

# Hailsham Town Council

# THE TOWN CRIER



Issue 7 – March 2013

## PUBLIC INVITATION TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**Hailsham Town Council invites members of the public and local organisations to attend this year's Annual Town Meeting which takes place at the Civic Community Hall in Vicarage Lane on Monday 13th May, starting at 6.30 pm.**

The Town Council has a statutory responsibility to inform residents of work undertaken and its achievements during the past twelve months via an Annual Town Meeting.

Representatives from Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council, Sussex Police and local healthcare providers have been invited to participate and provide information to the public from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm. Members of the newly formed Hailsham Town Team – *Hailsham Forward* – will also be on hand to answer questions regarding plans for the economic

revitalisation of the business community, enhanced and sustainable infrastructure, and improved healthcare in the local community.

The formal part of the meeting, which starts at 7.30 pm, will include a presentation and review of the past year by the current Town Mayor and Chairman, Councillor Jo Bentley, followed by the inauguration of the new Youth Mayor for 2013/14. Details of achievements made in the past year by individual oversight councillors will be displayed along with plans for the future.



The Annual Town Meeting will be an opportunity for residents to participate in a discussion on some very interesting and ambitious projects town councillors and its project partners have for the future development of Hailsham, including the town centre.

Encouraging members of the public to attend with their concerns, Town Clerk John Harrison said, "The Annual Town Meeting gives residents an opportunity to raise questions on matters affecting the parish of Hailsham, see township government in action and hold your local council to account. It also presents an opportunity for town councillors to update residents on its achievements over the last 12 months."

Councillor Jo Bentley, Mayor of Hailsham said: "This is the

opportunity for all the town's residents to raise questions – however big or small – express views about issues affecting Hailsham and meet with councillors to help make our town an even better place to live, work and visit. I urge everyone to attend this important meeting."

If members of the public wish to submit a question or item for the Agenda, please advise the Town Clerk in writing (Town Council Offices, Market Street, Hailsham, BN27 2AE) or email [john.harrison@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:john.harrison@hailsham-tc.gov.uk) by no later than Friday 3rd May 2013.

## 0% RISE AGREED BY TOWN COUNCILLORS

**The Town Council has agreed to a 0% rise for its council tax precept – the total quantity of money the council will take from the council tax payer to run the services provided by the Town Council for the year April 2013 to March 2014.**

It was noted at a meeting of full council held in January that the overall budget stands at £893,119, made up of a precept of £722,306, a £118,794 grant from Wealden District Council and money from the Town Council's reserves (£52,018). Based on this decision, council tax for a Band D property in Hailsham will be £114.69, the same as the previous financial year.

Finance & Budget Oversight Committee chairman Councillor Chriss Triandafyllou explained the rationale behind the decision: "The Council is aware that the financial difficulties experienced by local residents as a result of the adverse economic climate still exist, so we have worked hard with Council officers to review our service delivery through best practice and value for money throughout the past year.



"For this reason, the Council has agreed to freeze its share of the council tax for the 2013/2014 financial year. All local authorities have a public duty to keep council tax increases to a minimum and, despite having the same financial pressures as all other local authorities, we have shown that, with careful financial planning, we can achieve this council tax freeze without compromising essential services for the community.

"Our focus for the next year will be to continue to ensure all services are run as efficiently as possible."

Council taxpayers should be aware that only a small percentage of the council tax demand goes to Hailsham Town Council – the remaining percentage goes to Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council, the Police Authority and the Fire Service for the services they provide.

If you require any further information on the Town Council budget for 2013/14 please contact John Harrison (Town Clerk) on 01323 841702 or by email: [john.harrison@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:john.harrison@hailsham-tc.gov.uk).

# TOWN COUNCIL AIMS TO HELP TACKLE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN HAILSHAM



**A cash injection of £150,000 has been given to *Hailsham Works!* – a new community project set up by Sussex-based national employment charity Tomorrow's People in partnership with the Town Council to address youth unemployment in Hailsham and surrounding villages.**

The news that the project has been successful in its bid to receive a grant from East Sussex County Council's Economic Regeneration Fund has not only been welcomed by project partners, but by those who need it most – the out-of-work in our community.

