

# HAILSHAM FORWARD

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 8.30AM ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2016 AT HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, MARKET STREET, HAILSHAM

### Attendees:

Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou – Hailsham Town Council: CT  
 Cllr Bill Bentley – East Sussex County Council: BB  
 Cllr Nigel Coltman – Co-opted Member: NSC  
 Jan Townsend – Community Representative: JT  
 Cllr Nick Collinson – Wealden District Council: NAC  
 Mickey Caira – Officer Support Hailsham Town Council: MC  
 Cllr Rupert Simmons – East Sussex County Council: RS  
 Richard Dawson – East Sussex County Council: RD

### Action:

6/16/1	<b><u>Introductions:</u></b>	
6/16/1.1	NAC thanked everyone for attending and invited all those present to introduce themselves to the meeting	
6/16/2	<b><u>Hailsham Industrial Parks:</u></b>	
6/16/2.1	<p>BB introduced this item; the vision of what Hailsham Forward wants is in two parts, built environment and skills issues.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wealden has low unemployment but Hailsham is high for the district.</li> <li>• The industrial parks (Diplocks and Station Road) are losing businesses to other areas as a result of having some poor built environment and a lot of smaller units.</li> <li>• Employers are recruiting from outside Hailsham as there is a local skills gap.</li> <li>• A more recent issue that has arisen is the establishment of a restriction to parking on the Hailsham Business Park (Wickes, Argos, Jollies etc). This has forced workers on the Diplocks Estate to park on the road within the estate and in residential areas adjacent to the estate. This is causing major obstructions and can only be resolved by building a parking area that would serve workers and visitors including visitors to</li> </ul>	

<p>6/16/2.2</p> <p>6/16/2.3</p> <p>6/16/2.4</p>	<p>Hailsham Town Football Club. Moving vehicles off the road would also provide an opportunity for road works to take place that physically cannot happen at present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landlords are financially challenged to make improvements to their industrial units as a result of having a number of vacancies.</li> <li>• Wealden Planners will need to relax conditions to allow for larger units to be created.</li> <li>• There are a number of landlords across the industrial estates.</li> </ul> <p>RS asked who the owner of Hailsham Business Park is. BB confirmed that Wickes own the whole site and they have implemented a three hour parking limit to allow the customers visiting the businesses on the site, to be able to park adjacent to the respective business.</p> <p>NAC – Chandlers had permission from the previous owners of the Business Park to park and at times occupied 50% of spaces. Chandlers tried to purchase a strip of land in Diplocks Way but were unsuccessful and have been using land at Knockhatch, but this is limited. Chandlers are currently discussing land by the pumping station at the end of Diplocks Way with Hailsham Town Council. NAC commented that there have been a number of incidents and accidents since the parking restrictions have been put in place. Could the grass verges be removed to make more space for parking? NAC highlighted another issue that has impacted on the Diplocks Industrial Estate; previously lorries using the estate were able to park in South Road car park, but since it has been renovated it is no longer available to lorry parking forcing some of the lorries to park on the estate.</p> <p>BB suggested that a possible solution to the parking issues was to use land owned by ESCC, adjacent to the public right of way and rear of the football club, as a car park.</p>	
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6/16/2.5	<p>RS asked for details of the access issues for Station Road Industrial Estate. BB stated that the access is constrained by a 25 foot wall on one side of the road and resident parking on the other, which only allows for one vehicle to pass at a time. The wall supports a housing estate and cannot therefore be moved. The only solutions are either to stop resident parking in the road and provide parking elsewhere, such as the South Road Car Park or put in traffic lights that gives a right of way in turn and give certainty for traffic movement. If the car park is used then a dedicated resident area would need to be segregated and a new entrance established in Station Road, with a barrier to stop the car park being used as a rat run. The issue of enforcement would also need to be addressed.</p>	
6/16/2.6	<p>RS asked with the housing developments being put forward for this area could developer contributions be used to help finance a solution. NAC stated that there will be a funding shortfall for infrastructure for the town and it would be wrong to tie in CIL money to fund a solution in the future. The developments are also some eight to ten years ahead and this is too long to find and fund a practical solution. There should be at least a temporary solution put into place such as the traffic management suggested by BB. There should be a traffic study undertaken to establish what can be achieved. NSC stated that a long term solution may not be possible. BB commented that the Hailsham Area Action Plan (HAAP) was looking at a transport hub for the future outside of an existing car park.</p>	
6/16/2.7	<p>RS asked if the Station Road Industrial Estate was fully let. NAC confirmed that the vacancy rate has fallen but it is still at around 25% vacant. BB commented that there is a mixed state of accommodation on this site, Wightman and Parrish are the largest employer on the site and are currently exporting through local port Newhaven. .</p>	
6/16/2.8	<p>RS stated that the East Sussex Invest Programme was available to support local business grown and job creation with grants</p>	

	<p>and loans available. The full criteria are available on the ESCC Website. RS chairs the project which is supported by local businesses and councils. RD confirmed that this funding was delivered in partnership with Locate East Sussex. There is also support to businesses through Business East Sussex; details can be found on the website. Funding to bring empty units back into use is also available through the Empty Property Fund this scheme is being delivered through Locate East Sussex.</p>	
6/16/2.9	<p>NAC suggested that it would be good to inform the local businesses, landlords etc of what is available to support and expand business in Hailsham. RD stated that Lets Do Business could do a presentation to local businesses. It was agreed that this should be organised and targeted and include around 20 businesses/landlords. RS confirmed that this will give access to professional guidance and open up opportunities for businesses. NAC stated that it would be good to get an opinion direct from local businesses on what the issues are for them.</p>	
6/16/2.10	<p>It was suggested that the Chandlers Showrooms would be an appropriate venue. NAC agreed to discuss this with Chandlers. It was agreed that if available the presentation should take place later in the year, once the refurbishment of the Chandlers showrooms are complete. A list will need to be compiled of the most appropriate people to invite. All will need to input into this list.</p>	<p>NAC o discuss the use of Chandlers Showrooms with Chandlers. MC to compile list of possible invitees. All to input into the list.</p>
6/16/2.11	<p>With respect to the skills gap issues, BB highlighted that there was no direct connection between the local college and local business. He suggested that vacant units in industrial estates could be used to train young people for local jobs in partnership with local employers who would provide the experienced staff.</p>	
6/16/2.12	<p>CT highlighted the skills training that Now Charity are now providing in Hailsham.</p>	
6/16/2.13	<p>RS confirmed that there is a major skills project underway in East Sussex.</p>	

6/16/2.14	RS stated that infrastructure investments were vital to East Sussex. These are needed to open up opportunities along the coast and in deprived areas.	
6/16/2.15	<p>Nine key industry sectors have been identified for growth and support in East Sussex. Five of these have been opened up for progress and include:</p> <p>Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, Creation and Design, Health and Well Being and Land Management. Land Management includes tourism which will be promoted through the cultural aspect. It has been recognised there is a need to improve the standards of hotels in East Sussex. BB commented that there was very little hotel provision in and around Hailsham. These areas will require the establishment of an effective programme to make progress and provide a successful boost to these industries. This will require a partnership between the industries and colleges to ensure the skills are identified and suitable training is provided. Businesses will lead in presentations to the 27 East Sussex colleges to build aspirations to students and provide workplace opportunities. In the past many young people moved out of East Sussex to find opportunities, this is changing.</p>	
6/16/2.16	NAC commented that there is little FE provision within the Wealden district and very little home grown provision. RS stated that all East Sussex colleges have a leading business linked to it. He highlighted the post 16 review of all colleges in East Sussex, this has led to Hastings College and Sussex Downs College specialising in courses rather than competing with each other. He also highlighted that 700 apprentices had been established through the Your Hired Campaign and Brighton University were establishing a £16m engineering facility, built around the engineering industry in East Sussex.	
6/16/2.17	RD stated that a Review of Employment & Skills Strategy will be taken to the ESCC	

