

HAILSHAM FORWARD

Stakeholder Group Meeting

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM ON
28TH APRIL 2017 AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Suzanne Collins: Hellingly Parish Council
Michelle Hagger: Hailsham Town Council
Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council
Ben Pratt: Hailsham Farmers' Market
Michelle Gray: Wealden District Council
Richard Grocock: Environment Hailsham
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council
Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council
Alice Matthews: Sussex Community Development Association
Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town Councillor
Steve Wennington: Hailsham Active
Cllr Nick Collinson: Wealden District Councillor
Rev David Farey: Vicar of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
Clive Soper: Federation of Small Businesses
Kay Birch: Wealden CAB
Christian Letschka: Hailsham Town Council

Also in attendance Nigel McKeeman

1. Election of Chairman:

Councillor Collinson proposed Councillor Coltman, the meeting agreed to elect Councillor Coltman for the ensuing year as Chairman of the Stakeholder Group

2. Introductions and Apologies:

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited all those present to introduce themselves to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Nus Ghani MP
Dermot Clarke: DWP
Jackie Akehurst: DWP
Derek Carter: CH2M
Ralph Olesen: The Link Hailsham
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Councillor

Jan Townsend: Community Representative
Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou: Hailsham Town Council
Nigel Hannam: Wealden District Council
Cllr Amanda O'Rawe: Hailsham Town Councillor
Trina Mayson: The Now! Charity Group Ltd
Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins: Hailsham Town Council
Pete Heasman: East Sussex County Council
Cllr Barby Dashwood-Morris: Hellingly Parish Councillor
Nus Ghani: Member of Parliament
Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College
Irit Meyer: representing St Marys Walk
Jeremy Shepherd: representing St Marys Walk

3. Notes of meeting held on 27th January 2017:

The notes of the meeting held on 27th January 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising:

None

5. Formation of a Community Interest Company:

Mickey Caira provided some background to this agenda item. He explained that the current constitution would need to be amended in order to transfer Hailsham Forward to a Community Interest Company (CIC). As the constitution can only be amended at an AGM he proposed that in order to effect the necessary changes to the constitution to transfer to a CIC when the documentation is complete the constitution is amended to allow for a change at any Stakeholder meeting and not just the AGM. The meeting agreed to the proposal to change the constitution. John Harrison questioned the future arrangements for the support to Hailsham Forward currently provided by Hailsham Town Council, if it moves to a CIC. This will need to be considered as part of the work to understand the implications of making such a change to the partnership.

6. Review of the Plan for Hailsham

The Chairman asked for any changes to the current Plan.

Provision of low cost starter units: Councillor Collinson stated that Hailsham has gone backwards in the provision of these facilities with the loss of Leap Cross. He suggested that the formation of a CIC may give Hailsham Forward and opportunity to take a more active role in achieving this action point.

Movement and Access around Hailsham and Hellingly: John Harrison highlighted that part of this action was now out of date as the number of homes planned for the Hailsham area under Wealden's Local Plan has reduced from 9,500 to around 2,400.

Sports & youth facilities: Councillor Collinson suggested that this action point needs updating with the assistance of Steve Wennington. It was agreed that

Steve and Mickey Caira will liaise to update this action point and that this is a regular item on the Executive's agenda, with an invitation to Steve to attend meetings where appropriate.

Building a culture of collaboration: Alice Matthews suggested an update to recognise the changes to the organisation of the Community Forum.

Improvements to public transport infrastructure: John Harrison highlighted the reference to Wealden's Hailsham Area Action Plan and the need to amend this to reflect the fact that Wealden are now working on a wider South Wealden Plan. The Chairman also commented on this point with reference to Hailsham's Neighbourhood Plan, he stated that this was a task and finish project and should be a regular item on the Stakeholder Agenda.

Keep trade local campaign: Councillor Collinson questioned whether the Hailsham Card was achieving this action point as it was not exclusive to Hailsham. It was agreed to keep this action point and for the Executive Team to consider this further.

