

**Urgent appeal to the leader of Hastings Council Cllr Jeremy Birch about
Ecclesbourne Glen and Rocklands Caravan Park**

Dear Jeremy

You will be aware of the deep and widely held concerns that have arisen. HOTRA's key intention is to ensure that the way forward will help to resolve these matters. Our Management Committee meeting held 9th June 2014 unanimously agreed the following requests :

- 1] That Hastings Council serve an immediate Stop Notice on the current building works.
- 2] Hastings Council invite the applicant to withdraw their current application. It is flawed and does not meet the normal requirements that it is clear and complies with all the appropriate conditions. By re-submitting the applicants will be seen to be transparent and considered. A new application could be precise and confidently looked at by all parties.
- 3] HOTRA would like to receive a copy of the original caravan park licence, and the most recent monitoring report.
- 4] Hastings Council appoint an independent inquiry into the Planning Department. This would consider not only this application and the procedures used, but also the range of skills, competence and structure of the Planning Department.
- 5] In the longer term it is felt that the only viable alternative route for the closed Public Right of Way would be through the caravan park. The process to achieve this will involve East Sussex County Council and should start now.
- 6] The recent report by the independent consultants is welcome. However it appears that their brief was deficient in so far as
 - a} no reference was made to the 2013 landslide;
 - b} inadequate figures were given about the loss of mature trees;
 - c} much evidence was provided by the rangers.The main issue is to do with water and drainage and the extent of the impact of the works has had. Further urgent investigation is needed including soil samples and bore holes.
- 7] This is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It behoves Hastings Council to go the extra mile to protect and sustain that status. (Not many other South Coast resorts have this privilege). What plans exist going forward to involve the High Weald AONB body in this matter ?

The handling of this complex issue will severely test the newly elected administration. It is not our intention to embarrass the Council. It is our clear intention to secure the most acceptable solution.

Yours Sincerely
Dick Edwards.