



## **Ore Valley Forum**

Ore Centre

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### **Annual Report and Accounts 2012/13**

Financial report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

Annual report for the period July 2012 to June 2013

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## OFFICERS' REPORT

The officers present the annual report and financial statements summarising the work of the Ore Valley Forum and its Special Interest Groups. The financial report is for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, and the annual report covers the period July 2012 to June 2013. Minutes of the executive committee meetings, which are available on request, provide more details.

The **Ore Valley Forum** is an unincorporated group. It is not registered as a charity, and its governing document is its constitution.

**Committee members** for the year under review were:

Georgiana de Lussy (Chair)	Cllr T Fawthrop (until May 2013)	Zoe Jackson
Cllr Warren Davies (Vice-Chair)	Gill Fulton	Rev Chris Key
Ron Bennett (Treasurer )	David Funnell (Life Member)	Cllr Jay Kramer
Esther de Angelis	Philippa Gasson	Claire Power
Craig Atkins	Jackie Gaunt	Sam Sankey
Cllr Jeremy Birch	Lauren Gaunt	Cllr Richard Street
Cllr Peter Chowney	Pauline Hyland (Life Member)	Cllr Mike Turner
Val Clarke	Aubrey Ingleton	Cllr Michael Wincott

Jan Papworth HBC attended committee meetings until her retirement from the council in March 2013. We shall miss her constructive help and support at forum meetings.

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank plc, Hastings     **Independent Examiner:** Chris Whelan MAAT, MCIE

### Objects

The objects of the forum are for the benefit of the community resident or working in the local authority wards of Baird, Ore and Tressell in Hastings, East Sussex, and are:

- promoting social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or part of society, as a result of being a member of a socially or economically deprived community;
- developing the capacity and skills of the members of the community in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society; and
- relieving poverty, advancing education and promoting the good health of people within the community.

### **Committee activities**

The 2012 AGM decided that the frequency of executive committee meetings would be reduced from monthly to every other month to ease the load on the forum's officers. Meetings rotate between Broomgrove Community Centre, The Bridge, Ore Centre, The Hastings Academy and Sussex Coast College Hastings' Ore Valley campus. No nominations were received for the role of Secretary or Deputy Treasurer at the 2012 AGM and during the year the task of taking notes of meetings has been undertaken by volunteers from the executive committee.

#### Representation on other bodies

Forum representatives attend Hastings Community Network (HCN) and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) meetings. The forum has automatic places on these bodies. The committee is also represented on: Hastings & Rother Adult & Community Learning Forum; Hastings & St Leonards Learning & Skills Research Partnership; East Hastings Children's Centre Local Advisory Body (now Hastings Cluster Local Advisory Body); and Hastings Fisheries Local Action Group. Through membership of HCN we have representation on The Hastings Academy Local Advisory Board and the Children's Services Planning Group.

The forum is a signatory to the Hastings & St Leonards Equality and Human Rights Charter.

#### East Hastings Area Management Board

All area management boards were closed in November 2012 following a decision by Hastings Borough Council to withdraw support in order to save money because of public expenditure cuts imposed by the government. Community representatives in east Hastings agreed in January 2013 to continue meeting for a trial period of a year with responsibility for hosting meetings

rotating between various groups. The forum will host one meeting during 2013/14.

#### Presentations to the committee

In 2012 committee members were shown around the construction site of the The Hastings Academy's new building. The March 2013 meeting of the executive committee was held in the newly opened building and executive committee members were taken on a guided tour by the Vice-Principal.

Jane Cave of St Michaels Hospice presented the Hospice Neighbours scheme to the committee in January 2013.

Calvin Humphreys – Community Organiser in North East Hastings – explained his role to the committee in March 2013.

### **Finance**

Overall the forum remains in a relatively healthy financial position with £10,251 in the general fund and £855 in ring-fenced funds – a total of £11,106 at the end of the financial year. There was no income to the general accumulated fund or to restricted funds.

A three-year budget approved at the 2011 AGM is in place designed to keep the main functions of the forum going while its future is decided. At the year's end, expenditure from general funds of £8,439 was £1,245 under the budget of £9,684. This was because the future financial uncertainty dictated a cautious approach and although grants were paid to the organisations requesting them, applications for grants were not actively encouraged.

Office and storage space is at full cost to the forum but administrative and running costs have been kept to a minimum. We have no equipment with any residual value and we incurred no maintenance costs. In 2012/13 youth work was the main beneficiary of grants from the forum.

In March 2013, with the prospect of no new money coming into the forum in the 2013/14 financial year, the committee agreed that a limit of £5,000 should be set for all running costs and grants in the financial year to March 2014 with no further grants being made from the forum's general funds after that. This will leave roundly £5,000 for running the forum in a representational role up to March 2017 by which time the Big Local programme (see below) will be well established and the future of the forum can again be reviewed.

