



# 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 – June 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.**

### **AGM** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM held at the Ore Centre on 19th May was attended by 21 members and supporters.

The annual report was presented by the outgoing secretary Richard Street, who was elected as a councillor for Ore Ward at the local elections earlier in May. He thanked Alan Turner who has resigned as

Chair but is keeping busy working with Derek Rainer in Speckled Wood on the construction of steps and footpaths and dealing with the Japanese Knotweed.

Pam Button reported on the financial position which is quite sound and has benefited from funds raised at the Ore Village Fair in April.

Councillor Peter Chowney reported on the tremendous response to the call for Speckled Wood to be redesignated as urban green space in the recent local development plan consultation.

Richard was thanked for his hard work as secretary including the regular Ore CLT newsletters he has edited.

Two new members were elected to the committee, Ken Davis and Amanda Crisford from Hastings Academy. Ian Sier was elected as Chair.

However there are still vacancies on the committee, which we would like to fill and we also need to find someone to take over the position of secretary. If you are interested please let us know.

#### **New Committee**

- Ian Sier - Chair
- Pam Button - Treasurer
- *vacant* - Secretary
- Derek Rainer - Minutes Secretary
- Amanda Crisford, Ken Davis, Kareen Taylerson and Aubrey Ingleton committee members.

The committee meets monthly and welcomes supporters who can offer advice or information about their specialist area.

#### **Speckled Wood – Clear Up Mornings**

The next clear up sessions will be **Saturdays 9 June and 23 June**

They **start at 10am** and usually run until 12.30

Any new volunteers are very welcome.

Meet at the **Green** next to the **Salvation Army Hall** and wear suitable clothes and strong shoes.



### **SHAPING HASTINGS**



#### **Shaping Hastings—Hastings Local Plan**

170 people took the trouble to support our call for Speckled Wood to be protected from development in the recent consultation. This was the most received about any site - there were 39 about Sandrock and 25 about Robsack Wood. In addition East Sussex Highway Authority has confirmed that they won't allow access to the site from Old London Road making

development even more difficult and costly.

There will now be a second 'mini-consultation' on issues raised including 3-options on the Upper Ore Valley (Speckled Wood). The options will be: 1. make the current undesignated land protected green space; 2. make the currently undesignated land and the land to the east (the allotments) protected green space; 3. make the undesignated land, allotments and Church Street protected open space. The precise definitions haven't yet been decided. This will take place in July and August. We will keep you informed.

## Ore Village Fair 2012

This year's Fair held at the Ore Centre on 21st April attracted a lot of people eager to see what local groups like the Ore Women's Institute, brownies and others had to offer. They were also treated to a fantastic programme of dance from Fusion Street Dance and musical interludes From Four Altos and music from the Sofa. Plants were sold and crockery smashed. The Mayor, Cllr Kim Forward, opened the event and spoke enthusiastically about the volunteers who give their time and energy to community activities in the area.



### Membership

Several new members have joined the Trust recently but some longstanding members have not yet renewed their membership. If you haven't renewed your membership for the year beginning 1st April 2012, please complete a membership form or send us your name, address, telephone number and email address along with your membership fee (£2 retired, £5 people in work £20 organisations).



### Local Trust | Big Local The Big Local funding for North East Hastings

Ian gave a brief talk at the AGM about the Big Local fund for North East Hastings, which includes the Ore Valley and areas around Ore Village. This Government grant of £1M is part of an initiative to provide funding for deprived areas around the UK. It is available over a period of 10 years and is to be used and controlled by local communities which are expected to form a resident-led partnership to develop a vision for how this money can be spent to address local needs and create a better place to live. They will be supported by a paid consultant and there are very few constraints about how the money can be used.

Ian said that the next stage would probably be a meeting to involve local organisations such as Ore Valley Forum, Ore Community Land Trust and local residents associations and community groups. Public meetings would need to be organised, probably in community venues around the area designated for the funding and Ore CLT will ensure it is fully involved and will keep members and supporters informed.

### The Hastings Planning Strategy

This is the plan that will guide how the town develops over the next 15 years alongside the site-specific Development Management Plan. The final stage of public consultation runs for 12 weeks from 25th May to 17th August. The Council has arranged sessions to explain how to take part:

**Thursday 31st May** 10-11:30 Gensing & St Leonards Community Centre,

**Wednesday 6th June** 18:00-19:30 The Stade Hall

**Thursday 7th June** 14:30-16:00 Robsack Community Centre.

There will also be drop-in sessions at Aquila House on Wednesdays

**20th June, 18th July and 15th August** from 14:00-16:00 and **4th July and 1st August** from 10:00-12:00.

Full details are on the HBC website [www.hastings.gov.uk/planning](http://www.hastings.gov.uk/planning).

### Contact details:

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