



Hastings Community Network Open Mic Event

26th March 2021 on Zoom

Hastings Community Network (HCN) is one of eight Locality Networks supporting community resilience across East Sussex

The event opened with Carole Dixon (HCN Chair) welcoming everyone and thanking them for taking part in the Open Mic. Carole gave brief description of function of the HCN Executive Group. She then shared information and details about the Community Renewal Fund with everyone. Anyone that would like more information about the CRF can attend the workshop facilitated by HVA on 16th April. To book yourself a place at the workshop please email: events@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk

Hannah Brookshaw, the Regeneration Manager from HBC joined Carole to give an update with a slide show on the Town Deal. To see more information on the Town Deal go to: www.hastingstowndeal.co.uk

Steve Manwaring, Director of HVA, then gave an update on the HBC Budget Consultation which took place on January 18th 2021. Steve reminded everyone about the Consultation Calendar on HVA's website. For more information go to: www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk

Steve then opened up the floor for the Open Mic session, explaining how the Open Mic events came about.

On the day there were 36 attendees from 30 different local organisations from the voluntary and community sector with 13 people choosing to use a 3-minute slot to speak about their work or the work of their organisations.

Name	Organisation	Speaking About:
Julie Abson	Lets Get Working-SCDA	
Debby Anderson	Hastings Voluntary Action	
Andrew Batsford	HBC	
Kevin Boorman	HBC	
Hannah Brookshaw	HBC	Town Deal
Sherry Clark	The Common Treasury / Transition Town Hastings	
Andrew Colquhoun	HCN executive	
Andrew Crighton	The Snowflake Trust Ltd	
Megan Cronin	Womens Voice	Womens Voice project.

Matt Davy	XTrax	Engagement work with young people
Graham Dawson	Showman AV Ltd	
Carole Dixon	EFT	Town Deal Update
Alastair Fairley	Hastings HEART	Going For Zero Campaign
Harry Farmer	ONS / Census 2021	The Census - in particular about still making contact with the hard to reach communities who may still require help / support in engaging with & completing their census Questionnaire online or with a paper version.
Teresa Flower	Groundwork South	
Andy Garlick	Transom Trust	
Phil Hale	East Sussex Community Voice	NHS Volunteer Responders Scheme
Terry Hume	East Sussex County Council	
Kanna Ingleson	ESRA	The support services that we are offering, along with how to refer (includes self-referral).
Lorna Johnson	Care for the Carers	
Kim Kelly	HVA	
Steven Laker	Southern Water	Support for vulnerable customers.
Clementine Manning	Sussex Prisoners Families	
Steve Manwaring	HVA	HBC Budget Consultation Update
Larry Maurice	Hastings Street Pastors	Our current operating situation and what we're looking at going forward.
Marie Micklethwaite	Southdown, Community Connectors	Community Connectors, what we do and how to refer
Zuher Panju	Stroke Association	
Shelley Pletch	Groundwork	
Tracey Rose	FSN	
Gary Storer	Orbit	
Sam Struthers	Trust The People	
Catherine Taylor	n/a	
Roger Watkins	Cranfield Trust	The free work of the Cranfield Trust for charities
Rod Webb	Hastings Independent	
Julia Wells	Hope-G	
John Whittington	Safer Hastings Partnership	

Following the Open Mic session there was an opportunity to ask any questions or for more information.

The Zoom Chat function was used during the event and many people used it to share information and contact details.

Positive feedback was received as a result of the event with participants reporting that they had welcomed the opportunity to speak about their work and share information. Many had made new connections and will be following up on conversations had today.


Only attended the March'21 session but found it very enjoyable, informative, friendly & useful in finding out where to go to for specific help & for networking & sharing practices & information for mutual benefit.

I found the event a useful opportunity to set out some of the free services available from The Cranfield Trust to charities to help with improvements to management and administration.

We have made some connections and are exploring some of the funding opportunities coming up




Thanks again for everything you do to ensure the Voluntary sector has a powerful voice in our local community



I gained a better insight into what's happening across Hastings



I had the opportunity to hear updates from colleagues across a range of services



Thanks and hope to see you again at another event in the future