

# HAILSHAM FORWARD

## Stakeholder Group Meeting

NOTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM ON 14TH JULY  
2017 AT  
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

### **Attendees:**

Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council  
Ben Pratt: Hailsham Farmers' Market  
Richard Grocock: Environment Hailsham  
Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council  
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Councillor  
Jan Townsend: Community Representative  
Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou: Hailsham Town Council  
Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town Councillor  
Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins: Hailsham Town Council  
Rev David Farey: Vicar of Hellingly and Upper Dicker  
Christian Letschka: Hailsham Town Council  
Cllr Bob Bowdler: East Sussex County Council  
Steve Scott: Advice on the formation of C.I.C.  
Ralph Olesen: The Link

Also in attendance Nigel McKeeman

### **1. Introductions and Apologies:**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited two new members; councillor Bob Bowdler and Steve Scott to introduce themselves to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Nus Ghani MP  
Cllr Gerard Fox ESCC Councillor  
Dermot Clarke: DWP  
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council  
Alice Matthews: Sussex Community Development Association  
Jackie Akehurst: DWP  
Steve Wennington: Hailsham Active  
Derek Carter: CH2M  
Hellingly Parish Council  
Cllr Amanda O'Rawe: Hailsham Town Councillor  
Trina Mayson: The Now! Charity Group Ltd  
Clive Soper: Federation of Small Businesses  
Kay Birch: Wealden CAB

Michelle Gray: Wealden District Council  
Cllr Nick Collinson: Wealden District Councillor  
Nigel Hannam: Wealden District Council  
Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College  
Irit Meyer: representing St Marys Walk  
Jeremy Shepherd: representing St Marys Walk

## **2. Notes of meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017:**

The notes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.

## **3. Matters Arising:**

Councillor Blake-Coggins asked for an update on the establishment of Hailsham FM in 2 North Street. The Chairman confirmed that the Town Council will be debating this at the next Council meeting on 19th July, and commented that the owner's agents of 2 North Street have put forward a lot of conditions on the sub-letting of the building to Hailsham FM. Rev David Farey stated that this was progressing and that a site for the transmission ariel has been found on the building next to Courtlandt in George Street.

## **4. Update on the Work of the Executive Team:**

### Shop Fronts

The Chairman highlighted the inspections he and Mickey Caira have carried out over the past few years to shop fronts in the town centre. Follow-up letters have been sent to businesses to encourage them to keep their premises in good order.

### Town & Shopping Guide

Mickey Caira confirmed that the Guide is maintained to ensure that it is up-to-date. The Guide includes all the businesses in the town centre, some of the industrial parks, details for many of the local community groups and the Hailsham Heritage Trail.

### Hailsham Street Market

Mickey Caira highlighted the current issues of the low number of traders. The town centre improvement works have negatively impacted on the market and work is underway to promote the market to attract more traders. Christian Letschka confirmed that traders are doing okay at the market and he is organising adverts in the relevant trade publications to attract new traders. Councillor Bowdler stated that he has recently spoken to some of the market traders who thought that there was not enough promotion of the market. Mickey Caira confirmed that paid-for press advertising had been suspended as there are not currently the funds to pay for it and not a large enough market to "sell" to the public in this way. He also confirmed that there are several large advertising boards promoting the market in and around Hailsham, a very active Facebook and Twitter promotion of the market and

promotion through the Town Council's Newsletter, which is delivered to all 10,000 Hailsham households.

A general discussion took place on the potential ways to promote the market, including roundabout advertising on the A22.

### Events

The Chairman highlighted the successful Celebrate Hailsham Day held on 24<sup>th</sup> June, where many local businesses took part in offering special promotions on the day.

Mickey Caira stated that the next event is the Community Fun Day to be held on Western Road Recreation Ground on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. The event is being organised by Hailsham Lions and Hailsham Active with a lot of activities for all to enjoy. A week later sees the Hailsham Summer Market on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July, featuring live music, Hailsham FM, Harvey's Brewery, Royal Indian and market stalls.

### Hailsham Card

Mickey Caira stated that the scheme has expanded recently in Hailsham with another twelve businesses signing up. A new look card has been launched featuring an image of St Mary's Walk.

### Pop-Up Shop

Mickey Caira stated that there have been many tenants using the shop since its launch in the spring and whilst there have been a few vacant weeks it has been well used.

### Industrial Parks

Mickey Caira highlighted the parking, access and egress issues on the Diplocks Industrial Estate. He confirmed that the Executive Team have requested that the Town Council make an area of unused open space, adjacent to the industrial estate at the Country Park end of the estate available for car parking to help alleviate some of these issues. The Town Council have agreed in principle for this land to be used for car parking, however, there are many issues to overcome before the area could be used for car parking.

Councillor Bowdler confirmed that he and Councillor Fox support this proposal.

## **5. Update on the MASHH Project:**

Mickey Caira circulated the latest update on the town centre improvements works produced by East Sussex County Council. The works are progressing well and should be complete by 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017. (A copy of the update is attached at the end of the minutes.)

