

HAILSHAM FORWARD

Stakeholder Group Meeting

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM ON 30TH OCTOBER 2015
AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Steve Wennington: Hailsham Active
Jan Townsend: Tomorrow's People
Cllr Nick Collinson: Wealden District Councillor
Cllr Bill Bentley: East Sussex County Council
Cllr Barby Dashwood-Morris: Hellingly Parish Councillor
Cllr Sharon Cottingham: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Paul Holbrook: Hailsham Town Councillor
Suzanne Collins: Hellingly Parish Council
Richard Grocock: Environment Hailsham
Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council
Michelle Gray: Wealden District Council
Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council
David Turton: Hailsham Farmers' Market
Sam Imber: Hailsham Forward Executive
Marina Briggshaw: Wealden District Council
Keith Ramshaw: Hailsham Forward Executive
Members of the public were also in attendance

1. Chairman:

The meeting agreed to Councillor Collinson chairing the meeting in the absence of Councillor Coltman

2. Introductions and Apologies:

Cllr Nick Collinson 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
Michelle Hagger: Hailsham Town Council
Nus Ghani: Member of Parliament
Jenny Seale: Hailsham Farmers' Market
Ralph Olesen: The Link Hailsham
Dermot Clarke: DWP
Chaquita Moore: DWP
Anton Bree: Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce
Jo Whitehead: Sussex Community Development Association

Trina Mayson: The Now! Charity Group Ltd
Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College
Irit Meyer: representing St Marys Walk
Jeremy Shepherd: representing St Marys Walk
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Councillor
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council
Carolyn Fogg: Tomorrow's People
Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Amanda O'Rawe: Hailsham Town Councillor
Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town Councillor
Nigel Hannam: Wealden District Council

Mickey Caira informed the meeting that there will be a review of the membership of the Stakeholder Group and invitations to join the Stakeholder Group will be sent out to any new groups identified by the review.

Councillor Collinson congratulated David White in winning the Hellingly By-Election at Wealden District Council.

3. Notes of meeting held on 31st July 2015:

The notes of the meeting held on 31st July 2015 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising:

None

5. Update on the Work of the Executive Team:

Mickey Caira presented the update report provided. He highlighted the on-going work by local businesses to improve their businesses frontages that are having a positive effect on the appearance of the town centre.

The Town and Shopping Guide has been expanded to include more businesses on the industrial parks, the local community groups, and the Hailsham Heritage Trail.

The Street Market was not as busy as last year and the Team are working on ways to increase trader and visitor numbers.

Hailsham Forward was continuing to support Hailsham Town Council in organising the events in the town. This includes reviewing the Christmas events for 2016 and working with local businesses to deliver bigger events for Hailsham.

The Loyalty Scheme project is on-going following an issue with the potential to use the Lioness Loyalty Scheme across Hailsham. The Team are reviewing this scheme together with other schemes for the town.

The Community Forum is now well established and well attended. The Residents' Forum has now met twice and the future of this will be reviewed following a request at the last forum for Hailsham Town Council to organise these in the future. The Business Forum has met once, it is anticipated that a

loyalty scheme proposal and the town centre improvement works will be the topics for the next Business Forum.

Councillor Collinson advised the meeting that there had been some confusion within the local businesses on who was organising the local events in the town. He confirmed that it was Hailsham Town Council that is organising the events with support from Hailsham Forward.

6. Confirmation of the membership of the Executive Team:

Mickey Caira confirmed that there is a vacancy on the Executive Team and put forward Keith Ramshaw who had attended recent Executive Team meetings as a local resident representative. As a member of the public Helen Deehan asked if local residents were informed of this vacancy. Mickey Caira responded that in the past local community/residents representatives' had come forward themselves. He advised the meeting that the Executive Team was confirmed each year during the AGM (July meeting) it was agreed to confirm the appointment of Keith to the Executive Team and in the future any residents representatives' vacancies will be publicised widely.

7. Hailsham Forward Project Financial Statement:

Mickey Caira introduced the financial statement and apologised that it had not been presented at the last meeting. He confirmed that Councillor Bentley had been appointed Treasurer for the Hailsham Forward Executive. The figures are the cumulative income and expenditure for the project from the start to the end of August 2015.

Councillor Dashwood-Morris asked what plans are in place to attract more funding and keep the partnership working. Councillor Collinson stated that the Lyonesse Loyalty Scheme has the potential to provide an income stream for the project but this was in some doubt at present. It was agreed that the Executive Team would review this at the December meeting, to include formulating Hailsham Forward as a legal entity to enable it to apply for further funding. This will be brought back to the Stakeholder Group in the future.

Councillor Bentley confirmed that the funding received to date by the partnership had been used for the purposes as set out in the funding agreements.

8. Update on the MASHH Project:

Councillor Bentley updated the meeting on the town centre improvement works. He stated that there was some recent progress made with the Traffic Regulation Orders to be published on 16th November. He also confirmed that three quality contractors have come forward to tender for the works when finalised. The project was still in hand to start in February.

