

HAILSHAM FORWARD CIC

STAKEHOLDER GROUP

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM
ON 18TH OCTOBER 2019 AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Chris Jackets: Hellingly Parish Council
Cllr Bob Bowdler: East Sussex County Council
Ben Pratt: Hailsham Farmers' Market
Kelly Sharp: Wealden District Council
Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou: Wealden District Council
Dermot Clarke: Department for Work & Pensions
Victoria Spencer: Department for Work and Pensions
Jackie Harris: Environment Hailsham
Peter Bowles: Representing Town Farm Residents Association
Ron Lloyd: Representing Town Farm Residents Association
Ralph Olesen: The Link Hailsham
Steve Wennington: Hailsham Active

Also, present:

Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council

1. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Bob Bowdler: East Sussex County Council
Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town Council
Jan Townsend: Community Representative
Richard Grocock: Environment Hailsham
Robert Boxer: Representing Welbury Meadows & The Grange Residents
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Council
Irit Meyer: representing St Marys Walk
Marina Briggins: Wealden District Council
Jeremy Shepherd: representing St Marys Walk
Peter Willson: Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce
Tracey Bond: Hellingly Parish Church
Paul Gibson: Hailsham News
Nus Ghani: MP
Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College

Clive Soper: Federation of Small Businesses
Nick Collinson: Director Hailsham Forward CIC

2. Minutes of meeting held on 26 April 2019

The notes of the meeting held on 26 April 2019 were agreed as an accurate record with one amendment as noted in 3. below.

3. Matters Arising

Ron Lloyd was identified as an apology on these minutes, he did attend the meeting and the minutes have been amended to reflect this.

4. Update report on the work of the Executive Committee

The group noted the report given on the work of the Executive Committee as follows:

Hailsham Farmers' Market:

The Executive Team are continuing to work with the Farmers' Market to progress ideas put forward during the monthly team meetings, to help boost trade at the market.

Joint promotion of the Street Market and Farmers' Market continues and is in under constant review to ensure that both markets receive high levels of exposure. For Christmas 2019 Hailsham Street Market and Hailsham Farmers' Market will be working together to provide a bigger event on 14th December.

Events:

Working with the Town Council's Communities Committee, the Team assisted with the organisation of the two summer events. The Hailsham/Sussex Day on the 15th June and the Summer Market, which featured French market stalls, which took place on 20th July. The Team will continue to support the Town Council in the planning and delivery of the two Christmas events planned for Hailsham town centre. For 2020 a new large event is being planned for Hailsham; *Hailsham Live*, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8th May.

On the basis that large non grassed venues are difficult to find Kelly Sharp suggested if the event could be orientated around a street party in Hailsham square and surrounding area? Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins suggested stated that the Council's Communities Committee will be part of a steering group that will plan the new Hailsham Live Event.

Hailsham Loyalty Scheme:

The Executive Team are pleased that the number of local traders signing up to the Hailsham Card and the number of people using the card continues to increase. The 2020 Hailsham Card is now available to purchase.

The list of businesses include: Hot Dogs Grooming, Ms Match, B12 Bar & Kitchen, Beautiful Print and Design, Knockhatch, Frame Works, Definitions Hair & Beauty, Fish Around, Stitch & Sew, Olivia B, John's Fish & Chips, Callenders Restaurant, Bebble's Langos, Now Charity Group, 1066 Falconry, Antiques and Allsorts, Experience Travel, Pizza Bella, The Beauty Retreat & Sussex Beauty Therapy, Elderflower Interiors, Hailsham Technology, Sussex Bed Centre, The Homely Maid, Equestrian Ruggies Laundry Services, Nails and Brows Beauty, Bucklers Restaurant, Bentleys Hair & Nails, Fit Factory, Maybugs, Go Waggy, The Deli, Bizzybirds Women's Networking Group, Kube Hair Design, Scholfes Tea Rooms, Royal Indian, Continuum, Trophy Pet Foods and Hearology. Full details of the offers and where residents can purchase the Hailsham Card can be found at <http://www.towncitycards.com/hailsham/>. Details of how a business can sign up can be found at <http://www.towncitycards.com/hailsham-forward/>.

Community Forum:

The Hailsham Community Forum has continued to meet and enhance the range of services the individual groups and collective forum provide. The Forum managed by Jenny Seale and Julie Coates is evolving and will continue to organise events to help the groups to recruit new members and the public to engage with the many local community groups. The "What Can I Join Event" is being organised for January 2020 which should benefit both the local groups and residents. The Forum is continuing to manage volunteer hub, via Julie Coates at the Hailsham Food Bank. Local organisations can put forward requests for volunteer assistance and any resident can put forward themselves for volunteer work. These are matched to provide volunteers where they are needed.

Hailsham Industrial Parks:

Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce have confirmed that they will now work to gain new members from local industrial parks and Polegate to substantially increase their membership and become a real force in the area.

