



## **Seaford Residents' Voice**

### **2021 Annual Report for Seaford Community Partnership**

#### **Purpose**

Seaford Residents' Voice is the town's Residents' Association. It is unusual in that it charges no fees and is entirely internet based. Whilst this unfortunately excludes a few residents who choose not to, or are unable to embrace such technology, it does open membership to every resident of the town of 16 years or over.

Its declared aim is "to listen to, work with and support the residents of Seaford in any areas of interest/concern, working with, but not exclusively limited, to Seaford Town Council." It is non-partisan. Since it came into existence in 2013-14 it has taken action about any issues involving officials or representatives without regard to political party or organisation. Occasions have arisen where those being criticised, or their supporters, have seen our stance as a criticism of their political Party or beliefs, and their reaction has thus risked muddying the water. These are baseless accusation: where criticism is due it is levelled at the behaviour, not at a particular Party.

#### **Activities 2020-2021**

For obvious reasons, committee interaction has been limited to electronic means. However, action has been taken on a variety of matters, including exposing the witnessed, allegedly criminal, behaviour of a now ex-Councillor.

The main thrust of our efforts over the last few months, however, has been taken by two members who have worked tirelessly and patiently behind the scenes on the case of the Talland Parade scaffolding. This blight on the townscape, present for over 5 years, has a convoluted and confusing history which their efforts are unravelling through Freedom of Information requests and by other means. It has not helped that claims have been made by others, which appear not to have been based on any legal research, that actions to solve the problem have always been available to local councils. These claims have now been exposed as unfounded. It is believed that there is no statute in English law that anticipates the "banking" of land in this way – which is what this situation amounts to. We have written to the Secretary of State for Housing pointing this out and asking for changes to the law.

We have been quietly instrumental in promoting both the replacement Exceat bridge and the introduction of traffic lights there to prevent some of the queues of traffic to the east. This is not a boast, it is just that a little 'prodding' has taken place.

It is interesting that SRV was created to deal with a solely Seaford problem, the condition of the **then** Town Council, and we are now working **with** the majority of our Town (and other) Councillors and officials. Subsequently we found we needed to engage with both the District and County Councils on a variety of matters and now seem to be taking on the might of central government!

We continue to support Residents and to take action based on the comments we receive.