer. A major reserve that holds over 100 species of birds would be a major boost to the tourism of Hastings.
7. Although I have concentrated on birds I know that there are several scarce and rare insects and plants on the Glyne gap site.
8. If the possibility arises we would like to arrange a meeting to discuss our proposals further.

Comments on the Master Plan and associated information booklets

1. I have been interested in the regeneration of Hastings & St Leonards since I returned in 1983 to live in the town where I was brought up. Hastings is now a much different place to the town I left in 1959, but in some respects the same problems remain. The lack of well paid jobs and poor housing. It always was a lovely town to live in with plenty of green space, the beach and the park and a sense of community. The main difference has been the upsurge in minor crime, drug taking, teenage pregnancies and the great influx of people fleeing from London taking up residence in our once quiet town. In the 60s there were also masses of holiday makers in bed & breakfast and now we mostly have day trippers, language students and hordes of slot machines.
2. The community strategy has a great deal to offer in view of the multitude of problems we now face. I have already filled out and returned all the questionnaires that I have been able to find but would now like to make additional comments representing the many organisations I am privileged to be associated with.
3. The main thrust of regeneration is towards the five most deprived wards that are in the bottom 10% nationally for a number of criteria. Hastings & St Leonards also have wards such as 'Old Hastings' which are in the bottom 20% nationally. It seems harsh that little or no money is available for these wards where there is also obvious deprivation. Throughout the town we need to have projects and play areas where young persons can mix safely with their peers at little or no cost. Adventure parks, skateboard ramps, moguls and purpose built obstacles where they can hone their skateboarding and roller blading skills. Volley ball, beach ball and basket ball pitches are also necessary where youngsters can play. I refuse to believe that a town as big as Hastings with so much public space can not afford to devote some of that space to young people who I understand make up an ever increasing proportion of our population. One skate board ramp at White Rock Gardens is not enough!
4. The new university buildings at Station Yard are imaginative and will provide the iconic buildings that some quarters believe are necessary to attract more and higher spending visitors. We do not need to spend 3-4 million on an icon next to the fishing stade. I also have my doubts about a new arts building in Central St Leonards when we have a magnificent building in St Mary in the Castle which struggles annually to get finding, despite a dedicated body of volunteers. The 'Old Town' has a number of venues used for art exhibitions throughout the summer and which are most highly visible during 'Old Town Week'. The new lighting schemes however at Pelham car park and the Marina building are certainly innovative and represent the modern face of Hastings.

5. Public Transport and transport links to the rest of the world are reminiscent of Victorian times. Rail times to London are little better than the 1850s when rail first came to Hastings. The A21 infamously known as the snail trail is a joke. Despite the dual carriage way as far as Tonbridge the journey times to Bromley or Dartford are the same as when I lived in Dartford and then Orpington thirty years ago. The string of pearls idea of a frequent metro service along the coast is a great idea but must be linked in with buses that are frequent, safe, clean, cheap and on time, otherwise we will all still use our cars when we shop as we then feel safe and have transport we can depend on albeit that we may well continue to suffer longer journey times and vehicular damage with the obscene number of road humps that our money has been wasted on. We do desperately need a relief road of some sort to take away the traffic that congests the sea front.
6. We now live in a multi ethnic and diverse community with a large number of displaced people who have a great deal to offer but are at present not allowed to work lest they breach their terms of 'stay'. There should be some mechanism whereby asylum seekers, economic migrants or even those just overstaying their visas can put back something of economic benefit to themselves and the community. (I write as a member of a large ethnically diverse maritally extended family which includes French, Chinese, Jamaican, Palestinian, Mexican, German, Irish, Welsh and Scot as well as English in our ancestry).
7. The concept of new communities built around existing stations and new metro services has a great deal of merit in that it is utilising brownfield sites as well as building a proportion of social i.e. affordable housing. As these housing areas, of necessity, will in the main be dwellings with little or no garden it is important to set aside green areas which can be used for recreation which should include allotments. I have heard the quote of 4000 to 5000 new homes to be built on brownfield and some green sites over the next thirty years. Nowhere however in all of the strategy documents has there been any mention of **allotments**. Hastings & St Leonards has only 35 acres of allotment land for a population at present of 80,000 plus. The advice of the Allotments Advisory Committee to the Dept of the Environment is that there should be a target provision of 4 acres per 1000 population. A brief glance at a large scale map of only 50 years ago compared with the present day would show that the provision of allotment sites has drastically declined. The present Local Borough Plan shows provision for housing on three former allotment sites. Where is the future provision for allotments to service the 4 to 5 thousand new homes projected?
8. The question of health is extremely important. Hastings was chosen as one of five areas nationally to pilot the Five-A-Day Scheme to promote the benefits of healthy eating in order to reduce obesity, colon cancer and the poor health

associated with poor diet. Allotments are the sure fire way to help meet all the targets. Allotments provide healthy, organic food, regular exercise and mental well being for people from all walks of life, combined with the opportunity to recycle many kinds of domestic waste. These are just a few of the benefits. Unfortunately many modern people are deterred from taking up this therapeutic and sustainable community activity because of the poor security of allotment sites and consequent vandalism, the overgrown state of vacant plots and generally poor facilities.

