



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 – April 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.



Ore Community Land Trust - Annual General Meeting

The AGM for 2014 has been arranged for **Saturday 10 May**. It will be held at the **Ore Centre, 455 Old London Road, Ore**.

This is a public meeting and local residents, supporters and others are welcome to attend to hear about our work and our plans for 2014.

If any Ore CLT members would like to join the Committee or would like to know more about what is involved please contact Ian Sier on 428990. In view of our new project to support the development of the Ore Valley branches of the Hastings Greenway network (see below) we are going to arrange a visual presentation to explain the scope of the whole Greenway after the formal part of the AGM.

Membership Renewal

Membership subscriptions are due in April.

We have not changed the annual subscription levels, which remain at £5 for individuals (working), £2 for unwaged, retired and student members, £1 for under 16s and £20 for organisation membership.

There is a membership renewal form on page 2 of this Newsletter. Please do renew your membership and encourage your friends and neighbours to join too.

Ore Centre Improvements



Major changes are underway at the Ore Centre to create a new cafe at the front of the building, which has now opened, and an open air extension of the cafe to be opened in the near future. A new reception area and office are being constructed in the area where the original cafe was located. An event to celebrate these improvements is planned, when the work is completed, and may be in the form of a Fair alongside a formal reopening.

Ore Trails - Public Launch Event Sat. 12 April 10am at the Ore Centre

We have been working in partnership with a number of local organisations to map three circular walks (easy, medium and 'challenging') from the Ore Centre to North's Seat and into the Country Park. The leaflets, with route maps and descriptions, have now been printed and will soon be available from the Ore Centre and the Ore Branch Library as well as local schools.



On Saturday 12 April an Ore Trails Information Event is being held at the Ore Centre with led walks starting at 10.30 am and 10.45am on the shorter walk routes. Following on from this event there will be regular weekly led walks over the easy route from the Ore Centre. A notice board with details of the routes and any planned led walks will be installed outside the Ore Centre in the near future or you can find out more by emailing: ore.clt@hotmail.com.

Contact details: Ore Community Land Trust, Ore Centre, 455 Old London Road, Hastings TN35 5BH **email** ore.clt@hotmail.com **Website:** www.orecommunitylandtrust.org.uk
Facebook /groups/orecommunitylandtrust

New Projects for Ore Community Land Trust in 2014

The Ore CLT Committee is actively working on two projects that have both been long term aims and have received a lot of public support. These are:

1. The ORE VALLEY GREENWAY



Ore CLT has always strongly supported the concept of a link in the Hastings Greenway network running through Speckled Wood. At the end of 2013, the Ore CLT Committee decided to take a lead, in collaboration with the Hastings Greenway Group, in setting up a project to promote and help to develop all of the Greenway links in the Ore Valley to construct surfaced paths for walking, cycling and disabled access. These will link Ore Station to the Broomgrove Estate and the Ridge on one branch and, via speckled Wood, to Ore Village and the Hastings Academy on the other. They will bring great benefits to all sections of the local community for safe off road travel for work, school or college or for health or leisure purposes.



Part of the Broomgrove branch of the Greenway

The first stage of this project is to seek funding to get the routes designed and costed and to carry out extensive public consultation prior to seeking planning permission. These routes are included in the draft Hastings Local Plan and in the Hastings Walking & Cycling Strategy that the County Council has just finished public consultation on. The second stage is to seek funding from a number of different sources to get the paths constructed. We will be organising a public meeting to explain and seek support for the Ore Valley Greenway.

If you would like more information please contact Ian on 428990 or by email: ore.clt@hotmail.com

2. A VILLAGE GREEN for ORE VILLAGE

This project plans to create a 'Village Green' on the land behind the existing Green and the Salvation Army Hall, which could include a children's play area, a small amphitheatre and performance space and a disabled access path from Old London Road. The project would involve some landscaping and planting, seating and public art. Exactly how the 'Village Green' and amenities are decided and designed would depend on public consultation. However, Ore CLT will seek funding for land acquisition and for the necessary work, once the Hastings Local Plan has been approved and the land in question is designated for use as urban green space.



Ore Village Fair

The Committee has decided not to hold an Ore Village Fair this year due to the amount of time we are devoting to these 2 projects. We will reinstate the popular event next year,

Speckled Wood and the draft Hastings Local Plan



There is yet another consultation underway for the Hastings Development Management Plan running until 22 April, which includes the proposal to re-designate the majority of Speckled Wood as urban green space. There is no real need to make any submission to this as the huge number of previous submissions will still be taken forward to the all important Public Enquiry later in 2014.

You may have heard about the latest petition that the Friends of Speckled Wood group are promoting, which calls for the whole of Speckled Wood to be protected. While the Ore CLT Committee would also like to see this enacted it has no real prospect of being accepted by the Public Enquiry inspector and we will probably have a fight on our hands just to keep the Council's land protection proposals for Speckled Wood from being watered down as a result of an inevitable challenge from the developer who owns much of the south side of the Valley.

Victoria Avenue Development Site

We were dismayed by the decision of the Council planning committee, on 25 February, to approve this latest development plan for 35 homes at the top end of Speckled Wood. This was in spite of 600 objections, 2 petitions and statements of opposition at the meeting from Aubrey (Ore CLT) and Cllr Peter Chowney. In particular it was pointed out that a truly enormous amount of land fill would have to be brought in by lorry to build the up the land level from the bottom of what is in effect a ravine. You only have to walk along Victoria Avenue and look down to see the folly of this development plan. We can only hope that the development will be far too expensive to be viable and that it will remain woodland.



Speckled Wood Walks for Ore CLT Members

As requested by members we will be organising regular guided walks around Speckled Wood from April. These will start at **10am on the last Saturday in the month** from the Green next to the Salvation Army Hall - 414 Old London Road. If you want to come on a walk just turn up and bring a friend if you wish. You will need to wear suitable boots and the walk may be cancelled if rain is forecast or the ground is too muddy.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & APPLICATION FORM (April 2014)

SURNAME: FIRST NAME(S):

ORGANISATION (if applicable):

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE: TEL. NO: E MAIL:

SIGNED: DATE:

AGE (if under 16 yrs): Please ask a parent/guardian to fill in the details and sign below

Name: Address:

..... Emergency Tel. No: