

HAILSHAM FORWARD

Stakeholder Group

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM ON 2 MAY 2014 AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Peter Sabine: Representing Mr Charles Hendry MP
Steve Wennington: Hailsham & District Sports Alliance
Peter Sutcliffe: Hailsham Trust
Arlene Leake: Federation of Small Businesses
Colin Slaughter: Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Nick Collinson: Hailsham Town and Wealden District Councillor
Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town and Wealden District Councillor
Cllr Paul Holbrook: Hailsham Town Councillor
Cllr Jo Bentley: Hailsham Town and Wealden District Councillor
Cllr David White: Hellingly Parish and Wealden District Councillor
Cllr Bill Bentley: East Sussex County Council
Nigel Hannam: Wealden District Council
Michelle Gray: Wealden District Council
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council
Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council
Michelle Hagger: Hailsham Town Council
Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council

Also in attendance Councillor Nigel McKeeman: Wealden District Council - Streets Ahead Project.

1. Introductions and Apologies:

Cllr Nigel Coltman chaired the meeting and highlighted the outstanding work Hailsham Forward had achieved through working in partnership; and invited all those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from:

Mr Charles Hendry MP
Anton Bree; Chairman Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce
Irit Meyer - representing St Marys Walk
Carolyn Fogg - Tomorrows People
Kay Coxon - PPDG
Cllr Laurence Keeley - East Sussex County Council
Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College
Hazel Northcott: Job Centre Plus
Rose Piggott: Hailsham Bonfire Society
Alan Osborne: Hailsham Bonfire Society
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Councillor

Cllr Amanda O'Rawe: Hailsham Town Councillor
Ralph Olesen: The Link Hailsham
Musta Rahman: Hailsham Youth Mayor

2. Notes of meeting held on 1st March 2013:

The notes of the meeting held on 31st January 2014 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising:

MASHH - Councillor Nigel Coltman highlighted the consultation that had taken place both with the business sector in previous months, and with the public during two days of a public exhibition on 25th & 26th April. Feedback on the draft plans for the town centre roads, was mostly positive, with some 100+ visitors attending each of the two days.

Wealden District Council - Car Park Review - Nigel Hannam updated the meeting on the review. He stated that a report will be presented to the Cabinet in June that incorporated informal consultation with local business and the effect of the MASHH proposals. Formal consultation with the local communities across Wealden should take place following the Cabinet meeting.

Councillor Bill Bentley asked if the review included directional signage (including "free parking") within Hailsham, to assist motorists to find the various car parks within the town centre. Nigel Hannam confirmed that this is being looked at in Hailsham to try and ensure that motorists are advised where there may be available parking spaces.

Councillor Bentley stated that it had not been possible to include "free parking" on the proposed brown tourist signs directing traffic from the A22 into Hailsham.

Any Other Business- Councillor David White highlighted that the notes taken in respect of Councillor Roy Galley's comments on the start of the consultation on the Local Plan did not fully express the exact details of the consultation. The meeting agreed that the notes should make reference to the Wealden Delivery and Site Allocation Local Plan and the importance of this consultation in shaping the future of all the local areas.

4. Update on the work of the Executive Team:

Council Nigel Coltman introduced the two sets of Hailsham Forward Executive minutes

He commented that the success of the Hailsham Forward was achieved through the strong partnership that was evolving in Hailsham.

Mickey Caira highlighted the new Community Forum Project that had started since the last Stakeholder Meeting. Two meetings with local community groups had taken place in the last month which has started to build a local community network.

Councillor Nick Collinson commented that there had been 18 groups represented at the first meeting and 15 at the second. He stated that the purpose of the project was to build a co-ordinated approach to events and community activity in the town, and the forum presented the group with more opportunities to publicise what they do and to recruit new members. The two key action points that have come out of the last meeting was to include the community groups in the Hailsham Town and Shopping Guide and for the community groups to have access to a market stall to promote their groups and the local what's on guide for Hailsham.

Councillor Bill Bentley referred to minute reference 3/14/4.6 from the meeting on 4th April 2014 which highlighted that 4 Market Square could be used as a pop up shop. He advised that this premises was now being let by the Town Council and was no longer available. He also commented that town centre residents had not been directly consulted on plans for the town centre; the meeting agreed that this would need to be picked up by the Executive.