9. Allotments are part of our cultural and social activity and for the hundreds of allotment gardeners in this town, their families and friends, allotments are part of the fabric that makes Hastings what it is. Allotments must be included in the regeneration programme, with substantial funding being allocated to ensure that they are securely fenced, well maintained and well advertised. The appointment of a dedicated allotment manager should be considered to ensure that sufficient time is allocated to allotments and funding is spent appropriately.
10. In conclusion I must emphasize that to be an inclusive town all areas should be assisted in the provision of community facilities such as the Ice House project, better play facilities for all our youngsters, and more funding for allotments.

The Future of Hastings & St Leonards

1. Improving Health - Health is one of the target areas which should be promoted by healthy eating and exercise. We already have the resources in the town – allotments - which could be used. I would like to suggest that the council puts adequate funding into allotments making them an enjoyable, safe and productive part of the community. As Secretary of the Allotments Federation I can report that members have spent considerable amounts of their own time and expense improving allotments around the town. This is in addition to work we carry out on our own allotment gardens helping to keep uncultivated plots cut to prevent weed scatter and constantly being on hand to help gardeners with any problems they have with their plot or with Council Administration. I attach a copy report itemising my estimated time spent on allotment matters. I would also add, that I work; therefore, this extra work I do is in my leisure time.
2. Quality of Life - Once again, I strongly recommend that the Council allocate adequate funds into looking after allotments which provide quality of life for participants, their families and the community at large. At the moment, a few individuals who constantly vandalise, steal and, in one instance, physically abuse gardeners are undermining this quality of life. I feel very strongly that as a woman working on my plot alone I am unable to go to the allotment on a summer afternoon or evening because of people trespassing onto the gardens. I have been intimidated and verbally abused when asking them to leave the site and I feel that my rights are being infringed.
3. A Healthier Town should include better access to a healthier lifestyle - again, allotments fit the bill. Come and visit us at Collier Road (top of the West Hill) to get some idea of the difficult conditions in which we try to garden. Despite our problems, I believe we give the locals and visitors to the West Hill a positive image of Hastings. I would ask the Council to support and publicise the more simple ways of living; we re-use, recycle and create a wonderful productive environment. I would expect a Labour Council to support our strong tradition of self-help.
4. In an aging population, I feel that gardening can be an activity the over 50s can adopt to keep fit, eat well and socialise with like-minded people. It is an interest which promotes continuous learning and innovation and can be carried out every day of the year.
5. The Masterplan - I am worried about the Government's amendments to the planning laws to fast-track development. I feel that under-cultivated allotment land could be used for development because the gardeners have been

intimidated and left their plots. The Council must realise that allotments are not brown field sites and should be classed as valuable green space. Indeed, many allotments are sites of special wildlife interest.

6. Millennium Community - I would agree that areas could be improved by planting trees; however, in an area like Halton, any improvements are likely to be immediately vandalised or choked by litter. 1066 Housing has recently created parking bays for their Halton Flat residents but left the whole neighbourhood open to rubbish blowing around the streets and into our front gardens. We have had a number of car arson attacks and the feeling is that the neighbourhood has gone from bad to worse. I have been taking photos as a record of the decline of this neighbourhood. I would like to know what the Council will do for us. When I visit other areas which are so-called 'needy' and in receipt of Regeneration Grants, I can't see that they are in a worse state than Halton. We have a number of youths who ride noisy scooters which tear through the streets, through the flats onto Priory Road regularly at 11.30/midnight. I have lived in this area for 22 years and have witnessed its further decline over the past few years. I would like to see a police/local warden presence in the area. I do not invite my family to Hastings any more because they are from 'nice' rural areas and are horrified by the rubbish, dogs mess and general hostility of the local youths.
7. **Transport** - Where shall I start! You must be aware that the public transport system in Hastings is abysmal. Stagecoach should be made to reinstate buses (e.g. 32, 34) recently cut. Their buses are poorly maintained and dirty. The trains are not much better. Both systems are very expensive and, indeed, I was unable to take up offers of employment because of the lack of public transport available to get me to work early enough on the weekend. If we want to get people out into the town in the evenings, we need a better bus service. I no longer attend evening classes because of the poor bus service to Halton. Hastings Rail Station is awful and has been so for many years. I tend to walk everywhere if I can but find that this experience can be very negative. The pavements are broken, many car drivers now park on the pavement and cyclists use pavements to cut through the traffic.
8. Local democracy - I have failed to find out how the council works. I have been looking out for one of your informative talks in my local neighbourhood but guess I may have missed it. I don't understand the Cabinet system and feel that it is an elite making all the decisions about the town which then has to be sanctioned by the council officers who I see as the real power in Hastings. I am thinking that despite all your best efforts, our feedback and interest in the future of Hastings, the Officers have already drawn up the plans. I wonder if you are able to assure me that local democracy lives.
9. I look forward to receiving your comments.