On top of this grant, the Town Council has agreed to commit £40,000 per year for three years towards the project and provide accommodation at the former chiropractors' clinic/Cortlandt stable building in North Street, which has recently been leased by the Town Council.

Town Council members unanimously agreed in August last year to support the development of a *Hailsham Works!* project, which is aimed at tackling local youth unemployment with a particular emphasis on garnering support from local businesses in the form of training opportunities, mentoring schemes and support to work towards a successful and meaningful employment, coupled with training experience for young people in the local area.

The Town Council has proposed that a youth partnership with other interested organisations, including Hailsham Youth Council, local businesses and Sussex Police, will also be established in the near future.

Oversight councillor for Youth Projects at Hailsham Town Council, Michael Ryan, said: "This is fantastic news for each and everyone concerned, and of course we welcome any financial support to boost the opportunities for the young people of our town. Youth unemployment is a significant issue here in Hailsham and indeed across the country."

Town Clerk John Harrison said: "The *Heathfield Works!* project garnered a lot of support from the local and regional community and the Tomorrow's People charity were keen to leverage its experience in the county both to continue the project at Heathfield and to expand it to Hailsham.

"Our successful application for funding from the East Sussex County Council Economic Regeneration Fund will help us nurture the potential of our young people, provide routes into work and harness their ability and creativity to contribute towards future economic growth in the long term through *Hailsham Works!*"

## PLANS FOR NEW PUBLIC TOILET FACILITY IN HAILSHAM

**Hailsham Town Council is announcing its plans for a new public toilet facility in the town centre.**

Part of the former Cortlandt stable block in North Street has been identified as a location for the construction of a new public toilet facility, pending consent from the Planning Authority and completion of design and building works. The Town Council was asked by members of the public to work to preserve the historic Hailsham building and has responded to this request by taking over the lease on the property.

Over the past three years, the Town Council has considered a number of options regarding the provision of public toilets for the benefit of the town.

The Town Council announced that it will be unable to proceed with plans to take over the public toilets in Vicarage Field due to the high costs and has since sought an option that will provide better value for money.

The Town Council will be taking over the lease of the former Cortlandt stable block in North Street, in order to house the *Hailsham Works!* project, which will be delivered by the Tomorrow's People, a Sussex-based national youth unemployment charity.

Welcoming the opportunity to create and take on responsibility for a new public toilet, town councillor Bill Bentley said: "The Town Council could soon be in a position to provide much needed additional public conveniences in the town centre."

"The Town Council has had to make some tough decisions

about the future of local services in recent years and the decision to withdraw from the Vicarage Field public toilet project in particular is no exception."

"At a time when Wealden District Council is reviewing the provision of public toilets in the area to work within their budget reductions, it will be good to be able to open brand new, efficient and modern facilities and to ensure provision of toilets for this community and tourists for the future."

"The Town Clerk and I will work closely with the relevant parties for the lease of the former Cortlandt stable block and move one step closer to providing a public toilet facility that people can be proud of."

It is anticipated that, if the relevant approval is granted, the public toilet building program will commence in the coming months.

In the meantime, Wealden District Council has a Community Toilet Scheme in place whereby members of the public can access toilet facilities at the following business premises (during opening hours):

- Freedom Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane
- Waitrose, Vicarage Field
- Callenders Restaurant, 80/82 High Street
- Costa Coffee, 26B High Street

For further information on the Community Toilet scheme call 0845 60 46 718 or visit [www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Health\\_Community\\_and\\_Advice/Community/Public\\_Conveniences/Waste\\_Community\\_Toilet\\_Facilities.aspx](http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Health_Community_and_Advice/Community/Public_Conveniences/Waste_Community_Toilet_Facilities.aspx)



Former Cortlandt stable block

# MOVEMENT AND ACCESS STRATEGY

Local councils are acting together to bring forward essential road and transport improvements to support growth in Hailsham and Hellingly.

