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| ESSP new without graphic | **Meeting Notes****Tuesday 25 April 2017** **Memories Room, Hastings Pier, Hastings**  |

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| **IN ATTENDANCE** |

**ESSP Members present:**

Carole Dixon SpeakUp Representative

Cllr. Chris Dowling East Sussex County Council

Steve Manwaring (Chair) SpeakUp Representative

Cllr. Carl Maynard Rother District Council

Cllr. Elayne Merry Lewes District Council

David Padwick Sussex Police

Michael Turner Environment Agency

Dawn Whittaker East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

**Also in attendance (official observers):**

Shabana Bayjou Hastings Borough Council

Sarah Feather East Sussex County Council

Jane Hartnell Hastings Borough Council

Beth McGhee East Sussex County Council

Becky Shaw East Sussex County Council

Jo Stewart (for introduction only) Hastings Pier

Andy Arnold (speaker) East Sussex County Council

Jon Wheeler (speaker) East Sussex County Council

**Apologies for absence**:

Peter Archer Federation of Small Businesses

Gill Cameron-Waller Wealden District Council

Cllr. Kim Forward Hastings Borough Council

Cllr. Keith Glazier (Vice-Chair) East Sussex County Council

Liz Mackie (Speaker) Healthwatch East Sussex

Andrea Saunders National Probation Service

Ashley Scarff High Weald, Lewes & Havens CCG

Caroline Sharp Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (Seetec)

Cllr. Andy Smith Lewes District Council

Cllr. Bob Standley Wealden District Council

Mark Streater Police and Crime Commissioner Office

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| **NOTES** |

1. **Introduction – Jo Stewart, Hastings Pier Charity**

Steve invited Jo Stewart, Chief Executive of Hastings Pier Charity, to give an introduction. Jo spoke about the challenges the Pier had faced in its first year of business and the Heritage Fund bid that has been made to enable turnaround in the Pier’s second year. Thanks to partnership working with Local Authorities and Sussex Police, the Pier now has capacity for 4000 people and can host bigger acts and events. A full programme of events for the summer is being developed and there are several well-known acts booked for this year. Businesses on the Pier, including catering provision, are in the process of being reviewed to improve flexibility and the offer to visitors.

1. **Welcome, Apologies and Urgent items of business**

Steve Manwaring welcomed ESSP members, delegates, observers, guests and speakers to the meeting and apologies were given. As Elizabeth Mackie had had to send apologies for the meeting, Steve informed attendees that item 4 on the agenda on the Locality Engagement Project would be rescheduled for another meeting.

Steve welcomed two new members to the Partnership; Dawn Whittaker, the new Chief Fire Officer of East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and Carole Dixon, Chief Executive of Education Futures Trust who will alternate with Alan Bruzon, Eastbourne Citizens Advice Bureau Manager to represent SpeakUp. Dawn informed the ESSP that it was Drowning Prevention Week and celebrated the Pier for providing a safe and accessible site for anglers to fish.

There were no urgent items of business.

**3) Notes of the meeting held on 9 February 2016 and Matters Arising**

The minutes, including subsequent amendments, were agreed as an accurate record and an update on actions from the meeting was received.

**4) Locality Engagement Project - Liz Mackie, Healthwatch East Sussex**

This item is to be rescheduled.

**5) Transport Update – Jon Wheeler, ESCC**

Steve introduced Jon Wheeler, ESCC Strategic Economic Infrastructure Manager, to provide an update on strategic transport developments in East Sussex.

Jon’s presentation covered: the range of local and national strategic plans that underpin transport developments to deliver economic growth in East Sussex; current and planned road improvements; consultations on local and regional road, rail and aviation plans; details of the East Sussex Highways contract and 2017/18 Community Match scheme; and ESCC’s successful bid to the Department for Transport for £1.2m over the next three years to deliver cycling and walking initiatives. Jon also provided an update on progress to develop a Sub-National Transport Body for the South East, a statutory body with multi-agency representation that will develop a Transport Strategy and specify investment priorities for strategic road and rail networks. The planned timetable intends for the body to be established following Parliamentary sign-off in spring 2019.

