

HAILSHAM FORWARD

Stakeholder Group

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM ON 31ST JANUARY 2014 AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Paul Soane: Branch Manager Waitrose Hailsham
Anton Bree; Chairman Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce.
Peter Sabine: Representing Mr Charles Hendry MP
Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College
Howard Nevill: Sussex Police
Hazel Northcott: Job Centre Plus
Carolyn Fogg: Tomorrows People
Steve Wennington: Hailsham & District Sports Alliance
Rose Piggott: Hailsham Bonfire Society
Alan Osborne: Hailsham Bonfire Society
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Councillor
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 Amanda O'Rawe: Hailsham Town Councillor
Cllr David White: Hellingly Parish and Wealden District Councillor
Nigel Hannam: Wealden District Council
Michelle Grey: Wealden District Council
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council
Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council
Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council

1. Introductions and Apologies:

Cllr Nigel Coltman chaired the meeting and invited all those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from:

Mr Charles Hendry MP
Irit Meyer - representing St Marys Walk
Shaun Cox - Tomorrows People
Kay Coxon - PPDG
Cllr Laurence Keeley - East Sussex County Council
Cllr Bill Bentley - East Sussex County Council
Hailsham Trust

Draft

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

The notes of the meeting held on 1st March 2013 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising:

None

4. Review of the work of the Executive Team in 2013:

Cllr Coltman introduced the report and apologised to the meeting for not having a Stakeholder meeting for some time.

He commented that Hailsham was on the up visually and economically and asked Anton Bree to provide any news on the letting of empty shops. Anton Confirmed that Subways had let the old newsagents and that 28 High Street was on the verge of signing and others were currently under offer.

Cllr Coltman thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their work in getting a number of shop owners to renovate their premises, including Paydens Chemists and the Vicarage Field Shopping Precinct.

Cllr Coltman acknowledged the strong partnership working with East Sussex County Council and MASHH in developing new signage schemes for Hailsham including tourist signs on the A22, and the Hailsham Town and Business Directory.

Carolyn Fogg offered help in extending the Business Directory by the Hailsham Works Project.

It was agreed that the Executive would look to include the Heritage Trail in the directory once the industrial parks had been incorporated.

Cllr Coltman thanked Paul Soane for his work in establishing the Street Market in a short period of time. He also thanked East Sussex County Council for funding of the gazebos and Hailsham Town Council for their staffing input.

Cllr Bentley asked the Bonfire Society to join the Council's Festivities Committee.

5. Review and Adoption of the draft Plan for Hailsham:

Mickey Caira introduced the Plan, confirming that it was based on the public consultation undertaken in the spring of 2013 together with direct input from across the local business community. The short term plan is the Executive Team's view and Mickey Caira asked for feedback on these actions and for suggested changes to the short term plan.

Cllr Coltman thanked Anton Bree for arranging a shop for the consultation and Cllr Collinson for his work on putting the plan together.

Cllr Collinson stated that collaboration was key to the plan.

Paul Soane commented that in putting the plan together the regeneration of High Street and the town as a whole could not be done in isolation, and other factors needed to be taken into account in the plan in order to benefit the whole community.

Cllr Galley stated that Wealden District Council wanted to cooperate and asked how they can help? He mentioned the Wealden Streets Ahead Project that is looking at good examples of town centre initiatives and partnership working such as Hailsham Forward. He confirmed that there is a Streets

Ahead Forum on 6th February and an Action for Market Towns Event on 12th March both sponsored by Wealden.

Phil Matthews advised the meeting that Hailsham Community College has recognised the need to provide more pupil places as the town expands both for 11 to 16 and 16 plus and that there needs to be an understanding of the local skills gap in order to plan for the development of education in the future. This could include an extension to the College on the housing development opposite the existing building in Battle Road that would offer more practical skills training. He stated that meetings with Wealden and East Sussex have already taken place and a project plan will be drawn up in the future, he emphasised the need for local young people to be able to be able find work in the local community.

Hazel Northcott commented that there was no specific mention of employment and training opportunities as part of the plan, this could include work with Hailsham Works and Hailsham Community College.

Peter Sabine commented that Tourism was not specifically highlighted in the plan.

Steve Wennington highlighted the need for more and high quality sports facilities to meet the demands and aspirations of the town.

The issue of communications with the majority of the industrial parks was highlighted despite recent efforts of the Hailsham Forward Executive to engage with these businesses.

Steve Wennington offered to help get some of the industrial parks businesses involved.

Howard Nevill commented that there was no mention of youth facilities and with the expansion of the town there was a need to have more 16+ facilities. It was acknowledged that Hailsham Forward would work in partnership with the relevant organisations to help take the agreed action forward.

Paul Saone confirmed that the next step would be to review the input from the meeting and then allocate a lead project person for each action to take forward with the appropriate stakeholder.

6. Consideration of a formal constitution:

Mickey Caira outlined the brief history of Hailsham Forward and highlighted the need for the partnership to move to a more formal status including the establishment of a constitution. He asked for comments on the outline constitution issued.

It was suggested that care would need to be taken in deciding what legal form Hailsham Forward should take and Michelle Grey suggested consulting with 3VA who may be able to provide guidance. Michelle agreed to forward contact details of 3VA to Mickey Caira.

It was noted that the key objectives of the constitution should correspond with the Plan discussed earlier in the meeting.

It was agreed that all stakeholders should pass on any further comments to Mickey Caira by the end of February so that any suggested amendments can be worked into the document in time for the next stakeholder meeting.

7. Consideration of the Wealden Car Park Review:

Nigel Hannam welcomed the opportunity for more feedback to the review and confirmed that Wealden would not be charging for parking in Wealden as part of the review.

There was discussion on the feedback already provided by the Executive Team in respect of the proposed time limitations within the car parks; with a number of people suggesting the short stay limit should be 3 not 2 hours. It was agreed that individual stakeholders should pass on any further comments direct to Nigel Hannam by 7th February.

8. Consideration of the MASHH Proposals:

Mickey Caira introduced the item and highlighted the feedback given by the Executive Team and the two written responses distributed during the meeting. Cllr Jo Bentley outlined the plans and suggested that these may change depending on the feedback received. The plans provided were just for the town centre which should be undertaken in the short term. Other priorities outside of the town centre would be carried out at a later date.

Cllr Nick Collinson stated that the Executive Team would want to see quality materials used for the town centre works and that feedback from some of the High Street traders was for the works to be completed in a short period of time. He also stated that the Wealden Car Park Review and the MASHH proposals must work together.

Anton Bree suggested that an empty shop may be available for the public consultation exercise that is planned for the spring.

It was agreed that any further feedback on the MASHH proposals should be forwarded to Mickey Caira by the end of February.

9. Any Other Business:

Cllr Roy Galley informed the meeting that Wealden had started the process of consulting on the Local Plan, which would be planning for the next 20 to 30 years and had done some work with Uckfield that may provide an outline for Hailsham during future consultation.

Cllr Coltman thanked everyone for attending and taking an active part in the meeting.

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