

HAILSHAM FORWARD

Stakeholder Group Meeting

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2016 AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Steve Wennington: Hailsham Active
Jan Townsend: Tomorrow's People
Cllr Nick Collinson: Wealden District Councillor
Cllr Barby Dashwood-Morris: Hellingly Parish Councillor
Cllr Paul Holbrook: Hailsham Town Councillor
Richard Grocock: Environment Hailsham
Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council
Michelle Gray: Wealden District Council
Ralph Olesen: The Link Hailsham
Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council
Chaquita Moore: DWP
Anton Bree: Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce
Trina Mayson: The Now! Charity Group Ltd
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Councillor
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town Councillor
Nigel Hannam: Wealden District Council
Alice Matthews: Sussex Community Development Association

Nigel McKeeman was also in attendance

1. Introductions and Apologies:

Cllr Nigel Coltman thanked everyone for attending and invited all those present to introduce themselves to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Rob Slater: Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Bill Bentley: East Sussex County Council
Suzanne Collins: Hellingly Parish Council
Michelle Hagger: Hailsham Town Council
Nus Ghani: Member of Parliament
Jenny Seale: Hailsham Farmers' Market
Sam Imber: Hailsham Forward Executive
Keith Ramshaw: Hailsham Forward Executive
Dermot Clarke: DWP
Jo Whitehead: Sussex Community Development Association

Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College
Irit Meyer: representing St Marys Walk
Jeremy Shepherd: representing St Marys Walk
Carolyn Fogg: Tomorrow's People
Cllr Amanda O'Rawe: Hailsham Town Councillor

2. Notes of meeting held on 30th October 2015:

The notes of the meeting held on 30th October 2015 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising:

Item 5. Update on the work of the Executive Team.

Councillor Coltman confirmed that the proposal to support the launch of the Lyonesse Loyalty Scheme had been dropped.

Item 9. Hailsham Street Market

Councillor Coltman commented that the market was not buzzing at the moment and the Executive Team were looking at ways to get more traders and shoppers at the market and asked members of the Stakeholder Group to consider ideas that may help in this process and forward them to Mickey Caira.

Councillor Coltman also commented on the confusion that still exists with the Street Market not operating every Saturday.

Item 10. Wealden Local Plan

Councillor Coltman stated that the first meeting of the Hailsham Area Action Plan (HAAP) Steering Group had recently taken place and that meeting dates for the remainder of the year had been set. He highlighted the issue of access in and out of the town to support the proposed growth of the town and surround area up to 2037. Hailsham Forward will concentrate on the business issues of this process.

Nigel Hannam confirmed that Hailsham Forward is represented by Phil Matthews on the Steering Group and each representative will be linked to the organisations represented on the Steering Group. There were around 30 members of the public at the first meeting and there will be specific public engagement events during the process of establishing the HAAP.

Councillor Coltman asked that the HAAP is put on the agenda of the next Stakeholder Group Meeting.

Councillor Collinson highlighted the fact that the local CCG had not attended either meeting of the HAAP Steering Group and also not been present at other meetings locally.

Nigel Hannam confirmed that the CCG has provided a nominee but they have been unable to attend the meetings so far. Councillor Newton will follow this

up with the CCG. Nigel Hannam has met with the CCG rep Murray King and had positive discussions with GP's from Hailsham.

Item 11. Hailsham Hero Award

Councillor Coltman highlighted the reason for the establishment of the award, which was to give the local residents something back for their own personal efforts in the local community. He confirmed that 11 nominations have been received by the Town Council and that a small committee of three councillors and three members of the public would meet later in the day to select the award winner.

4. Update on the Work of the Executive Team:

Mickey Caira highlighted the work of the Executive Team as detailed in the written report.

With respect to the shop fronts, Councillor Coltman suggested that he and Mickey Caira would need to survey the town centre shop fronts and backs in the near future. He highlighted the work undertaken by the local Chamber of Commerce in encouraging local businesses to improve their shop fronts and arranging the refurbishment of the front of the former Downland Carpets shop in Station Road.

Councillor Dashwood-Morris asked if any of the Hellingly community groups were featured in the Town and Shopping Guide. Mickey Caira could not confirm this and agreed to liaise with Hellingly Parish Clerk, Suzanne Collins to gather this information for the Guide as necessary.

Councillor Collinson highlighted the Wealden District Council mobile phone on-line survey and asked that the Group completes the survey and encourages others to do so.

Councillor Coltman confirmed that the Hailsham Street Market will be offering free pitches for the Thursday markets. Councillor Collinson stated that the idea of retaining the Thursday market was to have the activity during the quieter part of the week.

Councillor Coltman commented on the Christmas event, stating that despite the adverse weather the event was well attended across the three separate locations.

Mickey Caira stated that the two resident forums had not worked well as Hailsham Forward could not deliver what the public wanted, as these were not Council meetings where decisions could be made. Following the request made by the public at the last forum for the Town Council to manage these meetings; the Town Council resolved not to do so in the current format.

John Harrison confirmed that the Town Council were looking at exploring a citizens' panel approach to consulting/communicating with local residents. The Meeting discussed the issues around selecting an appropriate panel to

ensure there is a balanced panel of residents. Councillor Collinson considered that approaching resident associations may provide the most appropriate representation for the town's residents. Alice Matthews stated that citizens' panels work well if resident associations take part and suggested that the Sussex Community Development Association could help in this process.