Peter Bowles raised the issue of the closure of the school uniform supplier, located in the Diplocks Estate He asked if anyone going to be providing the necessary school uniforms locally in the future. There is currently no information on a new supplier.

Health & Wellbeing:

Members of the Executive Team met with Cllr Ann Newton, Portfolio Holder Planning and Development, Wealden District Council and Marina Briginshaw, Head of Policy and Economic Development, Wealden District Council to discuss the significant shortfall in leisure and recreational facilities in Hailsham and the surrounding area. Hailsham Forward is seeking a firm commitment from Wealden to secure land and other facilities as part of the planning process. There were some actions agreed at the recent meeting, but no commitments were made by Wealden.

This item was discussed at length. Cllr Chris Jackets asked if there had been any progress by Wealden to look at the NHS land and buildings for sale at the former hospital site in Hellingly. Kelly Sharp said she will take this back to Wealden.

Cllr Bob Bowdler highlighted the problem with developments where decisions are made at the design stage that do not include suitable leisure/recreation infrastructure. An example of this is the Rosemead development in Horam where there is no link to the Cuckoo Trail that is very close to the development. Kelly Sharp stated that planning policy work with development management to ensure that any future applications meet the policies on a strategic basis in relation to open space need, including the provision of leisure and recreation. Provisions prescribed in the new local plan will have full weight once the plan is adopted. However, it is often difficult at the application stage on the grounds of viability as this sometimes affect the delivery of open space provision. It is also difficult to refuse applications on the grounds of open space design and provision.

John Harrison stated that Hailsham Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan included a policy to link green spaces to development s and once adopted will become part of planning policy for Hailsham.

Hailsham Town Council requested whether Development Management and developers could work with the Town Council at an early stage to ensure that open space and recreational facilities are suitably located and provided and to assist in adoption of those facilities.

Ralph Olesen highlighted the work to construct a new path around Western Road Recreation Ground and a hard surface exercise area. This is moving on and will provide an all year-round facility together with a link from the town to the Diplocks industrial estate. Further paths are being planned to link residential areas to green spaces and the Cuckoo Trail. It is vital that any new developments have suitable green spaces and/or linkages to other green spaces and the town centre to both improve health and reduce car journeys.

Kelly Sharp stated that policies are provided in the plan to ensure that pathways and cycleways will be linked and provided. However, a difficulty is

where land is required outside of these developments and particularly where land is in private ownership. However, footpaths could be secured through agreement with a landowner to make them a public right of way; this would need to be considered by East Sussex County Council.

John Harrison mention that Hailsham Town Council has requested Wealden carry out air quality monitoring in Hailsham, no reply has been received yet. The provision of more paths that link all parts of the town will help reduce car journeys and therefore reduce pollution, this needs to be considered on future developments.

Ron Lloyd stated that Wealden are looking to build more homes within the Town Farm Estate and following a residents' survey they found little space to build more homes. The plan is to use some green space and former garage sites to accommodate 26 new homes. The residents' Association have put forward a response to these proposals but have not hear anything back from Wealden.

New Projects:

The Team have provided full support to local businessman, Paul Gibson on his proposal to create a virtual shop front for Hailsham, this is providing a shop local initiative for Hailsham, supporting all the businesses in the town centre. The Hailsham Shop Local Website can be found at local.hailsham.news for more details.

5. Confirmation of the membership of the Executive Team

Mickey Caira asked the meeting to confirm the current membership of the Executive Team. The following membership list was agreed:

Director – Cllr Nick Collinson –
Director and Treasurer – Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou – Wealden District Council
Director – Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins – Hailsham Town Council
Director – Jan Townsend – Community Representative
Chairman - Cllr Chris Jackets – Hellingly Parish Council
Secretary and Member – Mickey Caira – Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager
Member – Cllr Nigel Coltman – Hailsham Town Councillor
Member – Peter Willson - Chairman of Hailsham and District Chamber of Commerce and Chief Executive of Now Charity
Member – Clive Soper – Federation of Small Businesses
Member – Phil Matthews – Principal Hailsham Community College
Member – Steve Wennington – Hailsham Active
Member – Ben Pratt – Hailsham Farmers' Market
Member – Nikita Clarke-Cox Business Enterprise Assistant
Member – Paul Gibson – Hailsham News

Member – Mark Hallett – Hailsham and District Chamber of Commerce
Member – Tony Biggin – Hailsham Festival
Member – Neil Povey – Hailsham FM

6. Future dates for meetings 2020

31st January 24th April 17th July and 16th October.

7. Any Other Business

Dermot Clarke highlighted the outreach service provided in Hailsham on a Thursday to support employment issues. He also mentioned the disability support that employers can sign up to on the Government website. Dermot will supply details that can be distributed. Please see below:

Disability Confident is creating a movement of change, encouraging employers to think differently about disability and take action to improve how they recruit, retain and develop disabled people.

