



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 – October 2014

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.

New Committee

The only change in the Committee at the AGM in May was that Karen Taylerson did not seek re-election due to other commitments including her volunteer work for the Ore Centre. We are grateful to Karen for her artistic input including the design of the Speckled Wood Walks Map and for the Ore Village Green.

A recent addition to the committee is Tressell ward councillor Tania Charman, who is keen to support our plans for Speckled Wood.

The current Ore Community Land Trust Committee members are:

Ian Sier - Chair Tony Polain - Vice Chair
Becky Sargent - Secretary Meg Harmer - Treasurer
Derek Rainer - Minutes Secretary
Aubrey Ingleton, Cllr Tania Charman



N E Hastings Big Local Funding

We are very pleased to announce that the first major funding plan for the Big Local fund includes an allocation of £10,000 to Ore CLT to fund the Ore Valley Greenway design and community consultation project and a further £1,000 to contribute to the survey and landscape design work for the Ore Village Green. Ore CLT will be funding the balance of this cost from its own funds. Updates on these two projects are included in this newsletter

Frederick Road - A Memory of the Past

Committee member Derek Rainer has written an account of what the area around Frederick Road was like in the mid 1950s. This will be put onto the Ore CLT web site and may be turned into a short history leaflet.

Here is an extract:

"Take a walk with me down Frederick Road, formerly called Cackle Street, which was then the main road out of Hastings to London. It is thought to have been named Cackle Street because clinker was used as a road mending material in those days and was noisy to drive over. Behind Weavers hair dressers was, in those days, Beanys. At the side of the building was a wooden door that is still there and going through to your right was a counter from which you could buy their homemade ice cream. Next to Beanys was a tall hedge beyond which a foot path ran down to Piggy Pound Lane and Ore Station. This was before the Farley Bank housing was built. At the other side of the path was the Old Halton bath house used by people from Halton who had no bathroom. Later it became Buss's sausage factory... "

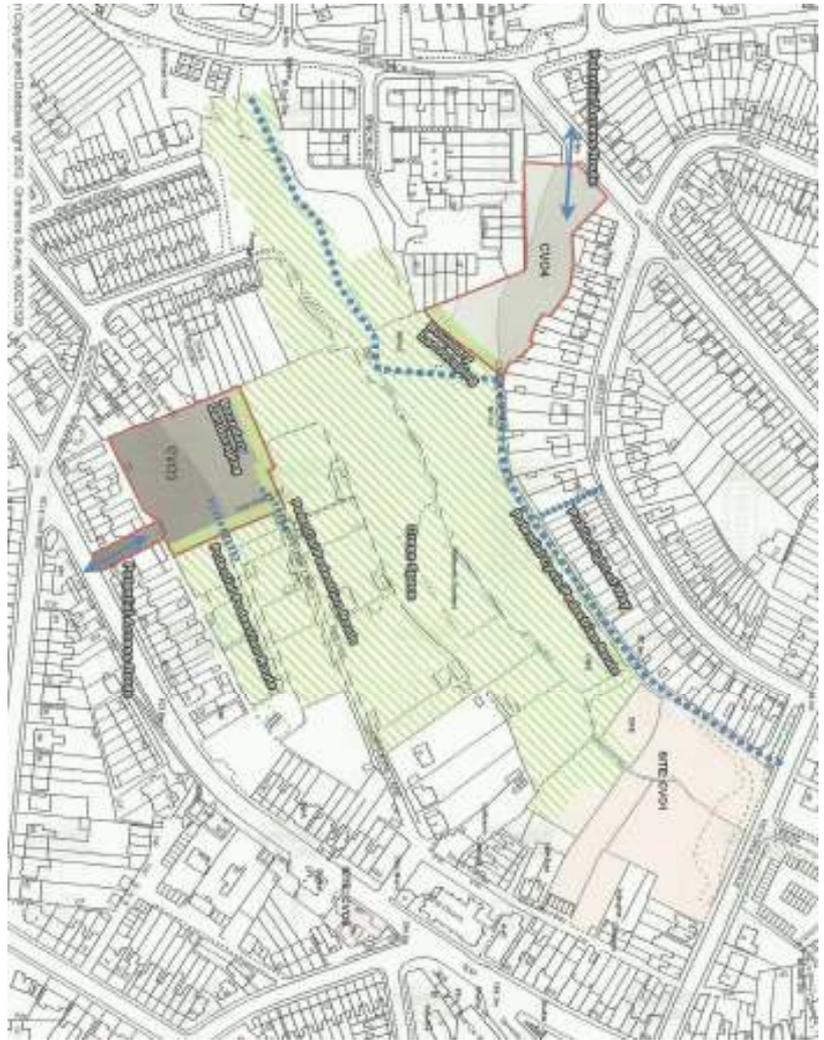
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Facebook /groups/orecommunitylandtrust

Public Examination of the Local Plan Proposal for Speckled Wood

This is the last and critical stage in the process of confirming the Hastings Borough Council plan to redesignate most of Speckled Wood as protected urban green space. As shown in the plan on the right. It will be the culmination of 10 years of campaigning to save Speckled Wood and although we would rather see the whole of the woodland valley protected, this will still ensure that the greater part of this quiet and attractive valley will be preserved for the community.