The Independent Examiner's Report is at Annex A and the accounts are at Annex B. A full list of grants is attached as Annex C.

#### Big Local

In early 2012 an area bounded by Downs Farm, Red Lake, Harkness Drive, Broomgrove and Halton flats was given £1m by Big Lottery under a programme known as Big Local administered by Local Trust. The aim of the 10-year programme is that:

- communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them;
- people will have increased skills and confidence so that they can continue to identify and respond to local needs in the future;
- the community will make a difference to the needs it priorities; and
- people will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

An interim steering group (ISG) was set up in September 2012 which appointed Orbit South as its Trusted Organisation for the 'getting started phase'. The Trusted Organisation holds the funds, liaises with Local Trust and supports the interim steering group with other tasks.

The ISG decided to contract out some of the start-up phase work and following a

competition, an agreement was signed on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013 with a consortium led by Hastings Voluntary Action. The first of a series of events to engage with residents was held at the 2013 Ore Village Fair. A web site, email address and Twitter account have been established to help circulate information and gather views. The web site is [www.biglocalnortheasthastings.co.uk](http://www.biglocalnortheasthastings.co.uk)

The consortium will present a report on its work to the ISG in August 2013 which will include recommendations to help the ISG form a resident-led partnership to agree a profile of the area, a vision for the area and an expenditure plan for submission to Local Trust. It is hoped that Local Trust will approve the plan by early 2014.

#### **Special Interest Groups**

Education The main work of this group has been done through active participation in various groups across the town promoting learning and skills for all age groups.

#### Environment

The forum continues to support its Environmental Special Interest Group which works in the green space; more volunteers would be welcome. Aubrey Ingleton keeps the committee updated on Ore in Bloom and Ore Community Land Trust events. The forum is the main sponsor for the Ore Village Fair. In September 2012 it was agreed to relinquish the allotment the forum rented at Fernbank as there were insufficient volunteers to keep it going.

#### Ex-Millennium Community land

Concern about lack of information on the management and redevelopment of what was the Millennium Community land continued throughout the period of this report. Despite the successful development of phase 1 near Ore Station, Bellway Homes decided against proceeding with phase 2 because of doubts

about the viability of the scheme. The good news is that a pharmacy and two doctors' surgeries will be built on the vacant plot in phase 1 adjacent to the college building.

#### Health & Social Care

Aubrey Ingleton has represented the forum at various meetings about health and adult social care informing the executive committee about the stream of developments which will affect our residents. There is continuing concern about the poor health outcomes in our area many of which have not improved significantly for a number of years.

#### Planning

The forum has supported its Planning Special Interest Group by paying the hire charges for its meetings at Broomgrove Community Centre. The Group discusses a range of planning issues affecting the area.

Speckled Wood is in the borough council's Development Management Plan as protected open space which is welcome. The compulsory purchase of the Malvern pub site is still on-going and a Public Inquiry is expected in July 2013.

The footpath across the Broomgrove allotment site was finally reopened in March 2013 but without the lights being replaced. A new planning application has been submitted for houses on the Ore Business Park site (off Farley Bank) but many are of the opinion that the land would be better used to provide employment.

Forum representatives participated in discussions about the future of land at the top of the old Church Road and Clifton Road, owned by the Homes and Communities Agency.

Two new developments in Ore Village are proving contentious: Tesco's intention to put a Tesco Express store in the vacant

Oddfellows pub, and Aldi's proposal to replace the B&Q store with a supermarket. Both proposals have attracted opposition from local residents.

#### Ore Valley Festival

Although the 2012 festival was considered to have been better than the first festival in 2011, the decision has been taken by the organising committee, on which the forum is represented, not to have a festival in 2013.

#### Welfare reforms

The committee is concerned about the effects of the welfare reforms on local residents and supports the work that the council, housing associations and local community and voluntary groups are doing to better understand the impact the benefit cuts and welfare changes will have and to try and help those who will be hit the hardest.

#### Future plans for the Forum

The forum's current constitution was drafted in anticipation of obtaining charitable status in order to help raise funds. This has now been overtaken by Big Local. The application for charitable status will not now go ahead and the constitution needs to be simplified as the forum will now be operating on a reduced basis. This will be a task for the incoming executive committee.

A uniting factor for the community is the desire to see the green space in Ore Valley managed and developed in an acceptable way. The forum's committee has agreed to join with Ore Community Land Trust to develop proposals for the management and development of the green space and this will feature in the work of the forum's committee in 2013/14.

Honorary Officers, Ore Valley Forum  
June 2013

## **Annex A INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT**

I report on the accounts of the Ore Valley Forum for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. The accounts are set out on pages 7 - 8 of this document.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act);
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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Date: .....