A discussion followed in which Cllr. Merry asked what considerations had been made into improving capacity on the Newhaven Ring Road and A259. Jon outlined that plans are underway to link traffic lights on the Newhaven Ring Road to improve the flow of traffic, and that improved public transport and increase in uptake of cycling and walking are being encouraged to improve the efficiency of the A259, particularly in light of the planned housing developments in Newhaven, Seaford and Peacehaven. The challenges in improving both of these stretches of road were noted due to development restrictions in the South Downs National Park. Dawn Whittaker welcomed the improvements being made to the East Sussex road network and noted the importance of an efficient and reliable road infrastructure to enable East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service to work successfully. David Padwick asked for an update on reinstatement of the Uckfield to Lewes rail line and Jon outlined that ESCC are supportive of reinstatement and are building an economic case to submit to Government.

**ACTION: ESSP to endorse Rother District and Hastings Borough Councils’ response to the planned consultation on train travel into East Sussex.**

**6) Environment Strategy Update – Michael Turner, Environment Agency**

Steve introduced Michael Turner, Environment Agency, to deliver a presentation on progress to deliver the East Sussex Environment Strategy.

Michael reminded the Partnership that the ESSP adopted the Environment Strategy for East Sussex in July 2011. The Strategy brings together the high level aims and objectives of a wide range of organisations into one shared, long-term strategic environmental plan for the county, running to 2026.

Michael then ran through the key points to note from progress made in 2016-17 and an overview of the proposed action plan for 2017-18. Of the 28 actions in the 2016-17 action plan:

* the majority have been completed;
* a higher number than in previous years have been started but not completed, so have been carried forward in the 2017-18 plan;
* only two were not delivered. This was due to a lack of resources in one instance and the other due to technical constraints.

That a higher number of actions than usual have been carried forward into the 2017-18 action plan, illustrates that many of the actions are part of a longer-term programme of sustained activity, particularly where the actions are either addressing a complex issue or trying to reverse a trend of long term environmental decline, for instance in trying to improve the quality of groundwater.

Michael talked through the data on local environmental quality, to highlight areas where quality is getting better, where it’s getting worse, some of the possible reasons for changes in quality, and what partners are doing to address problem areas.

Finally, Michael highlighted the future challenges and opportunities. One key opportunity is the Government’s 25 year Environment Plan, which is due to go out to consultation this year. Michael stated that ESCC is likely to respond to the consultation and would very much welcome the views of ESSP partners in formulating its response.

**ACTION: Sarah Feather to liaise with Michael Turner and Andy Arnold on the response to the Government’s Environmental Plan due out for consultation later this year.**

**7) Any Other Business**

Steve reminded the Partnership that the East Sussex Annual Assembly would take place on 7 November 09.30am-12.30pm and that the main theme that has been put forward is to focus on crime and safety. Steve emphasised the importance of not replicating other work if this theme is pursued and asked members to forward any other ideas to Sarah and Beth within the next month.

**ACTION: All ESSP members to note the Assembly times and forward ideas to Sarah/Beth for the content/theme within the next month.**

**8) Future Meetings:**

* Thursday 6th July 2017, 10am, Hailsham Civic Community Hall
* East Sussex Annual Assembly, Tuesday 7th November 2017, 09.30am-12.30pm, Eastbourne International Lawn Tennis Centre

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|  **SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS –**  |
| **Item** | **Action** |
| 5 | Sarah Feather to liaise with Jon Wheeler on ESSP endorsing Rother District and Hastings Borough Councils’ response to the planned consultation on train travel into East Sussex. |
| 6 | Sarah Feather to liaise with Michael Turner and Andy Arnold on ESSP endorsing the County Council’s response to the Government’s Environmental Plan due out for consultation later this year. |
| 7 | All ESSP members to note the Annual Assembly will take place on Tuesday 7th November and to adjust their diaries to reflect the 9.30-12.30 timings.All ESSP members to forward any ideas for the assembly to Sarah/Beth for consideration by end of May 2017. |

A copy of all the presentations from the meeting can be found on the ESSP website ([http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports](http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports/ESSP/2016)).