

Press Release

Town Mayor Commends 'Hailsham Works!' Scheme

A project aimed specifically at training long-term unemployed young people in Hailsham to get and keep a job has been commended by the Mayor of Hailsham.

Project workers from *Hailsham Works!* – a community project set up by Sussex-based national employment charity Tomorrow's People in partnership with Hailsham Town Council - announced that the scheme has been a resounding success since its launch in September 2013.

Town Mayor Councillor Nigel Coltman said that the Town Council is once again delighted with this continued success: "It's a great achievement that the Town Council and the Tomorrow's People charity have come together to give local young people, who perhaps struggle to find a job, the opportunity to gain the valuable skills needed to successfully enter the world of work."

"Hailsham is one of the biggest employers in the Wealden district and the Town Council will continue to work with project partners to overcome youth unemployment in the area."

Councillor Coltman added: "The *Hailsham Works!* project has had a lot of support from the local business community by way of donation, time and the creation of jobs, for which I am extremely grateful. However, we are keen to see more employers come forward, introduce good development opportunities and help motivate even more young people into finding long-term work."

Town Clerk John Harrison said: "We are very fortunate to have *Hailsham Works!* in place and it's great to learn at last night's meeting that the scheme is on target to create even more apprenticeships well into the future. I'm grateful to Jan and her team for the enthusiasm and support they have offered the young people of our town."

Hailsham Works! Task Force Leader Jan Townsend commented: "We are delighted by the success of the *Hailsham Works!* scheme since it was established two years ago. My colleagues and I have all worked so hard and will continue to keep in contact with our graduates, offering them support if needed on an ongoing basis. Well done to everyone who has graduated on the scheme!"

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Notes to Editors:

- September 2013 saw the doors open to the first group of young people to join *Hailsham Works!*, a project run for 16-24 year olds from the former Cortlandt stable block in North Street by Sussex-based charity Tomorrow's People.
- The group has undertaken a large variety of employment focused, confidence building and motivational activities during the latest 10-week course and have also got involved in various community projects, undertaking a variety of work placement and training days.
- Tomorrow's People is a Sussex-based national employment charity that works with long term unemployed people to help them get and keep a job. Since it was established in 1984, the charity has helped over 440,000 people from disadvantaged communities around the UK on their journey back to work.
- A pilot initiative was launched by Tomorrow's People in September 2011, planned as a life changing 10-week programme which aimed to transform the prospects of disadvantaged young people in the area.

- East Sussex County Council recently announced a series of Economic Intervention Fund projects including £2.5m capital funding for Rural Growth and Employment – aimed at the rural areas of East Sussex.
 - The objectives of the *Hailsham Works!* scheme include:
 - To increase employment opportunities for young people
 - To increase motivation, a sense of responsibility, and self-awareness
 - To improve employability skills and employment potential
 - To reduce anti-social behaviour/nuisance/crime amongst young people
 - To get young people to value themselves and their communities
 - To forge partnerships with the local business
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