There is still a risk that developers with land in Speckled Wood will try to get these land protection proposals overturned. For this reason Ore CLT will be making a presentation at the public Examination to illustrate the importance of the woodland, the strength of local feeling to save it and the plans we have to create additional amenities such as the Village Green.

The public examination starts on 18 November and the hearing which will include the plans for Speckled Wood will be on Wednesday 3 December - starting at 10am at the Horntye Sports Complex. It will be open to the public to observe but not to speak and if you are interested in attending, please contact Ian Sier (tel: 428990) for more information.



Ore Trails

On Saturday the sixth of September our treasurer Meg Harmer took an early evening stroll with her family along part of one of the excellently mapped out Ore Trails. She reports, *"Much to my delight, not very far into the trail we were observed casually by two resting foxes who seemed quite nonchalant about our arrival. Next, we passed some beautifully kept, gated grounds which 'declared' themselves to be owned by a water company. A later perusal of a local map showed this to be Fairlight Reservoir.*

Walking alongside one of the town's schools, revealed to us a footpath bordered with much vegetation including berries and pretty wildflowers. Along this path we were reminded here and there how Autumn is gaining her ground whilst Summer stills holds a footing.

As we climbed higher we came upon one of the media towers in the area and wondered at technology and how these giants are constructed and whilst not wholly appreciating them in this landscape, they do make for some 'arty' cloud shots. The Sun was starting her descent but it was still a beautifully warm and lovely day up there as we passed Mill Farm and approached the North Seat, where we stopped to take in the panoramic views on offer there.



Onwards through the kissing gates we decided to not take the bridle path and took the following one and made our way down to Martineau Lane where we were bade farewell for our return journey by the dimming sun and shimmering clouds."

A HUGE thank you must be given to all of the people who worked so hard on all of the Ore Trails including Ore in Bloom, Hastings Academy, The Rambler's Association and [Ore Community Land Trust](#).



Autumn Wildlife

As the days grow shorter and the weather more inclement, big changes are happening in the woodland. Thanks to ideal conditions in the summer, the insect population flourished, which meant almost total pollination of the many flowers that bloomed. This has led to heavy crops of berries and other fruits.

September saw a bumper crop of blackberries, and now the holly and ivy are laden with berries. Not only do these look beautiful, but are an excellent source of food for many animals and birds. You are most likely to hear the wood pigeons, before you see them, clumsily making their way around the ivy, picking off the berries they so love! It is the perfect time to go looking for mushrooms and toadstools. The cooler, damper weather makes for the perfect conditions for fungi, so look out for the familiar Fly Agarics, round Puffballs, sturdy Boletus, impressive Bracket fungi and delicate Coral fungi. The deciduous trees and shrubs are now starting to shed their leaves and the colours in the autumnal woodland can be quite spectacular, in particular beech trees. It is also the time that many animals are preparing for winter, collecting and storing food, 'fattening up' and getting ready to hibernate. Only three British



mammals hibernate: the hedgehog, the dormouse and bats. Mason bees, queen bumblebees and butterflies also hibernate. However, other animals are remaining busy. Vixens will start to investigate earths in preparation for the New Year, and the cubs from this year are leaving to find their own territories. The badgers are trying to gain as much weight as possible to see them through any cold weather, seeking out, in particular, frogs, earthworms and bluebell bulbs. They love peanuts too, so if you are tempted to feed them, give them these. Do not feed them bread or cereals.

For further information or help identifying wildlife, please contact Becky Sargent at ore.clt@hotmail.com

Ore Valley Greenway

These greenway shared paths will provide a very valuable connecting network for travel on foot or by cycle from Ore Village, the Ridge and the Broomgrove Estate to Ore Station and the College Annex. The paths will be accessible to people using mobility scooters or wheelchairs and will open up woodland valleys and green spaces to many local people for the first time while creating very practical and sustainable travel options to reduce car use and help the environment.

Thanks to the Big Local fund

we will be commissioning Sustrans to undertake the detailed design work in November and we will arrange extensive community consultation to engage residents across Ore Valley and the surrounding area and seek their views and ideas. The design work will be completed by March 2015. Thanks to another very welcome and substantial funding allocation that East Sussex County Council has obtained from the SE Local Enterprise Partnership for a network of walking & cycling routes in Hastings & Bexhill, the construction of the Ore Valley Greenway routes over the next 5 years is now reasonably assured.



Village Green Project

Over the summer we conducted a public consultation to discover the views of the local community regarding a village green in Ore. A copy of the results are available on request or can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OreCommunityLandTrust/577938668999633/>

Following on from this we commissioned a local company, Earthscapes, to produce a design report to reflect these findings. In the short-term we intend to use the report at the upcoming public enquiry to support the case for making Speckled Wood a protected open space.

We would like to thank the Big Local for contributing £1000 towards the costs of the report.

After the result of the public enquiry, we shall consider how best to proceed. If the wood is lost, then it will become imperative that we use all our negotiating skills to salvage the green. If the wood is awarded protected status, then it will give us the impetus to make a fully-realised green a reality.

Part of the process will be another round of public consultation to examine and comment on the design report, ideally under the auspices of the Village Green Project Group. Below is an illustration of what the Village Green might look like.