The Chairman highlighted other projects that have been considered by the MASHH Steering Group including the potential for new roundabouts at the South Road/Diplocks Way junction and on the A22 at Hempstead Lane.

Rev David Farey highlighted the negative issues with the way some vehicles were parking in the town centre. The Chairman stated that the Town Council have proposed putting planters and bollards in the High Street and George Street to help to stop the abuse of parking. East Sussex County Council are yet to approve these proposals and are waiting to deal with objections from East Sussex Association for the Blind on the proposals.

Councillor Galley commented that the MASHH Steering Group need to meet to review the work in the town centre and to consider future projects for Hailsham.

Ralph Olesen commented that the new single carriageway set-up in Vicarage Lane could cause congestion problems around the entrance/exit to Waitrose Car Park with cars queuing to get into the car park blocking the road.

## **6. Formation of a Community Interest Company:**

Mickey Caira introduced Steve Scott who is advising Hailsham Forward on how a new set-up would work for the partnership and assisting in the submission of an appropriate application to establish a Community Interest Company (CIC).

Mickey encouraged the meeting to put any questions/issues to Steve based on the draft Memorandum of Association that was circulated with the meeting papers.

The Chairman commented that he could not see the explicit power to spend money. Steve Scott stated that this was covered under Item 14 of the draft.

Rev David Farey asked where the directors would come from and how they are to be appointed. Mickey Caira confirmed that in the first instance the existing members of the Executive Team would be asked to consider being directors. As the current Executive is made up from across the councils, business, youth and community representatives it should provide a broad base of representation for Hailsham. Steve Scott confirmed that the draft confirms that the current Stakeholders (named Members in the draft) would have to confirm the appointment of all directors.

Councillor Galley asked if the wording on item 16 to "appoint" was correct and should it not be elect? Steve Scott confirmed that he will check this out and amend if appropriate.

Ben Pratt asked if the wording on item 16 "may" was correct and should this not be should? Steve Scott confirmed that he will check this out and amend if appropriate.

Mickey Caira thanked everyone for their input and confirmed that he will work with Steve to produce a final document that will be presented to the next meeting of the Stakeholders in October to approve or otherwise. Mickey

confirmed that the document would be sent out with as much notice as possible and include details of the benefits of moving Hailsham Forward onto a legal footing.

**Mickey stressed the importance of all Stakeholder representatives to be present at the meeting on 13th October to make this very important decision.**

## **7. Future Dates for Meetings.**

The future dates of the meeting will be as follows: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

## **8. Any Other Business:**

The Chairman invited Nigel Mckeeman to address the meeting. Nigel presented a mock-up of new signage for the village shop in Ruslake Green, as an example of what can be done to improve the image of shop fronts. He stated that this sign will be sign written and that there are local sign writers that can carry out this work. He considered that shop fronts can be transformed by new signage and not just old-fashioned sign writing as there are examples of more contemporary signs that have been painted by hand. He suggested that it would be good to find a way to encourage local businesses to invest in new signage to improve shop fronts.

Councillor Bowdler asked if anything could be done to encourage the nationals to have signage that is more in keeping with the local environment not just the corporate signs. Ben Pratt stated that it was possible for some of the national to adapt their signage to fit into the local area.

Ralph Olesen stated that A boards can also have a very positive image.

A suggestion of promoting a best shop front competition may help improve shop signs at it was agreed that the Executive Team would look at this.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and their input to the meeting.



# KEEPING HAILSHAM MOVING

June 2017

## Scheme Update

As we enter the final stages of the Hailsham Town Centre Redevelopment, one of the final phases of work that needs to be done is the reconstruction of the junction between Marshfoot Lane and Vicarage Road.

These works were originally planned to last 5 days beginning on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017. However, to keep Vicarage Lane and Vicarage Road open to one-way traffic and avoid any traffic delays on the High Street and North Street due to road closures, we have re-programmed the works.

This means that while the works will still begin on 10<sup>th</sup> July, they will now take 1 week longer to complete but one-way traffic flow will be maintained on Vicarage Lane and Vicarage Road. We will still however need to close the junction between Marshfoot Lane and Vicarage Road during this time.

During this 2 week period, anyone wishing to access the Leisure Centre, Waitrose, Council Offices or car parks on Vicarage Lane will be able to do so via the north end of Vicarage Lane and will be able to exit by turning towards Vicarage Road and heading down towards the junction between Market Street and George Street.

Residents living in Marshfoot Lane will need to take an alternative route should they wish to access the town centre – see plan below.

Please note, that apart from the planned night time closures on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July and again on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August the one-way traffic flow on Vicarage Lane and Vicarage Road will be kept in place for the remaining period of the town centre redevelopment works which are still on track to be completed by 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused by these works. Once again, if you have any questions on these works or any aspect of the scheme please contact Chris Richards, Public Liaison Officer, on **07342 998727**.

