

HAILSHAM FORWARD

Stakeholder Group Meeting

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM ON 31ST
JULY 2015 AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Rob Slater: Federation of Small Businesses (Entered the meeting at item 9)
Jan Townsend: Tomorrow's People
Jenny Seale: Hailsham Farmers' Market
Cllr Nick Collinson: Wealden District Councillor
Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town Councillor
Cllr Bill Bentley: East Sussex County Council
Cllr Barby Dashwood-Morris: Hellingly Parish Councillor
Cllr Sharon Cottingham: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou: Hailsham Town Council
Claire Hardy: Sussex Community Development Association
Richard Grocock: Environment Hailsham
Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council
Michelle Hagger: Hailsham Town Council
Michelle Gray: Wealden District Council
Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council

Also in attendance Nigel McKeeman

1. Election of Chairman:

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

2. Introductions and Apologies:

Cllr Nigel Coltman thanked everyone for attending and invited all those present to introduce themselves to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Nus Ghani: Member of Parliament
Steve Wennington: Hailsham Active
Ralph Olesen: The Link Hailsham
Dermot Clarke: DWP
Chaquita Moore: DWP
Jo Whitehead: Sussex Community Development Association
Petrina Mayson: Furniture Now
Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College
Irit Meyer: representing St Marys Walk

Jeremy Shepherd: representing St Marys Walk
Suzanne Collins: Hellingly Parish Council
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Councillor
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council
Carolyn Fogg: Tomorrow's People
Cllr Amanda O'Rawe: Hailsham Town Councillor
Cllr Paul Holbrook: Hailsham Town Councillor
Nigel Hannam: Wealden District Council

3. Notes of meeting held on 30th January 2015:

The notes of the meeting held on 30th January 2015 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising:

Wealden District Council Car Park Review:

The Chairman highlighted that the review was complete and works have been carried out by Wealden District Council (WDC) to the car parks including signage, but the signage lacked the important message that the car parks are free. Councillor Collinson confirmed that he has spoken to Nigel Hannam at WDC about this issue.

Councillor Cottingham asked if there were any plans to provide more car parking in Hailsham. Councillor Dashwood-Morris confirmed that WDC did not have the funds to buy land and build more car parking in the Wealden towns; she suggested using the South Road Car Park which usually has spaces.

5. Review of the Plan for Hailsham:

Councillor Collinson updated the meeting on the proposal by WDC to use the Leap Cross site for council housing, public consultation has taken place recently and a final decision on the site is yet to happen. This will include decisions on how to make provision for small start-up units elsewhere in the town and how to fund these, if the site is to be used for housing.

Councillor Bentley proposed that this item on the Plan should be updated, to include the possible use of Swallow Business Park or the designated business area in the WDC Local Plan in north Hailsham for low cost start-up units. Councillor Bentley proposed that Hailsham Forward write to WDC Planning to request to be involved in the consultation for the development of the north Hailsham business area. This was agreed by the meeting and Mickey Cairn agreed to make the request to WDC.

Jenny Seale asked that the Farmers' Market and other Hailsham markets are noted in the Plan. This was agreed.

Councillor Triandafyllou highlighted the three summer markets organised between Hailsham Forward and the Town Council, he commented that there events needed more promotion.

Jenny Seale agreed that more promotion of the events needs to happen and suggested that this should include face to face promotion.

Councillor Bentley suggested that communications across the board need increasing. He highlighted the communication issues with local traders and the improvements to the High Street and suggested that a newsletter to traders would be beneficial.

Councillor Collinson stated that Hailsham Forward needs to clearly articulate what the partnership is about and to promote the regeneration of the town a lot more. He suggested the use of a market stall at the Street Market to promote the work of the partnership and events in the town.

Councillor Dashwood-Morris asked what the best method of distribution of newsletters. Councillor Bentley suggested hand delivery of newsletters to businesses and residents.