	Cabinet in September. Cllr Nick Bennett is leading on this project.	
6/16/2.18	BB stated that Phil Matthews Principal of Hailsham Community College wants to get the College engaged with the process of working with businesses to establish the most suitable curriculum.	
6/16/2.19	BB highlighted the issue with engaging local employers, many of which are small with only 5 employees and therefore little time to spend outside of the business. It was agreed that the presentation to local businesses would take place outside of operational hours. RS confirmed that most meetings take place in the evening and local businesses should be directed to the Skills East Sussex Website and suggested that if a business is being strangled by lack of suitable staff then they should be involved.	
6/16/2.20	BB asked how you keep the businesses in Hailsham. RS confirmed that East Sussex do have opportunities for businesses to expand.	
6/16/2.21	BB stated that it would be good to get East Sussex to do a presentation to the Stakeholder Group in the future to highlight the opportunities and support for local businesses.	
6/16/2.22	NSC asked what affect Swallow Business Park was having on the existing industrial parks in Hailsham. RD confirmed that the park was just being established and one major business from Hastings was relocating to the Park (Vacgen). The take up for the Park was good with demand outstripping supply. The developer of the site is bringing in businesses. Local Growth Fund money from the LEP has been used to open up part of the site as part of a programme of infrastructure improvements. It has been possible to accelerate this project as a result of some under spending elsewhere. NAC commented that retail on this new site would be detrimental to the town.	
6/16/2.23	RS highlighted the success of the concept of working in harmony that put East Sussex in a good position to get funding form the	

	introduction of the LEP; for the Bexhill/Hastings link road. He commented that with the changes to some of the Govt ministers, work will need to be done to get the commitment from the new ministers.	
6/16/2.24	NAC commented that Hailsham Forward is happy to provide local knowledge and willing and able to help. He also commented on the lack of funding that has gone into Hailsham in the past. RD highlighted the £2.6m funding for the town centre improvements.	
6/16/2.25	RD highlighted that the emerging Wealden Local Plan may change the emphasis of where the developments will require infrastructure. RS commented that Wealden have an obsession with housing development and will need to plan for business growth to support the new housing. NAC confirmed that the HAAP is progressing commercial aspects of WDC Plan.	
6/16/2.26	NAC commented that improvements to the A27 –Polegate to Lewes are pivotal to the growth of employment and housing. RS confirmed that a coop, chaired by Simon Kirby MP has been established to get the funding agreed for the improvements. There is a small amount of money secured for junction improvements but there are physical restrictions such as the South Downs National Park that are challenging. The other issue is the fact that this road unlike the Bexhill/Hastings link road is not opening up an area for the creation of jobs; it is connectivity that is the main driver. The Highways Agency is working with East Sussex on this project.	
6/16/2.27	BB highlighted the importance of the expansion of Gatwick Airport to businesses in East Sussex. RS confirmed that a letter has been sent to the new Prime Minister requesting that a decision is made to expand Gatwick. Gatwick is deliverable and is six times cheaper than Heathrow, which include plans to mitigate the increase in noise.	
6/16/2.28	RS also highlighted the support given to improve the port of Newhaven to keep it open to ferries and business.	

6/16/2.29	NAC thanked RS and RD for their support and information and commented that local businesses need to be aware of what support is available. BB suggested that one or two of the local businesses that have benefited from the support from East Sussex should be invited to the presentation.	
6/16/3	<b><u>Apologies:</u></b>	
6/16/3.1	Clive Soper – Federation of Small businesses: CS Michelle Hagger – Officer Support Hailsham Town Council: MH Phil Matthews – Representing Young People: PM Trina Mayson – Hailsham Chamber of Commerce: TM Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins – Hailsham Town Council: GBC Cllr Barby Dashwood-Morris – Hellingly Parish Council: BDM	
6/16/4	<b><u>Minutes of Meeting Held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016:</u></b>	
6/16/4.1	Agreed as a correct record.	
6/16/5	<b><u>Matters Arising:</u></b>	
6/16/5.1	<u>Minute: 5/16/3.14 Bus Shelter Vicarage Lane</u> NAC confirmed that he taken this up with WDC Corporate Assets and they are dealing with it. BB suggested that there may be a new bus shelter located in Vicarage Lane?	
6/16/5.2	<u>Minute: 5/16/3.23 Promotion of Hailsham</u> NAC confirmed that the Chamber of Commerce had started to put up banners promoting the town centre businesses during the road works.	
6/16/6.3	BB is chasing ESCC Highways for the banners on the A22 promoting “town centre open for businesses”	
6/16/6.4	BB informed the Team that he had visited the Farmers’ Market and found that they did not appear to have lost any trade as a result of the Street Market trading on the same day.	
6/16/6.5	BB asked with the withdrawal of the open space in the Quintin’s to local community groups is the Street Market being made available. MC confirmed that the Street Market	



