

Columbus Point Water Feature – Timeline/History/Main Events 1993-2013

1993	EBC grant Sovereign Harbour Ltd permission to develop South Harbour land areas B1/B2/B3 and C.
1995	EBC grant Lovell Homes permission to develop land areas B1/B2/B3 with erection of 565 flats and houses (Application No. EB/94/0456(OL).
2001	25 July - EBC grant Prowting Homes South East permission to develop land areas B1/B2. Erection of 452 flats and houses (Application No. EB/2000/0549(RM)).
"	25 July - S106 Agreement signed between Prowting Homes, Aria Homes, Montague Developments, National Westminster Bank and Eastbourne Borough Council.
"	24 August - Aria Homes sell Phase 8 (Barbuda Quay area) to Hillcrest Homes (Eastbourne) Ltd who covenanted to construct no more than 83 dwellings on it.
"	3 October - Columbus Point (Management Company) Ltd. (CPMCL) is incorporated.
"	Autumn - First leases granted.
2002	8 November - S106 varied by Deed of Variation because Aria Homes wished to sell part of Phase 9 (San Juan Court) to Bryant Homes.
"	End of year – Westbury Homes takes over Prowting Homes.
2003	December - Water feature grand opening by Ron Cussons EBC Director of Tourism. View Video (© CreationVideo London_)
2004	January – Water feature closed for repairs.
"	2 April – <i>Eastbourne Herald</i> article - “Left to rack and ruin”.
"	23 July – Hazelvine write to residents to say Euroflow undertake to complete the installation of the feature by the end of July, and that an annual maintenance contract will be entered with them at a cost of £33K per annum.
"	7 September - Water feature re-opened following repairs.
"	10 September - <i>Eastbourne Herald</i> article - “Water Feature fiasco gets resolved”.
"	November - Hazelvine advise residents that handover is to be on 1 st Nov 2004.
"	24 November – <i>Eastbourne Gazette</i> article - “Residents’ anger over water feature”
2005	Ad hoc residents group set up to press for improvements to feature and its maintenance.
"	August – RoSPA report to Westbury on the implementation of the July 2001 Water Safety Review and subsequent recommendations.
"	12 September – Hazelvine write to residents to say Westbury are aiming to have the feature completed and handed over by end of October. Also suggest that residents could reduce management costs by cleaning algae from the feature themselves.
"	28 October - Westbury Homes notify occupiers that water feature will be drained for building works required to complete water feature.
"	20 Dec – Hazelvine write to residents to announce residents meeting in January 2006.
2006	January - Persimmon acquire Westbury Homes for a total consideration of £643m and become responsible for the water feature.
"	17 Jan – Hazelvine hold residents meeting at Haven School to discuss cost and ongoing maintenance of the feature,
"	Westbury inform residents that the maintenance contract with Euroflow will end of 28 Feb and that the freehold for the water feature will be transferred to the residents on 1 st March.

