SHOREHAM BEACH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 1st, 2025, at 12 Noon

Held at the Church of the Good Shepherd Hall.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2. **Chairman's welcome – Cllr Joss Loader:**

Joss welcomed Tom Rutland MP and the Friends of Beach Green and Shoreham Beach Scouts' representatives. Approximately, 65 residents attended.

3. **Approval of the AGM Minutes for 2024**

Proposed by: John Charlish Seconded by: Chris Bohea. Minutes were approved.

4. **Tom Rutland MP:** Tom gave a short history of his career prior to being elected as our MP. Since the election, it has taken some time to set up his office in Lancing. He is now holding surgeries at farmers' markets, and various other venues. Recently, he has updated himself with issues at both Worthing & Southlands Hospitals and met with the management of Southern Water and found himself coming to grips with the bureaucracy at WSCC in Chichester.

He spoke briefly about Unitary Authorities and implied they should improve local services for Council Taxpayers. He believes that many localised services should become better-served with the changes in local authority structure.

Finally, he confirmed that he had just visited the Leonard Cheshire Home, locally and updated himself with issues.

Tom then responded to three written questions of which he'd had prior notice and gave his answers. After that he took verbal questions from the floor offering a wide range of concerns, many relating to the apparent over-development of Shoreham town, especially beside the river and into the town itself.

Prior to fielding various questions affecting the town, Tom had already responded to three written questions:
1. "Why are we being denied our opportunity to vote in the May Council Elections? The alternative scheme has not even been published/agreed as yet. Are you expecting citizens to pay tax without democratic elections?"
A: A written reply will be sent to Mr Featherstone, but Tom explained the rationale behind postponing county elections. Mayoral elections will be held in 2026.
2. "Can the existing bus service to Shoreham Beach be improved?"
A: Bus regulation is down to WSCC. In the meantime, SBRA is going to organise a petition calling on the Council to improve the services.
3. "Since the last election, Government spokesmen and Labour backbenchers refer to the previous government in terms of "the last fourteen years". As a reminder, during that period of14 years, the World's countries suffered from the Covid pandemic. And it is that word "pandemic" that Labour never seems to mention! However, Britain was the first country to develop a viable anti-Covid vaccine. And, subsequently, Britain became one of the first countries to vaccinate its entire population to begin a recovery from Covid's universal damage. That, necessarily, cost billions of pounds. More so, that vaccine was developed by a British company – Astra-Zeneca - with co-operation from Oxford University. Recently, A-Z has invested £1billion in a new, cutting-edge, open-access research centre in Liverpool, to become a leader in modern cancer research treatments. But it appears that our Prime Minister has cut support for this project, and to date he has yet to visit the new, start of the art facility.
So, what can you say to assure us that this Government is serious about backing British, world-class companies and encourage them to remain in Britain when they would be welcomed with open arms by the likes of the USA or Europe? Or does it mean that the Government doesn't need to fully understand commerce because it can rely on its support from the Trades Unions, and can increase the burden of taxation on its citizens and World beating companies?"
A: I am aware of £3Billion of investments in train at present, I fully acknowledge the issues and I want to develop a good relationship with the NHS workforce.
4. "I appreciate there are costs involved making changes to parking on the roads/pavements etc. However, is there anything that can be done to stop parking on pavements where other parking restrictions do not exist? The beach pavements become so blocked up during the summer months, but wardens can't ticket pavement parkers unless they're adjacent to yellow lines"
A: Banning pavement parking would require changes to primary legislation.

5. **Cllr Kevin Boram** sent apologies, as he was attending his daughter's wedding. He provided the following written report:

Potholes are being repaired quicker and the campaign to repair the roads prior to this winter appears to have had some positive impact. I am not satisfied by the quality of road markings and I know this is creating safety and enforcement issues. Whilst I have raised this with the cabinet member for action, please assist me in reporting any issues to WSCC.
After the debacle of a lack of communication from West Sussex to parents and primary schools about senior school places and me raising this in council, this matter is much improved. Adur has always about 40% more children than senior school places within the district, so historically children have always attended schools in Worthing and Brighton. I find it difficult to justify the increase in the number of places in Adur given the significant reduction of children in both Worthing and Brighton leading to excess places in those areas.
Finally, devolution. I have already publicly stated that Adur is being served by county and district councils that are able to deliver balanced budgets and deliver a reasonable service. The unitary authority we find ourselves in must be both financially sustainable and be able to provide the quality of service this community needs and expects. The financial position and performance of some adjoining councils has much to be desired. We must also have a strong community