	is being made available to these groups and that more than one can attend at a time. This has been well used by the local community. It was agreed that the market can be used for public engagement by the Council.	
6/16/6.6	<u>Minute: 5/16/4.3 Market Flyer</u> MC confirmed that this was forwarded to TM.	
6/16/6.7	<u>Minute: 5/16/4.8 Wi Fi</u> NAC is taking this forward and looking at getting the service sponsored by a local company.	
6/16/6.8	<u>Minute: 5/16/5.2 Hailsham Card</u> MC confirmed that this was forwarded to the Team.	
6/16/6.9	<u>Minute: 5/16/5.3 Hailsham Card Promotional Material</u> MC confirmed that this was forwarded to NAC	
6/16/6.10	<u>Minute: 5/16/6.2 Legal Status</u> MC confirmed that he and MH had met with 3VA to discuss the proposal to form a CIC as the legal status of Hailsham Forward. He highlighted the fact that 3VA have gone through some radical changes and that 3VA may not be able to support this process going forward.	
6/16/6.11	BB asked if AIRS have been considered. MC will follow up on 3VA and if required seek support from an alternative organisation.	
6/16/6.12	It was agreed that MC and MH to work on a proposal for the September meeting.	MC/MH to continue with drawing up a proposal
6/16/6.13	<u>Minute: 5/16/7.2 Funding for Business</u> Item on the agenda as requested.	
6/16/6.14	<u>Minute: 5/16/7.5 Hailsham Forward Constitution and Plan</u> MC confirmed that this was forwarded to TM.	
6/16/6.15	<u>Minute: 5/16/7.6 Street Market Planning Application</u> MC confirmed that the Street Market has been given planning approval to operate on Vicarage Field	
6/16/7	<b><u>Membership of the Executive Team:</u></b>	
6/16/7.1	MC confirmed that the membership of the	

	Executive Team will be taken to the Stakeholder meeting in a weeks time. The appointment of officers for the Executive will be dealt with at the next Executive Team meeting. BB confirmed that he will not be standing as Treasurer for the forthcoming year. NSC stated that he is prepared to continue to chair the Stakeholder Group.	
6/16/7.2	BB suggested that Derek Carter from CH2M who are delivering the town centre improvement works should be invited to the Stakeholder Group as a temporary member, whilst the works are being carried out. This was agreed and MC will invite Derek to the next meeting.	MC to invite Derek carter to the next meeting
6/16/8	<b><u>Funding for Business:</u></b>	
6/16/8.1	Dealt with as part of the discussion on Hailsham Industrial Parks (6/16/2)	
6/16/9	<b><u>Hailsham Card:</u></b>	
6/16/9.1	MC updated the Team on the take up of the card. The most up-to-date list can be found on the Town City Card Website.	
6/16/9.2	MC confirmed that Hailsham Pavilion was unable to offer a promotion as a result of contractual agreements with the film distributors.	
6/16/9.3	NAC suggested that we may need to change the logo on the Hailsham Card as the public may think that the Pavilion is giving a discount.	MC to put on agenda to discuss further.
6/16/9.4	NAC stated that Chris Beveridge the founder of Town City Cards has recently won an award for his business and suggested that Hailsham Forward formally congratulate him. This was agreed and MC will confirm the award won and send congratulations to Chris	MC to confirm the award and send letter to Chris.
6/16/10	<b><u>Legal Status Update:</u></b>	
6/16/10.1	See minute 6/16/6.6 above.	
6/16/11	<b><u>Any Other Business:</u></b>	
6/16/11.1	JT asked where details of the High Street	

6/16/11.2	<p>improvement scheme can be found as she is aware that some local residents are confused with what is being done.</p> <p>NAC suggested that searching for Hailsham Town Centre Improvements works on the ESCC Website should take you to the details of the scheme.</p>	
6/16/11	<b><u>Date of Next Meeting:</u></b>	
6/16/11.1	It was agreed to hold the date of 19 <sup>th</sup> August for the next meeting.	