"	21 Feb – residents meet with Mark Telford, (Westbury’s Finance Director) who informs them that freehold transfer stopped and that the Euroflow contract would be continued.
"	24 April - EBC replied to query from resident Barbara Martin and confirm that no Satisfactory Completion Certificates have been issued and that it is unlikely there is need for them now as water feature is complete.
"	July – Chris Gosling appointed as Consultant by Persimmon to resolve issues and suggest options.
"	12 July - Chris Gosling emails residents to say that three options are being considered: (i) Bring feature up to standard and leave running as designed (ii) Remove side sprays to reduce running costs (iii) Infill and landscape the canals and leave 4 principle water features to reduce costs.
"	25 July – On further enquiry Chris Gosling says the three options (above) have not been fully costed; not yet been put to Persimmon’s ‘decision makers’ and would probably need EBC approval.
"	31 July - Barbara Martin (Residents Group) writes to Persimmon regarding outstanding issues and uncompleted work.
"	4 August – Residents meet with Hazelvine to consider whether legal opinion should be sought - funded by the monies held by Hazelvine.
"	29 August – Persimmon reply to Barbara Martin, saying they have had a survey carried out and have identified defects from the works that require rectification or alternative solutions. Are assessing their obligations to EBC and the residents.
"	Persimmon – Joint Carillion, G&W Projects & EBC meetings to find a long term solution for rectifying the water feature and to “find a cost effective, insurable, long term solution for the residents”.
"	At some point in 2006 Hazelvine walked away from their water feature involvement and returned to residents the payments previously made on account.
2007	23 March – <i>Eastbourne Today</i> article – “Water Feature Woes Fountain”. Includes press statement from Persimmon Homes.
"	30 March – Alison Rowland, EBC Senior Lawyer, confirms she has been in communication with Persimmon Homes to press for commencement of remedial works on the fountains, paving and perimeter lights. EBC prepared to look at statutory powers if not done.
"	April - Risk Assessment for Water Feature by Rick Runalls and Ron Gochin.
"	4th April – The three legs drained down in succession by Euroflo to clean (jet wash) and to change bulbs and lights. Some work carried out to pump chambers. Intended to be completed by 31 May.
"	20 April - Meeting between Residents Group and Chris Gosling representing Persimmon. Work (mentioned in entries above and below) confirmed, plus work to walkways paving and lighting.
"	Side sprays removed. Rusting sump grills replaced with polypropylene sumps.
"	03 August - <i>Eastbourne Herald</i> article – “Row over water feature drips on”
"	25 August - <i>Eastbourne Herald</i> article - “Developers start to refill 'eyesore' water feature”
"	07 November – <i>Eastbourne Herald</i> article – “Water feature row drips on and on”
2008	A fire in the wiring of the UV filtration equipment in one of the treatment chambers.

"	Leaking pump caused flooding to the gardens of some houses.
"	4 November - Health & Safety Inspection Report by Mr. David Pummell.
"	17 Nov - Grand Hotel meeting between resident representatives and Persimmon. Conclusion: Persimmon to discuss possible alterations with EBC.
2009	Reasonably maintained for parts of the year. No UV filtration (unbeknown to residents). Heavy use of chemicals. Intermittent breakdowns. Vandalism.
2010	'Green summer', water feature full of algae. No UV filter results in heavy dosages of chemicals. Further breakdowns. Looking shabby. Lighting regularly vandalised.
"	Autumn - feature drained for progressive maintenance to be carried out.
2011	February - Water Feature Action Group (WFAG), first meeting. Subsequently made contact with Persimmon & EBC to arrange meetings to attempt to find a solution. Feature looking very shabby.
"	March – WFAG, met EBC who reported they had had a dialogue with Persimmon. EBC needed to check thoroughly the terms of the 106 Agreement, maybe in a position to mediate.
"	September - Following protracted correspondence WFAG met Persimmon on site.
2012	Early January - WFAG meet EBC re S106.
"	Late January - WFAG meet EBC & Persimmons - Persimmon advise they are in negotiations with Fell Reynolds about a handover, possibly by March 2012.
"	March - WFAG newsletter delivered to all local properties.
"	Later winter/early spring - Work on leaking pipe carried out over a couple of months or more.
"	EBC officials visit site and agree that an independent, full structural survey is called for.
"	5 April - Water use ban imposed by South East Water.
"	20 July - At a meeting Persimmon tell WFAG that they believe they have fulfilled their part of the Section 106 agreement, and that now, after eight years, it was time the property owners fulfilled their part.
"	9 July – after three months, water use ban lifted by South East Water.
"	16 Aug - Water feature leased to CPMCL for 999 years without residents being informed beforehand.
"	24 Aug - Solicitors Clarke Willmott write to property Owners about signing a new covenant.
"	31 Aug - Over 100 residents attend courtyard meeting organised by CPRA.
"	11 Sep - Over 40 angry residents pose for Eastbourne Herald photo.
"	16 Sep - 16 Sep - Eastbourne Herald article – “Stagnant eyesore water feature angers Harbour residents.”
"	25 Sep - EBC seek quotes from companies to carry out independent survey.
"	25 Sep - EBC write to all residents about the water feature and the survey.
"	27 Sep - Clarke Willmott inform San Jaun Court owners that in fact they are not liable for costs of past work and withdraw their demand for payment.
"	28 Sept - Eastbourne Herald publish resident’s letter – “Water feature eyesore and health hazard”.
"	30 Sept - Eastbourne Herald article – “Fountain pledge”
"	12 Oct - Following a tender process, EBC select Corrosion Protection Systems Ltd (CPS) to carry out independent survey.