Chris Whelan MAAT, MCIE  
10 Carisbrooke Road  
St. Leonards On Sea  
TN38 0JS

## Annex B Income and expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

	2013		2012	
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Ring-fenced funds</b>				
Education research & web site	0		1,000	
Ore Valley Festival	0		1,800	
FLAG	0		1,000	
		0		3,800
<b>General funds</b>				
Gifts in kind for office running costs and refreshments	25		41	
		25		41
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>25</b>		<b>3,841</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Ring-fenced funds</b>				
Education research & web site	270		375	
Ore Valley Festival	570		1,230	
Fisheries Promotion	500		0	
		1,340		1,605
<b>General funds</b>				
Accountancy	220		260	
Activities	0		100	
Arts / Culture	0		2,150	
Youth work	3,850		1,750	
Catering and venue Hire	263		472	
Computer Support and Equipment	36		0	
Depreciation	0		200	
Education	0		556	
Insurance	234		293	
Office Running Costs	1,046		925	
Projects (see end notes)	2,790		1,029	
Subscriptions	0		17	
		8,439		7,752
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>9,779</b>		<b>9,357</b>
<b>(Deficit) Excess of Expenditure over Income</b>		<b>(9,754)</b>		<b>(5,516)</b>

## Balance sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

	2013		2012	
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible Assets		0		0
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash in Hand	1		1	
Cash at Bank	11,325		21,119	
Debtors	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
		<u>11,326</u>		<u>21,120</u>
		11,326		21,120
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors		220		260
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>11,106</b>		<b>20,860</b>
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>FINANCED BY</b>				
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>				
Balance at beginning of year		20,860		26,376
(Deficit) Excess of income over expenditure		(9,754)		(5,516)
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>BALANCE OF FUNDS</b>		<b>11,106</b>		<b>20,860</b>
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>

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Signed: G de Lussy - Chair

Signed: R Bennett - Treasurer

Date:.....

Date .....

## Notes to the annual accounts

1. Tangible assets comprise a projector and laptop but these have no book value because of age.
2. Details of grants to Special Interest Groups and other bodies are in the table following which also shows the category of the expenditure.
3. Benefits in kind amount to roundly £25 representing costs absorbed by officers on administration (e.g. printing and stamps) and refreshments at Broomgrove and Ore Centre which would otherwise be a charge to the forum.
4. Details of the income and expenditure relating to restricted funds are as follows:

	At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2012	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2013
Education research and website	625	0	270	355
Ore Valley Festival	570	0	570	0
FLAG	1,000	0	500	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>855</b>

**Annex C Grants made in financial year 2012 - 2013**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Approved</b>	<b>Category</b>
April 2012	Oasis Community Project/ Broomgrove Playscheme	Subsidy for transport and joint outings and activities for all age groups to mix and make friends while having fun at the activities. Helps to remove barriers to participation. Activities and outings have been requested by residents via surveys.	750	750	Project
April 2012	The Bridge Community Centre	To support the cost of delivering HUMM – a once a week free after-school club for 5-11 year olds.	500	500	Youth Work
May 2012	In2Play	To supplement staffing in the Adventure Playground to release one member to liaise with other agencies.	600	600	Youth Work
June 2012	In2Play	Staffing support for integrating children into HUMM	500	500	Youth Work
July 2012	Ore Valley Festival	Contribution towards cost of performance space	530	530	Projects
September 2012	Ore Valley Environmental Group	Insurance for workers in the Ore Valley green space.	234	234	Insurance (Environment)
September 2012	In2Play	To support the cost of delivering HUMM after-school clubs at Downs Farm (Wednesdays) and The Bridge (Thursdays)	1,000	1,000	Youth Work
January 2013	Ore Community Land Trust	Contribution to the running costs of the annual Ore Village Fair to be held in May 2013 and organised in collaboration with Ore In Bloom, the Ore Centre and Ore Together.	550	550	Project
January 2013	In2Play	To subsidise a group of around 100 families with children under 5 on a trip to The Blue Reef Aquarium, The Fishermen’s Museum and The Stade plus a booklet of ‘I Spy’ games, poems and songs for the families to enjoy together.	600	600	Project
January	In2Play	To sustain HUMM after-school club at The Bridge	500	500	Youth Work

<b>Date</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Approved</b>	<b>Category</b>
2013					
March 2013	Broomgrove Residents Association	Contribution to the staffing costs for Kool Club – a free after-school club for school years 3-6.	750	750	Youth Work
March 2013	Downs Farm Sewing Group	Contribution to the costs of hiring Downs Farm Community Centre for a sewing group for local residents. The centre costs £120 per month and the group runs for most weeks in the year.	Unspecified	360	Project
March 2013	Play Forum	To purchase copies of a book on play in Hastings across ages and areas for resale. The book is the result of 3-days of public events and map-making in October 2012 <i>Note this will not now go ahead and the cost has not been included in the expenditure shown in the accounts</i>	450	450	NA