Councillor Nigel Coltman informed the meeting that there are discussions taking place to see if St Mary's Churchyard can be opened up to become more of a useable public open space. He commented that several shop backs visible from the churchyard were untidy and poorly designed, and the Hailsham Forward Executive were looking at how to encourage shop owners to improve them.

Councillor Jo Bentley informed the meeting that she had negotiated with WDC for the provision of covered cycle storage on the old public toilet site in Vicarage Field; to be financed from the MASHH project.

Councillor Nick Collinson informed the meeting the QR Code shop window stickers promoting the Hailsham Town and Shopping Guide had been circulated around the town centre businesses and details from the industrial park businesses were currently being collected.

5. Adoption of the Plan for Hailsham:

Councillor Nigel Coltman introduced the latest Plan highlighting the work done by the Executive Team in drafting the Plan and the public consultation exercise used to inform the Plan details.

Councillor Nick Collinson commented that there was one key point that was missing from the Plan, being Safety & Security in the town. He stated that action was needed to help reduce the fear of crime and get more people to use the town centre; more events and evening activities would help. A number of other comments on the need to get more activity in the town were made and it was agreed that this key action should be included in the Plan.

Councillor Bill Bentley stated that events are important for the town but there needed to be more forward planning to make the most of opportunities such as the forthcoming World Cup. He also stated that the Tour of Britain cycle

race was coming through Hailsham in September and there is an opportunity to use this occasion to boost visitors to the town centre.

Peter Sabine queried why Hailsham Forward was interested in management of the Leap Cross Business Site, and whether this was appropriate? Councillor Nick Collinson stated that he had initiated discussions as he was concerned that the site may be lost to start-up businesses and wanted to find a way to preserve such a facility in Hailsham.

He also stated that Hailsham Forward will not deliver all the key actions points in the Plan but would work with the relevant organisation to pursue these objectives.

Councillor Jo Bentley advised the meeting that the Town Council's Festivities and Events Committee were organising a Charter Market that included evening activities to help the local night time economy.

Michelle Gray offered her colleague Jane Kilby time to assist in the promotion of the Tour of Britain and other events in Hailsham.

Nigel Hannam suggested that because of the considerable number of key objectives in the Plan, there needs to be a priority list. Councillor Nick Collinson stated that this would be done by the Executive once the overall plan was agreed.

Councillor Bill Bentley stated that the Education and Business reference should be more robust and highlight the need to reduce unemployment and the local skills gap, This was agreed by the meeting.

John Harrison suggested that there should be more detail in the Plan for a number of the key items. Councillor Nick Collinson stated that the proposed plan will be developed into more detailed actions.

The meeting agreed to the Plan subject to the inclusion of a key action on Safety & Security in the town and the need to reduce unemployment and the local skills gap in the Education and Business Section.

6. Adoption of a formal constitution:

Councillor Nigel Coltman introduced the item and asked for input on the document. A number of changes were made to the document and it was agreed to adopt the amended document. (The revised constitution will circulated with the minutes of the meeting to allow any errors and admissions to be challenged prior to final publication).

Michelle Gray advised the meeting that assistance from 3VA should be sought prior to Hailsham Forward employing people in the future should the need arise.

Mickey Caira stated that he will request representations from the Councils and FSB and Chamber of Commerce to sit on the Executive Team. Nigel Hannam agreed to take this to WDC for their councillor representative.

7. Appointment of additional members to the Executive Team:

As stated in 6 above Mickey Caira will request representations from the Councils and FSB and Chamber of Commerce to sit on the Executive Team. Mickey Caira put one name forward from the local community who had expressed a desire to assist in the project. It was agreed at this stage to invite her to be co-opted onto the Executive, and to seek a nomination from the community groups as a whole for a voting place on the Team.

8. Any Other Business:

Councillor Coltman thanked everyone for attending and taking an active part in the meeting. He also thanked Mickey Caira and Michelle Hagger for all their work in supporting the project and managing the Street Market

The next meeting will take place around the end of July.