The new Movement and Access Strategy for Hailsham and Hellingly (MASHH) steering group will make sure the growth taking place now and in the future is accompanied by the proper infrastructure.

The MASHH steering group consists of representatives from Hailsham Town Council, Hellingly Parish Council, local planning authority Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council which is responsible for highways and transport.

A number of schemes have been identified (subject to public consultation) in the short, medium and long term. Among the proposed key measures in the programme are:

- Work to improve pedestrian facilities and improve the street environment in the town centre and in particular the High Street
- Introduce reduced speed limits, traffic calming measures and speed reactive signs on A271 Upper Horsebridge Road, B2104 London Road and A295 Battle Road and also undertake a review of the speed limit for Hawks Road
- Work to identify improvements for access to Diplocks Way
- Carry out a survey on revised speed limits, traffic calming, improvements to junctions and pedestrian crossing facilities in South Road;
- Carry out a pedestrian audit to improve the footway network and introduce pedestrian signage to key destinations and attractions in Hailsham
- Review existing parking and loading restrictions in the town
- Work with local businesses and schools to develop school and workplace travel plans



Left to right: David White, Jo Bentley (Town Mayor), Roy Galley and Bill Bentley

"The Movement & Access Strategy provides a clear statement of the essential road and transport scheme priorities to be progressed by the steering group members now and in the future," said Councillor Jo Bentley, Mayor of Hailsham. "Furthermore, the document provides a robust starting point from which to take forward important road and transport improvements. On behalf of Hailsham Town Council, I am delighted to endorse the scheme which will help ensure that future developments in Hailsham are matched with the appropriate and sustainable improvements in infrastructure."

A key role for the MASHH steering group will be to prioritise spending on improvements using the money which is being made available through contributions by developers under Section 106 agreements. Some of the money for the town's new infrastructure work in the future is expected to come from contributions made by housing developers through the new Community Infrastructure Levy. Wealden District Council has begun preparations to start collecting the new levy in April 2014.



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## TOWN TEAM PARTNERS CONTINUE TO TAKE HAILSHAM FORWARD

**Additional traffic signs, improved shop frontages and the creation of virtual shops were discussed at the latest meeting of *Hailsham Forward* – the recently formed Town Team which aims to bring together key local stakeholders to review the best ways to revitalise the town centre and surrounding urban environment.**

People came together to determine the next move in terms of fulfilling town centre revitalisation objectives at the Diplocks Hall on Friday 1st March and among the attendees were Wealden MP Charles Hendry, local councillors and business associations, economic development managers and stakeholders.



A number of forthcoming projects were highlighted including the introduction of 'Welcome to Hailsham' signs on some of the gateways into the town, to help promote local shopping and leisure facilities.

The tidying up of poorly maintained shop fronts in the town centre was also discussed, along with the establishment of one or more virtual shops in Hailsham, the upcoming launch of the *Hailsham Forward* website ([hailshamforward.co.uk](http://hailshamforward.co.uk)) and an update on the work of the Movement & Access Strategy for Hailsham and Hellingly, with particular emphasis on parking, lighting, traffic issues and a more pedestrian-friendly High Street.

The opening of an information kiosk or 'pop-up shop' was also talked about at the meeting as part of the process of gathering public and business feedback on a business plan for the town, generating ideas for the future of the High Street and helping market the town centre and outlying industrial and retail parks.

Councillor Nigel Coltman, chairman of the Town Council's Business



Development Committee and a member of *Hailsham Forward* summed up at the end of the meeting: "Hailsham is already on the road to regeneration with the opening of new businesses in the town centre in recent months and the development of *Hailsham Forward*'s town revitalisation objectives.

"What the *Hailsham Forward* Town Team now needs to do is to build on those successes and continue to make a real difference to our town. Hailsham is very lucky to have committed local residents and businesses which are prepared to give up their time to make *Hailsham Forward* work and bring its goals and aspirations into fruition.

