

HAILSHAM FORWARD CIC

STAKEHOLDER GROUP

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM
ON 31ST JANUARY 2020 AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Cllr Chris Jackets: Hellingly Parish Council
Ben Pratt: Hailsham Farmers' Market
Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou: Wealden District Council
Dermot Clarke: Department for Work & Pensions
Peter Bowles: Representing Town Farm Residents Association
Ron Lloyd: Representing Town Farm Residents Association
Ralph Olesen: The Link Hailsham
Steve Wennington: Hailsham Active
Nikita Clarke Cox: Hailsham Town Council
Chris Bending: Wealden District Council
Laz Haklar: Representing Welbury Meadows & The Grange Residents

1. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Gill Cameron-Waller: Wealden District Council
Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Bob Bowdler: East Sussex County Council
Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town Council
John Harrison: 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
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 18 October 2019

The notes of the meeting held on 18 October 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Peter Bowles reported that a cyclist had been killed on London Road the previous evening and highlighted the effect of anti-social driving that is still present across the town.

Ron Lloyd also reported some anti-social driving on the Town Farm estate where 10 years olds are riding mini motorcycles.

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. In December 2019 a joint Christmas market event was held that saw more visitors to the town centre and both market sites. The plan going forward is to look at other joint working opportunities including the Christmas market 2020.

Events:

Working with the Town Council's Communities Committee, the Team are helping to plan the new Hailsham Live event for 2020, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8th May, together with the Christmas events in November and December 2020. The Team will also support Hailsham's community groups in their events during the year.

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, Bea-utiful Print and Design, Knockhatch, Frame Works, Definitions Hair & Beauty, Fish Around, Stitch & Sew, Olivia B, John's Fish & Chips, Callenders Restaurant, 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 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 continuing to engage with local groups to help promote their work, raise their profiles and funds and increase membership. The "What Can I Join Event" held last week is a great example of this work. This event should benefit both the local groups and residents. The Forum is continuing to manage the 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 members and become a real force in the area.

Health & Wellbeing:

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. Plans for a new path around Western Road Recreation Ground including an all-weather exercise area are progressing well and the Active Spaces Programme is continuing, with a new programme at the Hailsham Country Park starting in the spring.

Mickey Cairn highlighted that much of the success of the above projects were as a result of the close working partnerships that have formed over the past few years. In the recent "What can I join" event nearly 400 people attended the 35 stalls, with many of the local community group attracting new members as a result.

Steve Wennington highlighted the successful partnership working at the Maurice Thornton Pavilion where the junior football club are working with the

Town Council and the Town Farm Residents' Association to make improvements to the pavilion.

5. Review of Company Directors

Mickey Caira reported that the Executive Team considered that as Nick Collinson has been unable to attend meetings for some time and therefore unable to fulfil the function of a director he should be asked to resign as a director. The Executive Team expressed their overwhelming gratitude to Nick for the time and effort he has put into creating the partnership and projects that he benefitted the town.

The meeting agreed that Nick should be thanked for his work and asked to resign as a director.

6. Hailsham Live Event

Mickey Caira reported that Paul Gibson has made significant progress in the organisation of the event on Friday 8th May. Several local sponsors have been secured and many local organisations including schools and community groups will be taking part. There will be a parade of local air and army cadets together with veterans, to open the event, followed by live music from the community during the day and professional bands during the evening. The event is free but will be ticketed to control number the first 1,000 tickets issued have been taken up a further 1,000 tickets will be made available soon and a total of 3,000 tickets will made available for the event. All tickets can be secured through the website [hailsham. live](http://hailsham.live).

7. Future dates for meetings 2020

24th April 17th July and 16th October.

8. Any Other Business

Ron Lloyd asked what has happened to some of the dog bins removed from the Maurice Thornton Playing Fields. Mickey Caira confirmed that the Town Council will not replace these bins with dedicated dog bins but will encourage the public to use the adjacent litter bins for dog waste. He also confirmed that the Council will start the process of removing all their dog bins and either advise the public to use an adjacent litter bin or install new litter bins that will be dual use. This is as a result of a significant increase in the cost of the disposal of dog waste collected from these bins.

Laz Haklar asked why there were no bins on the grass areas off Brunel Drive. Mickey Caira confirmed that whilst the new community centre was in the ownership of the Town Council, the grass areas are not, and therefore the Council cannot place bins on private land. He also stated that the Council was working with the developers Taylor Wimpey to have this land transferred to the Council; once this done the Council will be able to install litter bins.

Ralph Olesen highlighted the issue of new developments not making provision for green space or good access to green space from the new development.

Chris Bending stated that it was not possible to solve the past problems of a shortfall in the provision of infrastructure in any new planning proposal. Each proposal is site specific and where appropriate links to green spaces and provision of green spaces will be required by planning. Consequential benefits can be considered but these are not mandatory. He also stated that East Sussex County Council are producing a cycle network plan for the county that includes the Hailsham area. He commented that housing growth in the southern part of Wealden was high especially around Hellingly and Stone Cross where the parishes have doubled in size in the past ten years.

Chris Jacketts highlighted the fact that there was no appetite to investigate the possibility of using a surplus NHS site at Hellingly Hospital for sports provision. He also commented on a small development of seven homes in Hellingly where there appears to be no provision to provide a footpath. He stated that in southern Africa all infrastructure must be in place before homes can be built.

Peter Bowles stated Wealden Housing have not responded to an estate audit carried out by the residents in 2019 and do not attend meetings of the residents' association. Parking is a major issue and challenged the consultants Wealden engaged to survey parking, as this was carried out during the day, the issues are in the evening when most residents are at home. He also challenged the installation of barriers around grass verges as these could be used to provide more parking as expressed in the audit response to Wealden. Chris Bending stated that this was not his area of responsibility, but he would refer it to Andy Vincent, Housing Manager.

Steve Wennington asked Chris Bending for a meeting with respect to the provision of leisure/recreation facilities in the town, Chris confirmed that he is happy to meet.

Dermot Clarke hoped that local businesses had signed up to the disability confident scheme, he stated that it took only a couple of minutes to do so. He highlighted an event taking place on February 14th in the Loft, Eastbourne between 10.00am and 3.00pm for 18 to 30-year olds. National and international companies including Waitrose and Google will be present at the event. He asked all to help promote the event.