"	17 Oct - Eastbourne Herald publish resident's letter – "Who is in charge of the water feature?"
"	23 Oct - Survey of water feature due to start.
"	Early Nov - Survey completed.
"	Mid Nov - Initial survey report delivered to EBC.
"	21 Nov - Item on the water feature shown on BBC TV's <i>Watchdog Daily</i> .
"	Late Nov - Survey Report being re-drafted following EBC request for a slightly less-technical style.
2013	Late January - Survey Report delivered to EBC
"	Early Feb - Final typos of Survey Report being checked and corrected.
"	25 March - EBC write to residents announcing publication of survey report.
"	28 March –At EBC's request, WFAG email out copies of the survey report to property owners and call for comments. The report highlighted many problem with the feature, its fittings and design. It contained 4 suggested options. (1) Repair and run the feature in its current configuration. (2) Decommission, fill in the feature and landscape. (3) Shut down Legs 1 & 3 and landscape them, leaving Leg 2 operational and raising its bed to reduce water content. (4) Run the water feature to the original concept, but have Legs 1 & 3 as shallow rills.
"	04 April – WFAG email out copies of the comments of the Residents' Observer.
"	12 April - At the behest of EBC, CPRA polled 250+ owners for their preferences regarding the four options in the survey report.
"	17 April - WFAG meet with EBC for initial discussion of the survey report.
"	22 April – CPRA received 166 replies to their poll, of which 80%+ wished the feature decommissioned and landscaped (Survey Report Option 2). These results were given to EBC and discussed with them subsequently.
"	Late April - WFAG write letters to EBC on the survey report and the comments on the report they received from residents.
"	18 May - Eastbourne Herald article – "Bubbles in water feature at Harbour"
"	July - Persimmon reject poll results and the decommissioning option.
"	19 July - WFAG and CPRA write to EBC with a list of issues to be raised with Persimmon Homes.
"	26 July - Fell Reynolds issue service charges invoices.
"	29 July - Clarke Willmott issue CPMCL membership register details.
"	8 August - EBC write to residents and confirm that they cannot adopt the water feature.
"	12 August - Clarke Willmott write to some property owners to again press for new covenant.
"	13 August – WFAG, CPRA & DCRA write to Fell Reynolds about their invoice letter.
"	14th August - WFAG & CPRA meet with EBC and Jeff Collard agrees to inspect and survey the current works and if happy with them issue a certificate of satisfactory completion.
"	22 August - Eastbourne Herald publish resident's letter – "Huge costs of Sovereign Harbour water feature".
"	23 August – Fell Reynolds respond to WFAG.

- " 06 Sept - WFAG, CPRA & DCRA respond to Fell Reynolds with additional points about their charges being invoiced in advance.
- " 09 Sept – WFAG & CPRA meet with Persimmon and EBC at a meeting chaired by Stephen Lloyd MP.
- " 13 Sept - Hart Reade write to their first client group with Counsels Advice.
- " 12 Oct - Over 140 property owners attend meeting at the Yacht Club with solicitors from LEASE.
- " 18 Oct 2013 - Aria Proposal. WFAG and CPRA delegates attended a meeting with Persimmon and EBC chaired by Stephen Lloyd MP. Persimmon/Aria Homes handed over their proposal for a way forward.
- " 22 Oct 2013 - WFAG, CPRA and DCRA write to their members and the property owners over their concerns about the proposal from Persimmon/Aria.
- " 31 Oct 2013 - Around 100 owners attended a WFAG/CPRA/DCRA meeting to discuss the Aria proposal and a counter-proposal. Stephen Lloyd MP and Jeff Collard of EBC attended.
- " 05 November 2013 - WFGA, CPR and DCRA jointly write to Persimmon to inform them of owners' decision to reject the proposal from Aria Home and to present a compromise counter-proposal.
- " 07 December 2013 - The meeting between resident representatives, EBC and Persimmon scheduled to take place yesterday (Friday 6th December), had to be postponed due to the incapacity of the Persimmon/CPMCL director. It will be rescheduled as soon as possible
- " 13 December 2013 - The cancelled meeting between resident representatives, EBC and Persimmon was been rescheduled for Friday 10th January 2014.