	voice, whether that is by a town council or a unitary authority with a strong community led organisation structure. Shoreham's voice must continue to be clearly heard.
6.	**Cllr. Joss Loader: Marine Ward**: Joss invited the relatives of residents leaving at the Leonard Cheshire-owned home at Beach Green to update the meeting. The meeting pledged its support for the residents and families. She also invited the Chair of Trustees at Shoreham Beach Scout Group, and their treasurer, to update the meeting about the proposals to create a new Scouts' HQ in the former angling hut in King's Walk. Again, the meeting pledged support. SBRA has already donated £1k towards refurbishment. Joss updated the meeting re devolution proposals from the Government, In summary, devolution will mean devolving powers from Westminster to an elected Mayor representing the whole of Sussex. Our current two-tier system, comprising Adur and Worthing Councils and West Sussex County Council, will cease to exist. We're still thin on detail but we do know the following: The West Sussex County Council elections scheduled for May are cancelled. Mayoral elections are expected next year. The Government wants combined authorities to provide strategic leadership on issues including highways and transport; housing; economic growth, environment and climate change, health and public safety. At the same time as devolving powers, the Government is also seeking to create unitary authorities to replace districts and borough councils, such as Adur. We are unsure how this will look and whether our Shoreham Beach ward (Marine) will disappear in favour of a larger electoral division. One option could be to retain the WSCC division of Shoreham South. This obviously raises issues about our long tradition of returning independent councillors on the Beach. We will update as soon as we know more. Meanwhile, ADC is likely to continue until 2028, continuing to run day-to-day services including refuse collection, planning and parks maintenance. All partner local government organisations across Sussex are discussing how the new-look unitary authorities might look, with further details expected before the end of this month (March). Whatever happens, Cllr Julia Watts and I will continue to represent Beach interests until the new arrangements are confirmed and elections held. Public toilets – We had a meeting with the Cabinet Member and he saw for himself the run-down state of the Beach Green toilets. WE are pushing for renovations. The Fort toilets were deep cleaned. Service road behind the beach huts and boardwalk improvements – Both schemes are well underway, funded by the Govt's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. **Cllr Julia Watts** Julia has received a few emails over the last couple of years about the state of the four planting areas just south of the Ferry bridge. The ones directly adjacent to the car park are maintained by Adur District Council and largely look tidy. The other four technically belong to WSCC but were at one point maintained by Adur District Council who really don't have the resources to maintain land that isn't theirs (this of course is a problem that devolution might solve!) A meeting is planned with ADC to agree logistics. She has also spoken to Transition Town Shoreham and various proposals are on the table. She would like to recruit a small team of volunteers to form a gardening group. I have met some members of Transition Town Shoreham and also The Silver Birch Project. Various proposals are now on the table. A signup sheet was available at the door for the gardening group. Our local plan: One of the working groups Julia attends as a Councillor relates to Adur's Local Plan. This is a comprehensive document which sets out the framework for development for the next 15 years. The Council has decided to go ahead with completing the plan despite the reorganisation of Councils on devolution as the area still needs a plan regardless of the local government structure. It may mean completing the plan under the new rather than old rules which in practical terms means it might not be finished entirely until 2028. However, the detail of the plan is going ahead at pace. We have a list of sites forward and proposed for the Strategic Land and Housing Availability Assessment . This is likely to be reduced following the Flood Risk Assessment which is in progress. Adur's unmoderated minimum housing target set by central government is 558 every year for 15 years which would not be attainable if we built on every park and green space in the district so some compromise will need to be made. **Fishing line bins** We have been approached via the Angler's Trust and the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme who have offered to install and empty pipe bins attached to existing signs to recycle fishing lines and hooks etc.
7.	**Treasurer's report** Julia presented the finance sheet in Val's absence. Both a Proposer and Seconder were requested from the floor to approve the Annual Accounts, subject to auditing as follows. These were duly agreed. Joss then asked the meeting to approve the re-appointment of Mr Mike Watts as Examiner of Accounts for SBRA. This was approved unanimously by show of hands.
8.	**Re-appointment of SBRA Committee as follows:** Joss Loader, Julia Watts, Joyce Willson, Joan Moore, Pat Hand, Joshua Baxendale, John Bradshaw, David Johnson

	THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1.35 PM