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**Hastings Community Network – Vote – Frequently asked questions**
November 2019

**Resolution:** The current HCN Executive be empowered to coordinate the formal wind-up of the network as a separate organisation and locate its activities under the auspices of Hastings Voluntary Action making provision for:-

* An elected advisory body drawn from HVA membership to support activity and ensure that the aims of the network are met
* Opportunities for regular open networking events
* The representation of the voluntary sector on relevant partnerships including the Local Strategic Partnerships

**Why is this vote taking place?**
When Hastings Community Network was created over 10 years ago it was a condition of funding that it was set up as a separate organisation. This was done but HVA have, since those early days supported the network and it’s events – more recently in conjunction with our ESCC Locality Link Worker. The status of HCN as a separate organisation does not really serve any purpose but does create a few headaches. As we handle personal data we have to separately manage this, insurance arrangements are less clear and we have to separately account for money – even though HVA hold it all! Given that HCN comes under HVA’s “umbrella” in reality we want to move to a constitutional position to reflect this.

**How will this affect HCNs work?**In reality not much! The quarterly events will still run – indeed the next 2 have already been scheduled, the open elections of members to steer the work and sit on bodies like the Local Strategic Partnership and we will engage with members around consultations in very much the same way as we have always done.

**How has this decision been made?**
A paper was brought to the HCN Executive who discussed the issues in detail and unanimously endorsed the proposed change. As this affects the HCN constitution it will need a vote of the membership who can approve the decision by a simple majority. The Hastings Community Network Executive recommend that the HCN membership vote in favour of this proposal

**Why is this vote taking place today?**
As a lot of HCN members are present at today’s AGM and Conference it seemed a useful opportunity to take this decision and a better use of everyone’s time rather than convene a special meeting to deal with a fairly routine issue.

**How can I get more involved with the work of Hastings Community Network?**
Attend our networking meetings, or think about standing for election to help steer the work of the network. Announcements about the election will be made early in 2020.

**Dates for your diary:**
21st Jan 2020 HCN Networking event (Tackling Loneliness and Social Isolation)
23rd Jan 2020 HCN/HBC Budget Consultation meeting with the Leader/Deputy Leader of HBC
8th April 2020 HCN Networking event (The popular “Open Mic” and marketplace melee)
**Register for these events via HVA’s website or phone HVA on 01424 444010**www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/events