"I am delighted to be working closely with them on a range of new ideas for our town and we are certainly at the beginnings of something exciting and event changing for Hailsham."

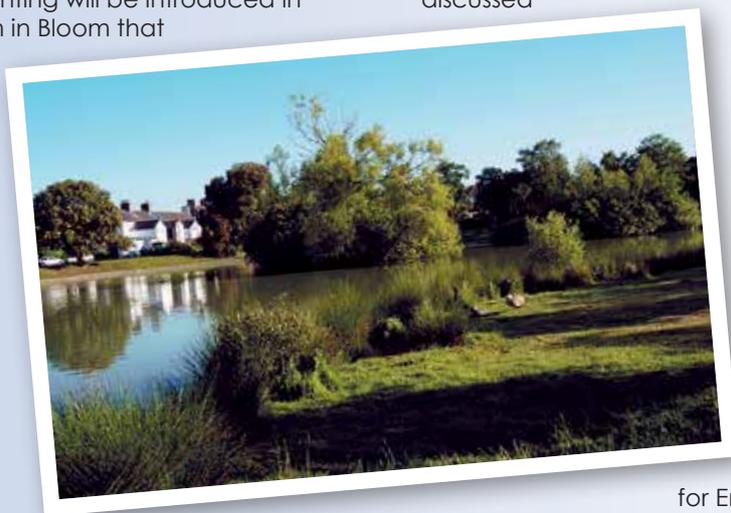
The *Hailsham Forward* information kiosk is scheduled to open for four weeks in the former travel agents in Vicarage Field in April. The exact date of opening will be announced on the Hailsham Town Council ([hailsham-tc.gov.uk](http://hailsham-tc.gov.uk)) and *Hailsham Forward* ([hailshamforward.co.uk](http://hailshamforward.co.uk)) websites in the near future.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS FOR 2013

**The Town Council has outlined a number of new and existing projects for the year ahead aimed at enhancing the environment of the town.**

- In the Town Council's commitment to maintain and improve the environment and sustainability of the local community, work to prevent island erosion at the Common Pond has recently been completed on budget. The Council is also exploring all available options to prevent and manage the negative impact of Canada Geese at the pond site. Landscaping features and additional planting will be introduced in collaboration with Hailsham in Bloom that aims to deter the geese and prevent irreparable damage.
- During 2013 there will be discussion with contractors on areas of roadside verges that may be suitable for the establishment of wild flowers to enhance biodiversity and the aesthetic quality of a number of potentially valuable but often overlooked areas throughout the town.
- Talks with external partners to eradicate the established stands of Himalayan Balsam that are moving into the town from the north are ongoing and it is hoped that landowner consent will be obtained in order for volunteer teams to start an eradication programme. The identification of new or currently unidentified areas where non-native invasive plant species are located will also be ongoing.
- Additional locations for dog hygiene bins have been



identified and new bin installations agreed. There is an ongoing dialogue with Sussex Police and Wealden District Council regarding the enforcement of powers relating to dog fouling and it is hoped that Sussex Police will be in a position to implement enforcement action in the near future.

- Problems relating to animal pests are quite rare in Hailsham. Where problems are reported as being present on Town Council owned land, existing control measures will be assessed and alternative approaches discussed with our neighbours.
- Over the course of 2013 there will be a review of the various areas of natural and semi-natural land owned by the Town Council which have the potential to deliver environmental and financial benefits for Hailsham. Management opportunities that could be introduced in order to make the best use of existing land assets will be identified and discussed.

Joint oversight councillor for Environment at Hailsham Town Council, Steve McAuliffe, said: "The best local councils will always want to continually seek to improve the quality of life and the environment for local people. Hailsham Town Council has set itself this goal and will always seek to provide a variety of valued services that are efficient, prompt and cost effective to improve the Council's environmental performance."