Being Disability Confident is a unique opportunity to lead the way in your community, and you might just discover someone your business cannot do without.

It was developed by employers and disabled people's representatives to make it rigorous but easily accessible, particularly for smaller businesses.



Disability Confident

The Disability Confident scheme supports employers like you to make the most of the talents disabled people can bring to your workplace

[*Sign up to Disability Confident*](#)

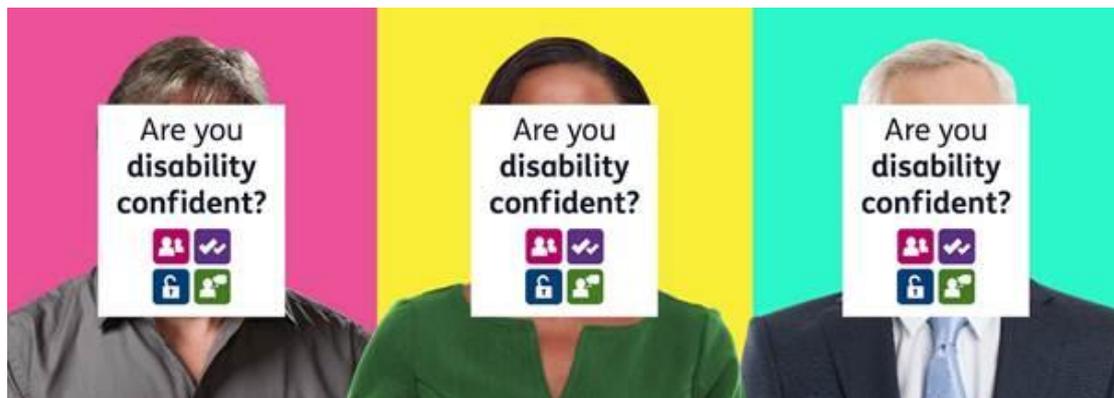
Get ahead

Join over 13,000 organisations that have signed up. Disability Confident organisations play a leading role in changing attitudes for the better. They're changing behaviour and cultures in their own businesses, networks and communities, and reaping the benefits of inclusive recruitment practices.

The scheme helps employers recruit and retain great people, and:

- *draw from the widest possible pool of talent*
- *secure high quality staff who are skilled, loyal and hard working*
- *improve employee morale and commitment by demonstrating that you treat all employees fairly*

It also helps customers and other businesses identify those employers who are committed to equality in the workplace.



Ron Lloyd highlighted the anti-social behaviour that is happening in the town including a recent assault. He questioned whether the police can solve the problem. Dermot Clarke stated that the police are now recruiting more officers, and this should help in the future.

Peter Bowles highlighted the anti-social driving that is taking place in the town.

There have been some meetings recently with the local policing team and Inspector Gross has confirmed that they will tackle the anti-social behaviour and “reclaim” the streets.

Ralph Olesen highlighted the amount of litter in the town especially on Town Farm where two bags of rubbish were collected recently.

Jackie Harris stated that it would be good if the police patrolled on foot and not just in a car. She stated that there are going to be more PCSO's for Hailsham. Jackie also stated that there has been a reduction in vandalism to

the flower displays in the town and Environment Hailsham is working with local schools on a bulb planting project including Grovelands School.

Ben Pratt highlighted an issue with the description of Hailsham as a former market town in the Hailsham Aspires online details. He expressed concern on how Wealden view Hailsham. Kelly Sharp stated that she will take this back to WDC.

Cllr Chris Jackets highlighted a recent post on Facebook stating that a planned block of flats has been pre-sold to a London borough, was this correct? Kelly Sharp stated that the plans were at an early stage and this was unlikely, but she would check this.

Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou highlighted the need to get businesses owners to renovate their shop fronts as some were now in a poor state. Mickey Caira confirmed that letters will be sent out soon to try and encourage the business owners to carry out works, where necessary for the benefit of the town and their own business.

Cllr Bob Bowdler stated that if anyone has an issue with a Wealden related issue then they should speak to their local Wealden councillor.

John Harrison stated that a motion was going to be put to the next Council meeting in November requesting a review of Hailsham Town Council's relationship with Hailsham Forward. The outcome of the review could be significant for the partnership. The format of the review will be put forward by officers and it will be the responsibility of the Council to determine if they wish to agree to the motion and carry out a review.

The meeting expressed concern over this, especially as this was on the last Hailsham Town Council agenda in September. Mickey Caira stated that members of Hailsham Forward are entitled to come to this meeting and have 15 minutes at the start of the meeting to address the Council. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th November at 7.30pm, the venue is yet to be confirmed. If anyone wishes to attend, then they can contact Mickey Caira to confirm the venue details nearer the date. mickey.caira@hailsham-tc.gov.uk.