Sam Imber asked if all the monies had been received to carry out the works to the High Street and other MASHH projects. Councillor Bentley confirmed that

the money was received to carry out the works in the town centre and further money were due from developers to fund the other projects such as Ersham Road/Diplocks Way and Battle Road/London Road/High Street junctions.

Sam Imber asked if there were any potential issues with overspending on the town Centre works as seen on the Bexhill/Hastings link road. Councillor Bentley confirmed that the engagement of the contractor will be done by open tender with negotiation with contractor to ensure the works can be achieved within the prices put forward by the contractors.

Councillor Collinson mentioned the need for additional seating in the town centre highlighted recently by the Town Council. He asked if there would be seating provided as part of the town centre improvement works. Councillor Bentley stated that the final tender documents had yet to be agreed and Hailsham Town Council should make contact with Alan Chanamoto at East Sussex Highways in respect of the request for seating in the town centre.

Councillor Holbrook asked if anything can be done about anti social cycling in the town centre with the construction of a cycle path as part of the improvement works. Councillor Bentley stated that there was no room or provision of cycle paths in the town centre, but highlighted that the works would provide for a safer area to walk and cycle.

Councillor Collinson stated that Hailsham Town Council are looking to assist with creating a safer cycling in town centre and Hailsham Forward will be considering an awareness campaign for more respectful cycling in the town centre. Councillor Bentley confirmed that there is a need to review this post town centre works.

Richard Grocock mentioned that some hotels in Eastbourne are providing cycling holidays and suggested that once the town centre works are completed we look to encourage the hotels to come to Hailsham via the Cuckoo Trail.

Councillor Collinson asked for an update on the Hempstead Lane roundabout on the A22 and the progress on a planning agreement to secure funding for the works. Sam Imber stated that he had recently asked Wealden District Council Planners for an update and was awaiting a response.

9. Hailsham Street Market & Specialist Markets:

Councillor Collinson outlined the current set-up of the market trading days; every Saturday except the second Saturday of the month (Farmers' Market day) and the Thursday before the Farmers' Market. He highlighted the continued confusion the public had with the trading days and the consideration in trading all Saturdays.

David Turton from the Farmers' Market provided some background to the market and confirmed that the farmers were committed to supporting the markets across Wealden on each Saturday. He stated that it was difficult to

find new traders for the market. He had visited the Street Market on the previous Saturday and found 13 traders. He stated that the two markets are different and wants to work with Hailsham Forward in the future. He thanked Councillor Dashwood- Morris for her and Wealden's support of the Farmers' Market in the past. David confirmed that he will talk to the board of the Farmers' Market to look at the whole structure and then come back to Hailsham Forward to meet. The times have changed since the Farmers' Market started and there is a need for a review.

Councillor Bentley echoed this statement and suggested that the two markets should work together including on special events/promotions etc.

Councillor Collinson stated that we want to work with the Farmers' Market; David Turton confirmed that he will ensure that the joint discussions take place.

Councillor Collinson stated that Hailsham Forward had provided free advertising to the Farmers' Market with the inclusion of their details on the display boards and market flyers for 2015. He asked David Turton to consult with the Farmers' Market about making a financial contribution for the 2016 advertising. David confirmed that he would take it back to their committee.

Councillor Collinson informed the meeting that the Executive Team were reviewing the marketing of the market for 2016.

Councillor Bentley proposed that the market operates the same days for 2016; every Saturday except the second Saturday of the month (Farmers' Market day) and the Thursday before the Farmers' Market, and that Hailsham Forward works with the Farmers' Market including joint promotions/events. The meeting agreed to the proposal for market days for 2016 and to work with the Farmers' Market.

10. Wealden Local Plan- Issues and Options:

Marina Briggshaw introduced Wealden's Issues and Option proposals that include large developments around Hailsham. She confirmed the two consultation days in Hailsham and the dates of the consultation period that will run up to 14th December. She confirmed that all feed back will be most welcome. At the same time there will be a Hailsham Area Action Plan (HAAP) drawn up with the Principle Submission Document due at the end of 2016.

There will be a HAAP Steering Group to put a local plan together and Hailsham Forward has been included in the Group. It was agreed that the Executive Committee will put forward a representative for the Steering Group.

Steve Wennington asked how individuals or local groups could get involved in the steering Group. Steve highlighted the cost to the NHS and the health of local residents with the lack of suitable facilities for people to take exercise. The cost of a basic sports park is around £5m.

Councillor Collinson confirmed that Hailsham Forward has recognised the need for this sort of facility and will put this forward within the Steering Group.

Councillor Bentley stated that Hailsham Forward needs to focus on economic Development and Leisure Development as part of Hailsham Forward's aims and objectives. He suggested that the Hailsham Forward's involvement should be defined at the next Executive Meeting.

11. Any Other Business:

Mickey Caira put forward a request for the Chairman of Hailsham Town Council to have a non-council representative help with the judging of the Hailsham Hero Award. Helen Deehan put her name forward; Helen's details will be passed onto the Town Clerk.

Councillor Collinson stated that the issue of disabled facility changing rooms he raised previously were being considered now as part of the design of public space within the emerging local plan and these will be pushed by Hailsham Forward.

The Chairman thanked everyone who attended.

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