Communications with parties both inside and outside Hailsham: Rev David Farey highlighted the development of Hailsham FM and how this will help promote Hailsham and the Plan for Hailsham when it goes live on air. John Harrison provided an update on the work to move Hailsham FM into 2 North Street. There is a legal process to go through but hopefully this will happen soon to enable Hailsham to start broadcasting on FM.

7. Hailsham Street Market:

Mickey Caira updated the meeting on the feedback from the consultant.

Details of the feedback:

We have called every trader and ex trader and also emailed the ex traders to try to get feedback. We haven't reached everyone but have left messages where we were able to.

There is a good amount of feedback and although some of it is mixed there are some consistencies. These are mainly:

Footfall is by far the biggest issue

Although it goes quiet at times most people seemed fairly happy with the trading hours and some even talked about extending them

Interestingly, most of the previous traders were positive about the price whilst most of the current traders said that it is too high.

Finally, I put a post on facebook which asked what people would like to see in the market. So far the post has reached 493 people and they have made the following comments:

Cheese

Bread / cakes

Cider

Meat

Fish

*Ice cream
Gift items
Local wines
Local honey
Flowers
Clothes
Shoes
Household items
Unique kids clothes and accessories*

You can see from this that there is a desire for fresh and good quality food and drink.

To date the consultant has secured four new traders with others in the pipeline.

Councillor Collinson highlighted the negative effect the road improvement works has had on the town centre businesses including the Street Market. He stated that the market needs to be ready for when the works are complete.

8. Financial Statement.

Mickey Caira highlighted the fact that the project funds have decreased during the year as a result of the decline in the Street Market. The meeting formally accepted the financial statement provided.

9. Update on the Work of the Executive Team:

Shop Fronts

Mickey Caira highlighted the positive aspect of the major refurbishments to the Homely Maid, Millies, Bultlers Funeral Directors and Neptune Home. Councillor Collinson highlighted that a number of areas of the new footways in the town centre are dirty and the adjacent business owners should be encouraged to keep these clean. It was agreed that a letter should be sent from the Mayor to encourage local businesses to keep the areas in front of their premises clean. Steve Wennington suggested that if some did clean up others would feel pressured into doing the same. The Chairman stated that motorists were regularly parking on the new footways and the Council are looking at possible solutions including planters and bollards. Councillor Collinson suggested that the use of A boards could help but businesses would need guidelines from ESCC to ensure the A boards did not cause other issues.

Pop-Up Shop

Rev David Farey asked for an update on the use of the pop-up shop; Councillor Collinson stated that a number of lets have taken place with others in the pipeline. The shop is available from one to four weeks and is managed by the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. If the lettings can be maintained and it become self financing then the project may be extended beyond March 2018.

10. Update on the MASHH Project:

Mickey Caira provided a brief update as submitted by Derek Carter from CH2M. Full details on the current schedule are as follows:

George Street completed on Friday 12th May

Vicarage Lane/Vicarage Road – works commence Monday 15th May in 5 phases. All works completed Friday 11th August 2017

Phase 1: 15.5.17 to 7.7.17 - constructing new pedestrian crossing, drainage and kerbing to area outside the Leisure Centre car park

Phase 2: 06.7.17 to 07.7.17 - surfacing work during 2 night time closures (19:00 hrs – 05:00 hrs) from North Street to new pedestrian crossing

Phase 3: 10.7.17 to 14.7.17 – road reconstruction on corner of Vicarage Road and Marshfoot Lane

Phase 4: 17.7.17 to 11.8.17 – kerbing and footway construction to Vicarage Road from Marshfoot Lane to Market Street

Phase 5: 10.8.17 to 11.8.17 - surfacing work during 2 night time closures (19:00 hrs – 05:00 hrs) from new pedestrian crossing to Market Street junction.

Therefore, by the 24th June the High Street and George Street will be fully open to pedestrians and vehicles. All car parks leading from Vicarage Lane and Vicarage Road will be fully accessible; however, temporary traffic management will be in place to allow 2 way flows from each end of Vicarage Lane and Vicarage Road.

11. Future Dates for Meetings.

The future dates of the meeting will be as follows: 14th July 2017, 13th October 2017.

12. Any Other Business:

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