For further information on the Town Council's current and future environmental projects visit [Hailsham-tc.gov.uk/environment.html](http://Hailsham-tc.gov.uk/environment.html)

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

**Wealden Police have been out and about recently, warning shoppers of the risk of purse thefts in the town's supermarkets. Although this criminal activity is relatively low, it is important to make people aware before they become a victim.**

Advice that should be followed include:

- Think about putting your purse in a front pocket rather than in an open bag. Men should also keep their wallet in a front pocket rather than in their back pocket.
- Use a handbag that can be closed properly so that it is more difficult for someone to reach in.
- Keep your handbag in front of you so you can see it at all times. If you use a handbag with a strap, wear it across your body and not just over you.
- If you keep your purse in a shopping bag, put your purse at the bottom and not at the top and use a shopping bag that can be closed.
- Avoid carrying around large amounts of cash.
- Report incidents straight away.

Sussex Police's old non-emergency number has now been removed, and you can contact us by dialling 101 which costs 15p per call or 01273 470101, which is a local rate call. Remember In an emergency you should always dial 999. As always if you have any queries or questions, please speak to one of your local Neighbourhood Policing team or email [district.wealden@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:district.wealden@sussex.pnn.police.uk).



## NEW GP GROUP'S VISION FOR LOCAL HEALTHCARE

The impact of one of the largest organisational shake-ups in the history of the NHS will soon filter down to the Hailsham area.

From 1 April, Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and its neighbours – Hastings & Rother and High Weald Lewes Havens CCGs – will take over from the existing East Sussex primary care trusts.

Run by local GPs and other clinicians, Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG will plan and buy the majority of health services for 180,000 people.

Chaired by Dr Martin Writer, the group's governing body has been working in shadow form for a year, including holding several meetings in public. With 22 practices and a budget of around £231 million for 2013/14, the group's vision is 'excellent, sustainable healthcare with a local focus'.

"This means putting patients at the heart of what we do, having strong clinical leadership with wide clinical engagement to plan and buy services to meet their needs," says Dr Writer.

Hailsham GP Matt Jackson, the CCG's vice chairman, adds: "We very much want local people to be involved in our work. One of the ways you can do this is by joining your surgery's patient participation group."

The next meeting of the governing body in public is on 27 March at Park Practice, Eastbourne. For more details visit [www.sussex.nhs.uk/nhs-sussex-board-meetings](http://www.sussex.nhs.uk/nhs-sussex-board-meetings). If you would like more information about the CCG and its plans, contact Harriet Bevis – [harriet.bevis@nhs.net](mailto:harriet.bevis@nhs.net).

## FOR FREE, EXPERT ADVICE ABOUT MEDICINES AND EVERYDAY ILLNESSES, TALK TO YOUR PHARMACIST

Your local pharmacist (chemist) can give you confidential, expert information about any medicines you are taking as well as advice about common illnesses and ailments.

Free NHS services provided by Hailsham pharmacists include a medicines use review, and a new medicine service. You may be offered an appointment by your pharmacist to review your medicines or, if you have any questions, you can ask for a review meeting yourself. A review is to:

- ✓ Help people find out more about the medicines they are taking
- ✓ Discuss any problems they are having
- ✓ Improve the effectiveness of the medicines; for example there may be an easier way of taking them

The new medicines service was launched last autumn to support people newly prescribed medicines for:

- ✓ Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- ✓ Type 2 diabetes
- ✓ Hypertension
- ✓ Anti-coagulant / anti-platelet therapy.

You don't need an appointment for other queries about medicines, including those available 'over the counter'. Pharmacists can advise about the best remedies to treat minor illnesses, ailments and injuries.



All Hailsham pharmacists and GPs are working together for the benefit of patients. Victoria Small, the pharmacist at Kamsons, is pictured with Dr Dominic Gray, the GP lead for the work with the pharmacists.



### SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**TOWN COUNCIL (& TRUSTS):** Wednesday 24 April; Wednesday 22 May (AGM)  
(meetings start at 7.30pm)

**FINANCE & BUDGET OVERSIGHT:** Wednesday 8 May (meeting starts at 7.30pm)

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:** Tuesday 2 April; Tuesday 23 April; Tuesday 14 May; Tuesday 4 June  
(meetings start at 7pm)

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:** Thursday 11 April; Thursday 9 May; Thursday 13 June (meetings start at 7.30pm)

**HAILSHAM IN BLOOM:** Wednesday 27 March; Wednesday 17 April; Wednesday 29 May (meetings start at 7.30pm)

[All meetings are held in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room/Council Chamber and are open to the press and public, unless otherwise stated.]

**COUNCILLOR SURGERY DATES:** Monday 25 March; Monday 29 April; Monday 27 May.

[10am-4pm; available on an appointment-only basis. To book an appointment call 841702, advising of the topic of concern.]

# LOW INCREASE IN BURIAL FEES AGREED BY HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

**Charges for the use of burial and cemetery services in Hailsham for the next year have been set by town councillors.**

At a Hailsham Town Council meeting held on Wednesday [March 13], members agreed to a small increase for the fees it charges for plots in Hailsham Cemetery with effect from 1st April 2013, as part of an annual review.

Based on the new fee schedule, burial charges for an adult parishioner will increase from £480 to £504 for the purchase of a single grave, a rise of only 5%. The cost for a double grave for an adult parishioner will increase from £516 to £542.

Charges for the interment of cremated remains in a grave (in respect of which an Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted) will increase from £210 to £220 for parishioners and £432 to £454 for non-parishioners.

Cemetery Warden Councillor Mary Rowe said: "It is important that the Town Council pitches its fees at comparable rates to other authorities, so any extra burden does not fall on the council tax payers of Hailsham."

"The increase of 5% is approximately in line with inflation," added Councillor Rowe. "The danger of not increasing the fees on a regular/annual basis is that any future increases in line with inflation would result in a larger overall increase than when raised incrementally."

"The new fees are a fair reflection of the true costs involved in running burial services."

Based on the same number of burials as this year, the increase in revenue for 2013/14 with the agreed increase will be £2,670. Additional fees as determined by the Town Council are available on request by calling 01323 841702 (during office hours).



## COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

### SOUTH & WEST WARD

Jo BENTLEY (CON) – 01323 840386

Bryan BURCHMORE (HI) – 01323 841626

Margaret BURT (CON) – 01323 840345

Nigel COLTMAN (CON) – 01323 841925

Bill CRITTENDEN (HI) – 01323 840021

Richard GROCOCK (CON) – 01323 842931

Amanda O'RAWE (CON) – 05602 764918

Geoffrey ROWE (HI) – 01323 841847

Mary ROWE (HI) – 01323 841847

Chriss TRIANDAFYLLOU (CON) – 01323 848814

### CENTRAL & NORTH WARD

Bill BENTLEY (CON) – 01323 847685

Nicholas COLLINSON (CON) – 01323 846040

Jennifer COOK (CON) – 01323 844463

Paul HOLBROOK (LD) – 01323 841978

Barry MARLOWE (CON) – 01825 732364

Stephen MCAULIFFE (CON) – 01323 841702

Dawn RYAN (CON) – 01323 847804

### EAST WARD

Stella HENSTOCK (CON) – 01323 842763

Michael RYAN (CON) – 07429 422470

Stuart TOWNER (CON) – 07908 251801

### UPPER HORSEBRIDGE WARD

John BLAKE (LD) – 01323 846297

Charlotte COLLINSON (CON) – 01323 841702

Barbara HOLBROOK (LD) – 01323 841978

Margaret SKINNER (CON) – 01323 841702

**Political Party Key:** CON: Conservative; HI: Hailsham Independents; LD: Liberal Democrat

\* Postal addresses of councillors are available at the Town Council Offices or via [www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk)

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For all enquiries relating to the above list of responsibilities, please contact Hailsham Town Council on (01323) 841702, where a member of staff will be happy to advise you.

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