5. Update on the MASHH Project:

Councillor Coltman outlined the main features of the town centre improvement works, to provide a more pedestrian friendly High Street and reduce the use of cars and to make Vicarage Lane/Road fully one way.

Councillor Galley confirmed that the proposed start date for the town centre works is 8th May. There will be a County Council planning Meeting on 10th February to review objections to the TRO's, if the objections are resolved at the meeting the scheme will go ahead as planned. He also confirmed that a communications plan will be implemented to ensure that everyone is kept up-to-date prior to and during the works.

Councillor Collinson commented on the poor state of the roads both in the town centre and across the town, and asked if all of the roads within the town centre improvement scheme will be resurfaced. This could not be confirmed. He asked that Hailsham Forward write to ESCC to request that this takes place if it is not part of this scheme. This was agreed.

John Harrison commented that the MASHH Steering Group is working on other schemes outside of the town centre and will be reviewing their work in light of the changing Wealden Local Plan and the emerging Hailsham Area Action Plan.

A question was asked about the A22/Hempstead Lane roundabout, had money been secured from developers. Nigel Hannam confirmed that there was no timescale for the works as yet. It was agreed that Hailsham Forward would ask ESCC about the progress of this scheme in the letter about the very poor road surfaces in Hailsham.

Ralph Olesen asked if there were up-to-dates plans for the town centre works available. He was advised to check the ESCC website for these plans. He also asked if there was going to be a forum before the start of the works. Councillor Galley stated that this could be considered at the next MASHH meeting.

Councillor Coltman stated that meetings between town mayors from south Wealden have considered working in partnership to undertake some form of parking enforcement; as very limited police resources are not allowing this to happen.

Councillor Galley confirmed that Wealden District Council are committed to free parking and are not considering decriminalisation of parking in the Wealden towns. He stated that decriminalisation and free parking were

possible but who pays for the enforcement; this is usually paid for from parking charges.

John Harrison suggested that the next meeting of the MASHH Steering Group will take place in early March. A question was raised in respect of members of the Hailsham Forward Stakeholders attending these meetings. John Harrison confirmed that he would ask the chairman of MASHH if this is possible.

6. Hailsham Loyalty Card:

Mickey Caira presented the brief report sent out with the meeting papers, highlighting the key features of the proposed scheme. Anton Bree commented that it is a good idea if local businesses support it. Councillor Collinson confirmed that it will provide a loyalty scheme for Hailsham for the benefit of both local businesses and local residents and gave Hailsham Forward an opportunity to sell the loyalty cards to the public to help repay the start-up costs of the scheme.

The Stakeholders agreed that the Executive can go ahead with the project and use £1,000 of Hailsham Forward funds to establish and promote the Hailsham Card Scheme.

7. Any Other Business:

Michelle Gray highlighted the Best Christmas Shop Window Display Competition that was organised by Wealden's Streets Ahead Team. This was done via Face book and generated 20,000 views, with 30 businesses taking part across the district. An Uckfield business won the competition.

Councillor Collinson reminded the Group to complete the Wealden mobile phone survey, and encourage others to do so.

Mickey Caira highlighted an issue that Councillor Bentley; who was unable to attend the meeting, had raised at the County Council in respect of Swallow Business Park. The Lead County Council Member is due to consider a report proposing that Local Growth Fund monies approved by South East Local Enterprise Partnership can be used to deliver the site infrastructure associated with the development of this site. Councillor Bentley has challenged this in respect of the potential economic impact in Hailsham which could lead to a bleed of companies from Hailsham to the new site. He has raised this within the Economic Development Team at ESCC who have some empathy with this position and have agreed to meet with Hailsham Forward through the Exec, Stakeholders and Business forum (if we can draw together potentially impacted businesses) to design projects and bid for funding to address identified issues. One issue may be drawing together landlords to formulate a common policy, possibly an initial bid could be to fund the research and establish an industry sub-group for the business parks?

Anton Bree informed the meeting that the Chamber of Commerce had put in a bid to the Wealden Strategic Partnership (Stronger Resilient Communities

Fund) for funding of a pop-up shop in Hailsham town centre. The deadline for bids to this fund is 29th February.

Ralph Olesen asked if there was any funding in place for the South Road/Ersham Road/ Diplocks Way junction. Councillor Coltman confirmed that this scheme was on hold as a result of the major issues with the designated status of the land and the sub-station located in one corner of the land. Nigel Hannam stated that he would look at the funding of this scheme and reminded the meeting that for the most part Section 106 monies would cease in April to be replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Councillor Dashwood Morris informed the meeting that as Chairman of Wealden District Council she calls a meeting of the mayors of the major towns in the district every four to five months to discuss common challenges. In the past this has involved Nigel McKeeman on the WDC Streets Ahead Project and has recently discussed the issue of decriminalisation. She suggested it would be good for a Hailsham Forward representative to report back on the work of Hailsham Forward.

Nigel McKeeman offered to provide Hailsham Forward the ideas he had put together on pop-up shops if that will assist the Chamber of Commerce in their work to establish a pop-up shop in Hailsham. The Chairman thanked him for his kind offer.

The Chairman thanked everyone who attended.

The next meeting will take place in three months time the end of April, date to be confirmed.