



ORE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Seeking to acquire land in the Upper Ore Valley to save and enhance urban woodland and green space for community use and to protect animal habitat



NEWSLETTER – February 2012

If you did not receive this newsletter by email but have an email address, please let us have it so we can save money and time on future mailings.

Hastings Development Management Plan

Do you want to see this



become this?

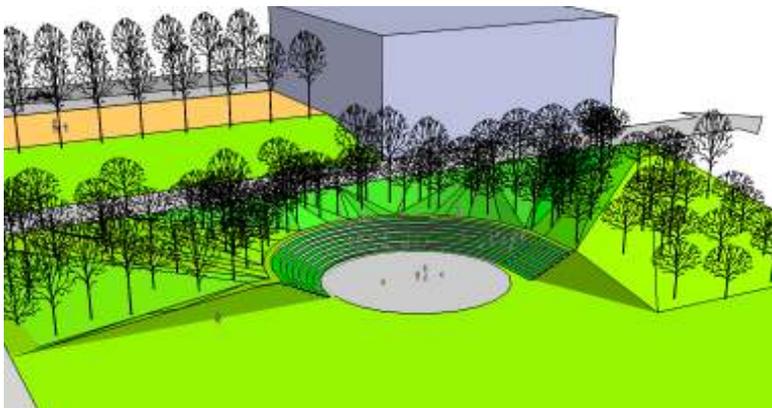


Hastings Borough Council is consulting on its plan for the town up to 2028. It has calculated that 3,400 new homes will be needed and the plan suggests where they might be built. If you want to see the Upper Ore Valley (Speckled Wood) preserved from development for future generations of both people and wildlife, you must make your views known. We are holding a public meeting at the Salvation Army Hall in Old London Road on Saturday 3rd March from 2 o'clock with a presentation from HBC's senior planning officer. You will see posters around the area advertising this meeting. The consultation runs until 27th April and there are exhibitions during February at various locations.

Ore Village Green

Every village needs a village green

Our 'resident' landscape architect, Tim, has produced an exciting design for a 'village green' which could be created on the land behind the Salvation Army Hall to link up with the Council-owned green space. It might look something like the illustration below. The grey block is the Salvation Army building.



This could be used for a number of purposes including a much needed children's play area, seating with views across the Ore Valley and a space for events and musical performances.

This is one of many proposals for alternative (to housing development) uses for Speckled Wood. Another is to clear and recreate the allotments that used to exist in the same part of the woodland. More details are on our website. But all of these ideas depend on

the land use designation for Speckled Wood in the new Hastings Borough Plan being changed from 70% for new development to 100% protected green space.

Make sure that your voice is heard and your views about the future of Speckled Wood are recorded by Hastings Borough Council www.hastings.gov.uk/ldf

Ore Village Fair 2012

This year's Fair will take place at the Ore Centre on Saturday 21st April with the help of a grant from the Ore Valley Forum. If you would like to have a stall to sell your local produce or art/crafts or to help run activities especially with children in mind or you can help in organising the Fair, please let us know.

Last year's was very successful with lots of people attending on a beautiful Spring day. It featured the opening of the Ore Centre community garden by the Mayor as well as some memorable music and dance. This year will see the handing over of the Centre to the Management Trust by East Sussex County Council. There will also be the opportunity of guided walks in Speckled Wood.



Dates for your diary

Saturday 3rd March—public meeting—2pm Salvation Army

Saturday 21st April—Ore Village Fair, Ore Centre

Saturday 19th May—Annual General Meeting at the Ore Centre

Speckled Wood – Footpath Improvements & New Steps

Thanks to the hard work of our 'woodland management team' – Alan and Derek, two sets of steps have been created to make it easy to get from the valley floor up to Old London Road in one direction and via a new bridge to Church Street, in the other.

In addition the footpath leading up, via the new steps, to the green beside the Salvation Army Hall has been highlighted with small white paint marks on the trees.

Both sets of steps start from the section of the valley beyond the bridge that is part of the cross-valley footpath from Church Road to School Road. This footpath has also been

cleared again after it became overgrown during the summer months. All footpaths in the lower part of the valley and behind the Salvation Army Hall are being well used which is very encouraging.



Speckled Wood – Clearance and Conservation Work Update

A lot of progress has been made in killing and clearing the dreaded Japanese knotweed from the entrance in Frederick Road and alongside the stream. Unfortunately, as we are well aware, this is a process that must be repeated each year for about three years to ensure that the knotweed will not return.

At present the woodland looks a little drab and there will be more rubbish to clear in the early Spring. However, Ian was recently in the valley taking photos of the steps and was pleasantly surprised to meet a woman walking her dogs and collecting rubbish at the same time. If only more people would do this! We will be organising a rubbish clear up in March or early April, when the weather allows and the woodland will come back to life and turn green again. We will need more

volunteers to help with the clear up and with the footpath clearance and conservation work in the woodland. **Will you join our volunteer team? – contact us.**



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