10 12 02 ROADS

Dear Sirs,

1. Three proposals have been promulgated during the last week:
2. The First concerns the A21 Road Improvements to Hastings by the Highways Agency. There was an exhibition last week at The Bewl Water Visitor Centre which was excellent. Briefly, they are proposing a dual carriageway from the southern end of the Pembury by-pass to include a by-pass for Lamberhurst to the existing dual carriage way towards Flimwell, to include the Lamberhurst by-pass which is due to be started next year. Then a three-lane carriageway south of Flimwell to connect with the Robertsbridge by-pass. The only comments I would have about this southern part is that it will only be a 3 lane carriageway and will have 3 or 4 roundabouts on it. I think Hastings deserves a better road connection and this road will soon become overloaded. No mention has been made, as far as I am aware, to upgrade the short 2 mile link between the Pembury and Tonbridge by-passes, a travesty of modern planning which causes so much delay, frustration and danger.
3. The second concerns the East - West connections between Hastings and Bexhill and on to Eastbourne. This was the subject for a poorly advertised and attended meeting at the De La Warr Pavilion last Wednesday. The proposal is for a Northern Approach Road to Bexhill from Queensway, across the Crowhurst Marsh and down the London Road into Bexhill. This will involve a hugely expensive viaduct across the Marsh and will severely impinge on the wildlife in the area of the Coombe. This was the main reason for the abandonment of the Bexhill by-pass 3 years ago and they wish to re-instate it in their plans. It will not take very much of the traffic from Bexhill into Hastings from Bexhill or Eastbourne and westwards at all. A much better proposal is the idea of a link from an enlarged roundabout at Glyne Gap on the unused field there with a road going north eastwards towards the Pebsham tip, along the south side of this and round the eastern end of it, between it and the Coombe Haven Caravan Park and then northwards across the extreme eastern end of the Coombe Haven. It would go underneath the railway to connect with the Queensway near the pond/reservoir.
4. This road would cause little or no intrusion to anybody and would relieve the Bexhill Road St Leonards and Harleyshute Road of a very large part of their traffic. It is far shorter, cheaper and much more useful than the proposed route through Pebsham and Worsham. This road would cause little or no intrusion to anybody and would relieve the Bexhill Road St Leonards and Harleyshute Road of a very large part of their traffic. It is far shorter, cheaper and much more useful than the proposed route through Pebsham and Worsham farms. The proposed housing schemes would be much better served by this as well with a short link to the roundabout from Pebsham Lane. It would remove a lot of the cause of the congestion in the De La Warr Road, Bexhill which largely arises because traffic cannot get away from it at the present roundabout. But some improvements to the

Road itself as well would be very helpful so that it could carry extra traffic.

5. There is, however, one good feature proposed: a railway station by the beginning of Crowhurst Lane just where the bridge crosses the railway. It would be hoped that this will have a large car park for commuters, and a park-and-ride facility.
6. The third proposal is to improve the centre of Bexhill, which was also discussed at the meeting, albeit rather briefly. The main thrust of this is to clear traffic away from Devonshire Square. But no major sensible proposals are being made for car parking. The only sensible proposal that I have ever seen made is for a multi-storey carpark over the railway lines with the entrance from Station Road. The car parking in Bexhill at present is quite inadequate, especially for short visits to the Bank or other brief places in the town centre, and for people who work there. There is clearly nothing like enough space in St Leonard's Road, Endwell Road and Station Road for car parking, so it seems that more car parking space is essential to ensure the prosperity of the centre of Bexhill.
7. No proposals, so far as I am aware, have ever been made for a good road between Baldslow, North Hastings, where the A21 meets The Ridge, and Brenzett, to connect with the A2070 for Ashford and the Channel Ports and Tunnel. And none are proposed at the present time for roads westward to connect with Eastbourne and Brighton and the West. These connections would be vital for the economy of the South East, and our area in particular. The only major unanswered problem really is how to get through traffic east to west, from the tunnel and channel ports westward across the country, and link up communities like ours, with the others in Sussex and Hampshire and at the same time some of the load off the hopelessly overloaded M25. I am sure this is going to be the essential top priority in the not too distant future and extension of the M27 both Eastward and Westward is really the only way to go about this.
8. I think that all these proposals need much more consideration and it will be very interesting to see what transpires. It seems to me that to go into very complicated and expensive schemes locally, all in one foul swoop, would be unnecessarily expensive and take far too long to bring to fruition, whereas the local communities first and dire need is to improve the roads so that people and business can move about without wasting so much time in the first place. Why build more roads when the ones we have, with a little common sense, can be made to do what we have all been screaming for?