Councillor Bentley highlighted the A6 brochure that is produced and distributed in Burgess Hill, which includes local business information and promotional material along with paid-for advertising. He stated that there may be some grant funding available to set this up but it may take time to put together. Councillor Bentley also suggested the use of radio advertising for promotion.

Jan Townsend suggested that some of the young people in the Hailsham Works project could assist with the promotion.

Nigel Mckeeman commented that it was good to see the number of organisations involved in the partnership and the work it was doing, and this is a good example of how to progress this kind of work.

It was agreed to remove the cycle storage facility from the Plan as this has now been achieved.

6. Update on the Work of the Executive Team:

The Chairman commented on the shop fronts and suggested that another tour of the town centre should take place in the near future to establish if any poor areas exist.

Councillor Bentley highlighted some of the negative press that was not shown in the update report; including the Holywood Nails and stabbing incidents. He commented that the stock footage used by local TV when broadcasting any police stories used images Hailsham regardless of the location of the story! He suggested that there needs to be more positive stories about Hailsham and that Hailsham Forward is best placed to change the negative to positive

and encourage more people to visit the town centre. News stories such as Mr Holmes visits Hailsham is a good example of positive news for the town.

Councillor Dashwood- Morris stated that the Economic Regeneration Team at WDC will assist with the promotion of events and help put them on the map. She is also using Twitter to promote events she is attending across Wealden.

Councillor Collinson commented on the first Residents' Forum that took place in early July he stated it was a lively event and got local residents engaged. The next Residents' Forum will take place on 16th October. The first Business Forum will take place on 2nd October this will provide a forum for all local businesses as not all are part of the local Chamber of Commerce or FSB.

The Chairman stated that the Town Council has agreed to have another look at producing a Neighbourhood Plan which is something that was highlighted at the Residents' Forum.

Jenny Seale asked what was happening with the A22 signage. The Chairman stated that at a recent meeting with East Sussex Highways, it was agreed the Town Council would look at the signage within the town first before re-visiting the signage on the A22.

Councillor Collinson questioned whether East Sussex Highways should be carrying out and funding these works.

Councillor Bentley suggested that there may be some match funding from East Sussex to help provide the signage within the town. Councillor Bentley challenged the fact that Hailsham did not have any real time bus information signs. It was agreed that better signage is required and that Hailsham Forward and the Town Council need to put pressure on to achieve this.

Councillor Cottingham commented that the Hailsham Town Bus Service provided by Cuckmere Community Buses was expensive.

Jenny Seale highlighted the fact that the cycle storage facility was not signposted in the town. She also asked if large town maps could be provided. Councillor Collinson stated that UK Town Maps are in the process of supplying and fitting large town centre maps across the town centre.

7. Confirmation of the membership of the Executive Team:

Councillor Bentley asked why there was no representative from the Chamber of Commerce on the list. Mickey Caira confirmed that Anton Bree Chairman of the Chamber had to step down as a result of business commitments and no other Chamber member had come forward. It was agreed to follow this up with the Chamber.

The list of Executive Members was agreed as follows:

Rob Slater - Federation of Small Businesses – **current chairman**

Cllr Nick Collinson – Wealden District Councillor – **current vice-chairman**
Cllr Bill Bentley – East Sussex County Councillor – **current treasurer**
Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou - Hailsham Town Councillor
Cllr Paul Holbrook - Hailsham Town Councillor
Cllr Barby Dashwood-Morris - Hellingly Parish Councillor
Vacant – local chamber representative
Jan Townsend – Tomorrows People- Hailsham Works
Sam Imber – local community representative
Phil Matthews – Principal Hailsham Community College
Mickey Caira – officer support from Hailsham Town Council – **current secretary**
Michelle Hagger – officer support from Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Nigel Coltman – co-opted member

8. Update on the MASHH Project:

Councillor Bentley updated the meeting on the town centre improvement works. He stated that the works need to happen as soon as possible to avoid the funds being returned to the developers. The Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) will be published soon, with a 30 day consultation period. The works are due to start date of February 2016. The Police have been involved in the TRO and have shown an interest in the enforcement of the scheme once implemented.

