



Felixstowe Beach Hut & Chalet Association

Website: www.felixstowehutschalets.co.uk

E-mail: felixstowehutschalets@gmail.com

Correspondence Address: Fells Cottage, 72 Ferry Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9LU

Tel: 01394 274331 (Treasurer)

Chairman: Jo Woodward
Vice Chairman: Roy Gray

Secretary: Julie Downton
Treasurer: Trevor Mason

NEWSLETTER No 4

April 2014

Some Committee members recently had a meeting with Suffolk Coastal District Councillors and representatives from Suffolk Coastal Services, who carry out the maintenance for the Council. It was not a long meeting as they managed to fit us in before they all went along to Manor End for the official opening of the play area (but more of that later). They have, however, agreed to continue discussions next month so we can not only follow up on the matters discussed, but also take up the points that didn't get covered due to time constraints.

Good news (at last) for chalet tenants!

At long last SCDC have agreed to spend some money on the chalets. Long overdue! The electric supply will be upgraded: a tender is going out for the replacement of the PVC doors and windows: the exterior of Cliff House is to be re-rendered: the cracks in the verandas, which is causing the leak of rainwater into the chalets below are going to be repaired. The timescale has not yet been laid down, but we expect it to be carried out after the end of the summer season and before the summer of 2015, so that there is no disruption to tenants when they are using their chalets the most.

Damage to huts and chalets

Not such good news for chalet tenants is that damage has occurred recently and it is known that youngsters occasionally jump around on the roofs. Jane Allitt is setting up a meeting with the police to explore how this and the recent outbreak of arson to beach huts can be combatted and has invited us to send a representative to the meeting. We have accepted the invitation.

Manor End

Carol, our Committee member with a hut at Manor End, made very strong representations on your behalf. The lack of toilet facilities, whilst it has always been an issue we have pressed for, has become even more relevant now that the play area has been created. The almost impossibility of getting down to the beach from the promenade was also highlighted. The tap has been giving problems again and SCDC tell us that Anglian Water are looking into it. Rest assured, we are very much aware that hut owners at Manor End get a very raw deal from Suffolk Coastal and we will continue to pursue improvements for you.

Not such good news about Cliff Car Park

At a meeting last year the head of Suffolk Coastal Services undertook to ensure that the car park would be closed at dusk whenever possible. That person has since left the company and his replacement is not able to give that assurance as his staff have to be back at their depot by 5pm and overtime is not an option. That is very disappointing, but we will be discussing with him and Suffolk Coastal how a later closing time can be achieved.

(continued)

Rabbits at Brackenbury Fort

It was acknowledged that rabbits are a problem and that their burrowing is creating a danger of people injuring themselves. Suffolk Coastal Services will be looking into how they can stop the problem. We did make some suggestions!

Enforcement of Bye Laws

They will be investigating if and how the bye laws can be enforced or how better signing can be produced.

Payments of invoices

We put Suffolk Coastal on notice that we will be pressing for ALL members to be informed that they can pay by way of instalments next year when they get their invoices – not just those who contact the Council and ask to do so.

Quite a lot was covered in a short time. We know there are other issues that have been brought to our attention and we will be pursuing these next time (when they don't have to rush off to pat themselves on the back with a photo in the local newspaper for providing a play area without close access to toilets!).

Quiz Night

We had a very enjoyable Quiz Night in March. More than 60 people took part and Roy, our Vice Chairman, was an excellent quiz master. It was purely a coincidence that the team containing Roy's wife and our Treasurer, Trevor, were the winning team. Committee members (and some of their wives!) provided an excellent buffet. A company called 'Little House Designs' which makes cushions, curtains, bags etc. to order for your beach huts, had some fantastic examples on display. They give 10% discount to Association members and can be contacted on 01787 313000 or jacqui@littlehousedesigns.co.uk

Don't forget that Underwoods Hardware shop in Felixstowe also gives discount on purchases (except on Calor gas) to members.

We are rapidly approaching the 300 mark for members of the Association. Please encourage your neighbours to join.

The sun has been shining recently – continue to enjoy your huts and chalets.

FBHCA Committee