

Press Release

Take Part In Town Centre Business Survey

Shops and town centre businesses in Hailsham are being asked to take give their views on recent town revitalisation achievements by Hailsham Forward and the promotion of local shops and services in the high street.

Town Council and other representatives of Hailsham Forward - the Town Team which aims to bring together stakeholders to review the best ways to revitalise the town centre and local business community - have delivered their latest questionnaire survey for local businesses in and around the town centre, which can be found on the Hailsham Forward website - hailshamforward.co.uk (click on the 'Have Your Say' button).

Accompanying the survey is a detailed progress update from East Sussex County Council on the Hailsham Town Centre Improvement Scheme, which is being developed in partnership with Hailsham Town Council, Hellingly Parish Council and Wealden District Council. The Scheme is designed to potentially lessen the traffic impacts of recent housing developments by reducing car congestion in the town centre, aims to improve traffic flow and encourage shoppers and residents to visit the town centre on foot or via public transport.

The survey is also an opportunity to provide feedback on the regular Hailsham Street Market which was launched in August 2013 and last year's Hailsham Christmas Market event.

Rob Slater, Chairman of the Hailsham Forward Executive said: "The Town Team partnership has been delivering a number of projects to help revitalise the town centre and supporting other projects in the town that are being delivered by other agencies such as the town centre road/footway improvements."

"It's very important for the Partnership to understand the effect of the revitalisation projects on the town, especially the town centre traders. This survey will help us shape future plans, adapt current projects and work with other agencies to help deliver projects for the benefit of the town."

Mickey Caira, Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager at Hailsham Town Council, said: "Hailsham Forward's projects and activities are about the betterment of our town, including the revitalisation of the high street, encouragement of inbound investment from retailers, promotion of footfall and the creation of more jobs as a result."

"There are some 190 shops and businesses operating in Hailsham town centre and it would be fantastic if we could hear the views of a good number of them via this survey."

The closing date for the survey is the end of May 2015. All data collected will be treated in confidence.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Hailsham Forward should contact Mickey Caira on 01323 841702 or visit hailshamforward.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

- Town Teams are being established nationwide to bring viable local aspirations to bear on up-and-coming local policies and strategies relating to community, environmental and business development issues.
- Hailsham was selected by the Department for Communities and Local Government to receive a grant of £10,000 for the recently established *Hailsham Forward* (Town Team) to help drive forward its objectives to revitalise the town centre and surrounding urban environment.
- As a result of being selected Hailsham Forward will now be supported by the Association of Town & City Management, which has over 20 years of experience in helping town centres become prosperous locations for business and investment, which works with Town Team Partners to offer government support and a network of advisors to help improve local towns.

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