He mentioned the meeting that recently took place with some of the local High Street traders who expressed some concerns of the improvement works and stated that one of the leading bays locations would be reviewed.

He stated that the scheme was for everyone local residents as well as local traders and that there was a fear of change from the local traders. There will be someone on site every day during the works to provide a liaison between the contractor and local traders and the public.

There will be disruption during the works but this will be minimised with the High Street remaining open during the works.

Jenny Seale asked if the funds for these works could be spent on other works. Councillor Bentley confirmed that the £2m fund for a number of road improvements including the High Street, Battle Road/High Street Junction and South Road/Ersham Road junction and was specifically for road improvements and there are other funds for other infrastructure improvements.

Councillor Dashwood-Morris stated that WDC were to employ a project manager to lead on the improvement of health services for both Hailsham and Hellingly. There is a danger that developer money allocated for health improvements would be lost if it was not spent.

Councillor Bentley suggested that a specific Stakeholder Group meeting should look at health service provision either just to the group or open up to the whole community. There is a need to find out what the CCG are planning. Councillors Dashwood-Morris and Bentley agreed to follow this up to try and get the CCG to engage.

9. Hailsham Street Market & Specialist Markets:

Councillor Triandafyllou updated the meeting on the three summer events that the Town Council and Hailsham Forward have planned for this year. He stated that more forward planning and advertising needs to happen for the future of these and the Hailsham Christmas Events.

Councillor Collinson stated that the publicity of these events should include the residents of Hellingly and that Hellingly Parish Council should be involved. He proposed that all resources should be used to promote local events including Hailsham Festival FM and visual banners across the town.

Jenny Seale commented that in her work she has noticed that generally people are not attending local events.

Councillor Bentley stated that Hailsham needed to attract residents from outside the town including Healthfield, Uckfield and Hastings. The events should also include a wider content to attract visitors.

Claire Harding asked if an events committee existed and if members of the public attend. Councillor Triandafyllou confirmed that a committee does exist and some local groups attend but not enough.

Nigel McKeeman highlighted the website he manages in Rushlake Green that includes details of events and offered to promote local events if he is provided with the details. He would require a written paragraph and photo.

The Executive Committee agreed to review promotion of the town and its events.

Councillor Bentley commented that a number of satellite villages around Hailsham had started markets and they could be competition for the Hailsham Street Market. He suggested that we should work with them promote all markets. Jenny Seale commented that a forum already exists for all the markets to get together, managed by Wealden District Council.

Councillor Dashwood- Morris stated that she will visit all the local markets in the Wealden area and will feedback all good ideas to the Economic Development Team.

Councillor Dashwood-Morris asked whether the welcome letter sent out included Hellingly residents. Mickey Caira confirmed that when this initiative was agreed some years ago Hellingly Parish Council did not commit to sending out the letter. Councillor Dashwood-Morris confirmed that she will discuss this at Hellingly Parish Council.

The Chairman highlighted the issue with low trader numbers at the Thursday markets and confirmed that this will be discussed at the next Executive Team meeting.

Rob Slater commented that La Marche that takes place in Healthfield every year was a successful event and could a similar event for Hailsham be considered.

Councillor Cottingham confirmed that Gournay Hailsham's twin town will be represented at the Summer Market on 29t August.

Jenny Seale stated that Hailsham Farmers' Market has been nominated for Sussex Farmers Market of the year 2015/16 award and encouraged everyone to vote for Hailsham.

10. Any Other Business:

Councillor Collinson asked if Hailsham Forward will consider supporting a local campaign to have nappy changing facilities for older people installed within Hailsham. Currently none of these facilities exist within the town. Councillor Bentley questioned whether this should be something Hailsham Forward gets involved with; stating that there is a national campaign "Changing Places" that is trying to get these facilities installed. He suggested that East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council were best placed take this forward.

The Chairman thanked everyone who attended.

The next meeting will take place in three months time, date to be confirmed.